

Submission by
PILTOWN MD MEMBERS (KILKENNY)
To
Draft Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy
For the Southern Region

Date : 8th March 2019

Introduction

This submission by Piltown MD to the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Southern Assembly area is made in addition to the submission by Kilkenny County Council under the Draft RSES. The Piltown MD consider that while the Draft RSES is comprehensive in its detail and in the main has the potential to positively contribute to the future development of the region, there are elements of the strategy that need to be improved. The Piltown MD members wish in particular to emphasise a number of elements of the Kilkenny County Council submission, and also to put forward an additional recommendation for consideration as follows:

Waterford- Dublin M9 Economic Corridor

In the context of MASP Objective 2c and RPO 22a which seek to establish a connection to the Dublin – Belfast corridor with a view to an extended East coast corridor from Rosslare to Larne and having regard to the tier 2 port at Belview, Waterford City as one of the 5 cities and capital of the South East Planning Area and to provide capacity and alternative locations/choices for the greater Dublin area¹ and to further promote economic growth it is the view of Kilkenny County Council that a further economic corridor should be established along the Waterford-Kilkenny – Carlow – Dublin M9 urban route. In the Case of Carlow there should be an aspiration/objective to ensure that there is a joint urban area plan by the relevant Local Authorities (cf Eastern & Midland RSES p31) as Carlow straddles the Southern Region and the Eastern and Midlands Region.



¹Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region p280.

It is recommended that the following Regional Planning Objective be included:

RPO 40

Waterford - Dublin M9 Economic Corridor(WDEC)

It is an objective to develop the Waterford - Dublin Economic Corridor (WDEC) initiative, incorporating Carlow and Kilkenny, as a driver for enterprise growth, investment and attracting entrepreneurial skills and talent to the rural catchments as an economic complement to the role of metropolitan areas and larger urban centres on the WDEC.

Given the strategic importance of the proposed M9 Economic Corridor, the Piltown MD members consider that it is imperative this objective be included in the RSES.

Strategic Residential Lands

- Waterford MASP identifies an allocation of 850 units for the Ferrybank area's future growth allocation. This figure is taken from the existing Ferrybank/Belview LAP which predates the NPF and the RSES and should not be seen as a limit or as the necessary spatial distribution.
- In order for Waterford City to grow in a concentric manner the population distribution north and south of the River needs to be reflective of the concentric concept and the compact growth scenario set out in the NPF. The growth structure in the context of the concentric city and the proposed growth of Waterford under the NPF has not been set out in the MASP.
- It is not clear whether Kilkenny's population allocation is to be used to bolster the Ferrybank Area or whether a separate allocation will be made from the Waterford MAPS. This could severely impact figures for the rest of Kilkenny City and County.
- The Waterford PLUTS, while it does contain much of the strategic infrastructure required, needs to be urgently reviewed in the context of NPF targets and the proposed new road bridge linking the north and south quays (at Reginald's Tower).
- Piltown MD requests that the RSES (in the context of the Waterford MASP) consider the inclusion of the following objective: the need for Kilkenny County Council and Waterford City & County Council to masterplan the lands within the N24 ring-road (this is an objective of the Ferrybank-Belview LAP).
- There is no joint implementation structure proposed/agreed to coordinate delivery in the MASP area.

The capacity of lands in the Ferrybank area needs to be reviewed in the context of the NPF and the forthcoming Waterford City and County Development Plan and the concept of concentric development of Waterford City. References to strategic residential lands should acknowledge this. The Piltown MD members respectfully request that the above issues and concerns be addressed in the RSES.

South East

The Southern Region is too extensive and diverse (covering over 40% of the geographic area of the state) and the South East gets insufficient recognition as a region with its own identity and needs, with :

- SE unemployment at end of Q3 2018 was 8.6% as compared to national average of 6%
- potential to develop clusters, including Financial Services /IT/ Pharma/Medtech/ Agri-food and act as Brexit pressure valve for Dublin not recognised.

It is recommended that sub-regional fora be established within the Southern Regional Assembly Area aligned with the Regional Planning Areas to oversee the implementation of the RSES at a sub-regional level. This will provide a more cohesive and effective mechanism to ensure that challenges at sub-regional level are addressed and opportunities are maximised. Coordination between the Eastern and Midlands and the Southern RSES is also important especially along cross boundary issues e.g. Carlow straddles both regions.

The Piltown MD looks forward to the finalisation of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategic.