

Local Authorities and Economic Development

Opportunities and Challenges

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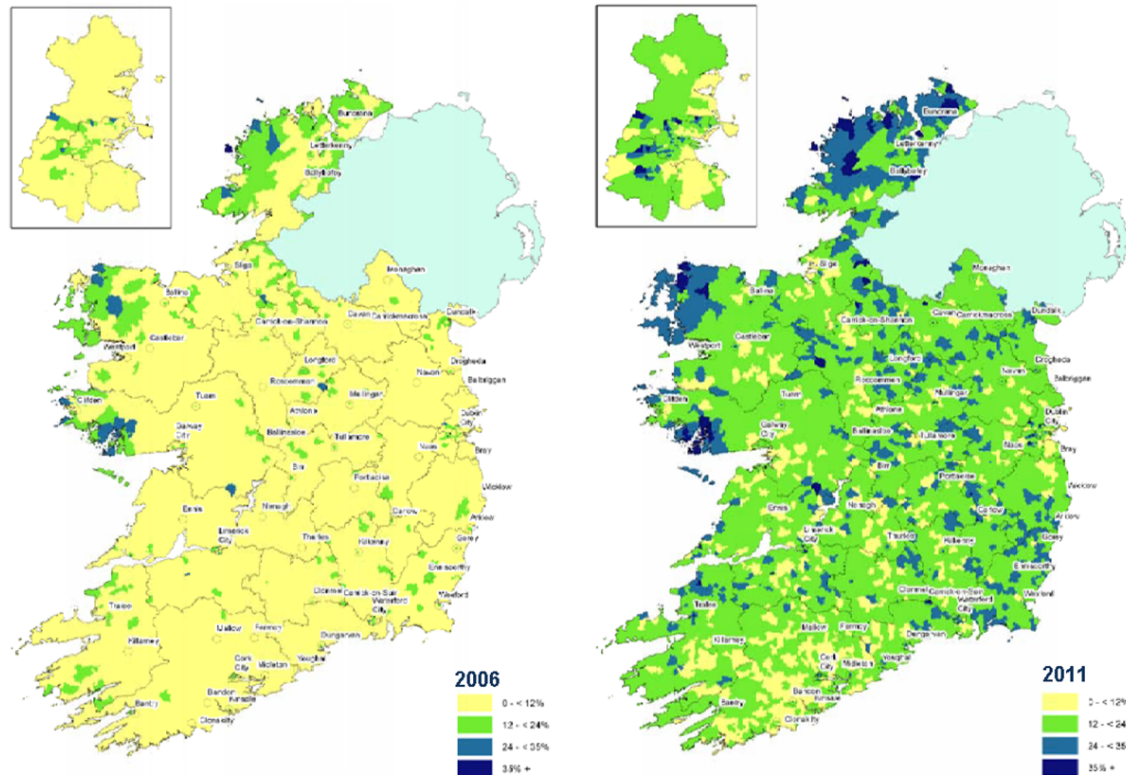


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Environment, Community and Local Government



Achieving Balanced Regional Development: A Context

Census 2006 and 2011 - Unemployment



Regional Development in Ireland: What Worked/Didn't



Difference?

**Plan-Led vs Speculative
development...**



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Presentation Outline...

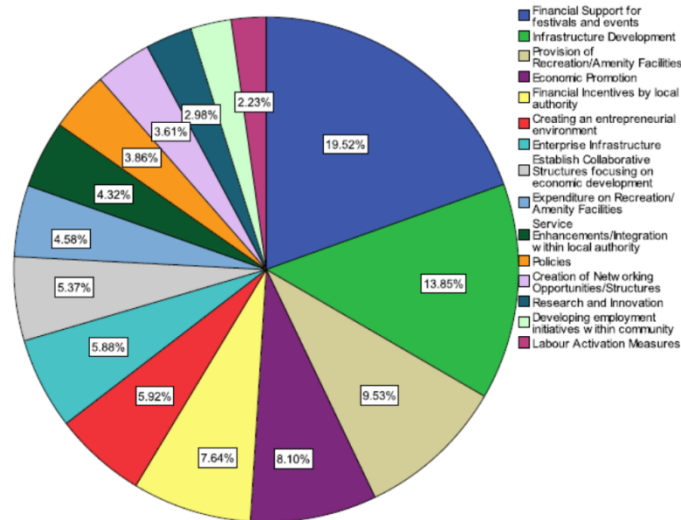
- **Backdrop to Local Authority role in economic development**
- **Key Challenges**
- **Local Economic and Community Plans**
- **Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies**
- **Successor to the National Spatial Strategy**
- **Wider Planning Reforms**
- **Key Conclusions**



Why Local Authorities?...

- Local authorities have always been crucial to economic development – LG Act 2001...
- Government policy recognises that “Place-Making” is going to become a defining element of competitive advantage...
- 2012 Report: Nearly 2,400 actions supporting economic development
- Physical and Social infrastructure
- Enterprise infrastructure
- Place branding/marketing, festivals
- Research and innovation
- Labour activation

Graph 1: Summary of Activities by Category



Key Challenges

- **Local Authorities are both promoters and regulators – important to distinguish between these roles...**
- **Getting all the key players around the table...**
- **Focusing on the place: what is your county's unique advantage?**
- **Avoiding “Identikit” strategies**
- **Understanding the “bigger picture” – regional approach**
- **Creating a business friendly environment**
- **Setting realistic targets**
- **Implementation, monitoring, review**



The New Local Economic and Community Plans

- Implement commitments under “Putting People First” to promote *“well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities”*...
- Statutory requirement under Section 66B of 2014 LG Act
- Purpose is to set out objectives and actions needed to support and promote economic and community development...
- Economic development and local and community development are mutually supportive...
- LECP's to be developed under an Advisory Steering Group drawing from key members of SPC for Economic Development, LCDC, other interests, particularly those with business experience..
- LECP must be consistent with existing plans and RPG's
- First LECP's will be interim, pending RSES's in 2016



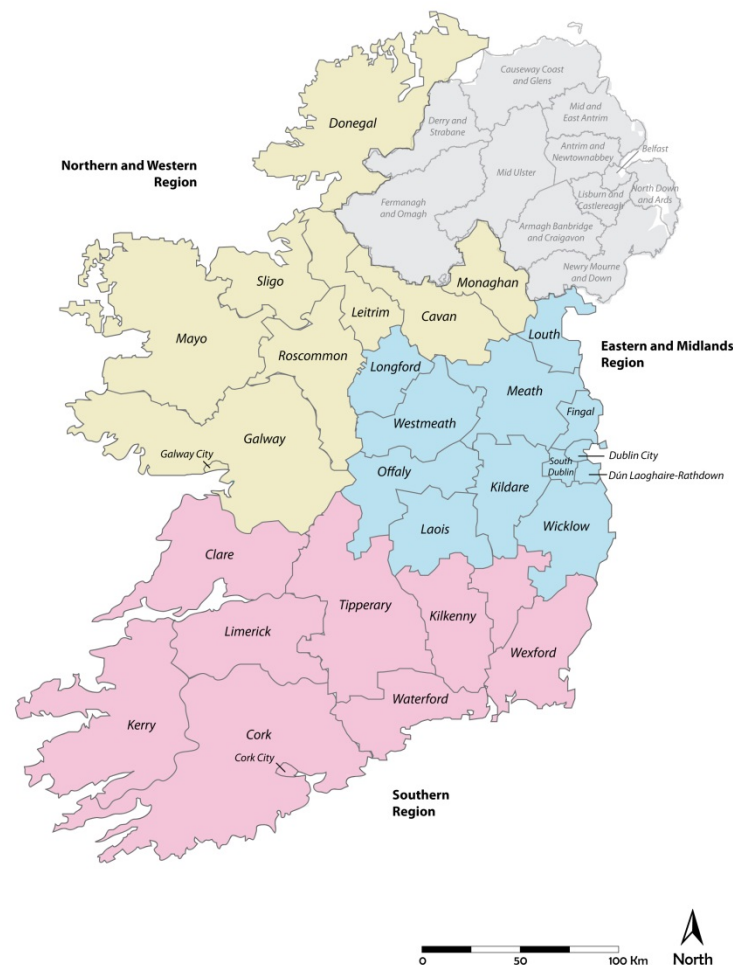
Content...

- **Objectives**
 - Attracting investment with growth potential
 - Sustaining/expanding existing enterprise
 - Economic transformation/regeneration
 - Strengthening the fabric of smaller towns/villages
 - Strengthening the economic aspects of community/local development and micro-enterprise supports
- **Actions**
 - Identifying specific sectors to focus efforts around where there is local advantage
 - Targeting sectors/activities with strong potential for success
 - Creating a business focused approach within LG services/functions
 - Improving the place
 - CEDRA report
 - Marketing
 - Infrastructure
 - Business linkages
 - Pathways to Work
 - SME and micro-enterprise support in line with Action Programme for Jobs

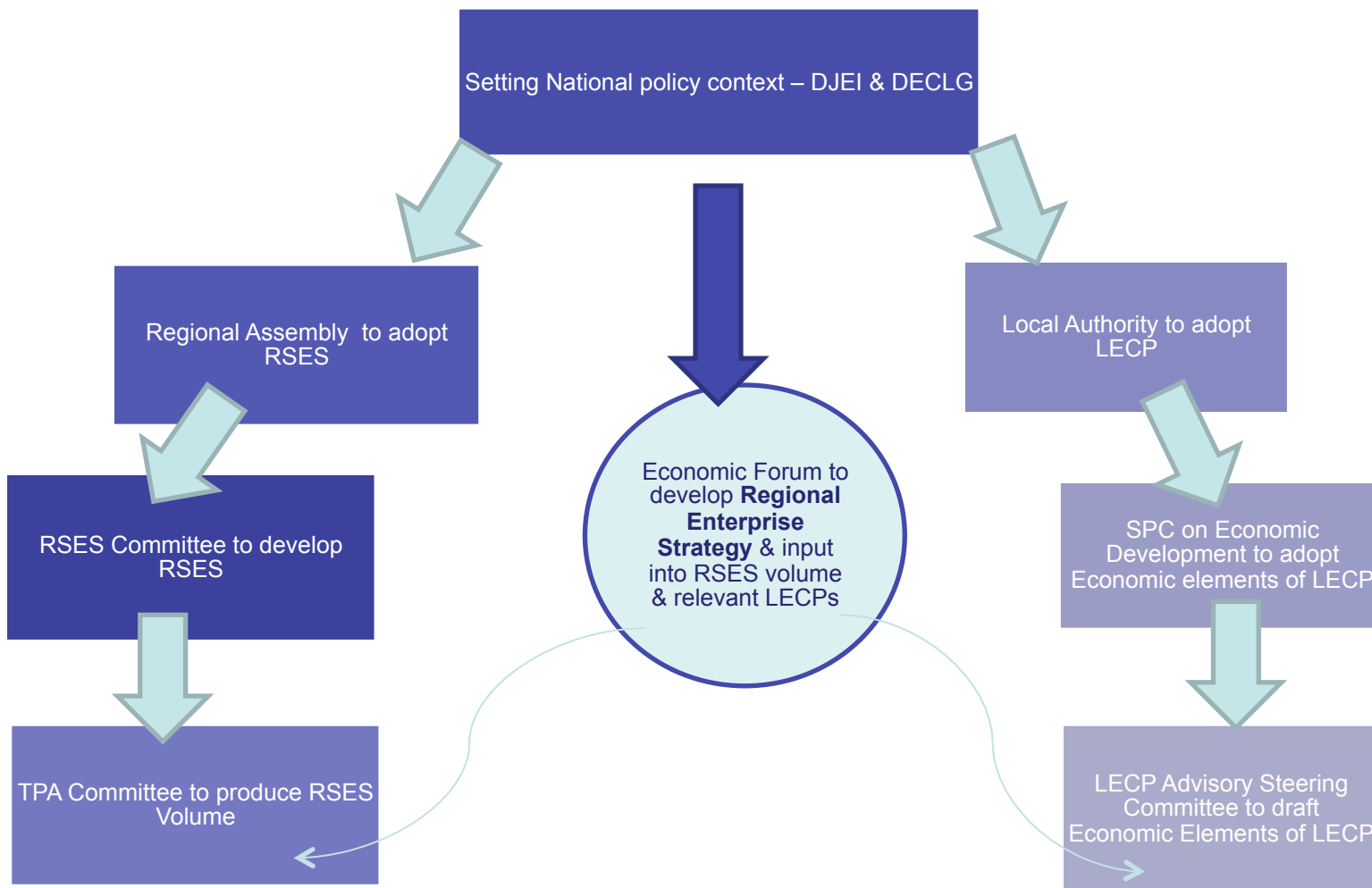


Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies

- 3 Regional Assemblies from 1/1/2015
- **Key Task: Preparation of Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy to replace current regional planning guidelines in 2016**
- Minister will order commencement of RSES process – probably 2016 after NPF in place
- Sub-regional dimension to RSES mirroring (largely) NUTS III areas
- RSES to link national policies to Local Authority statutory development plans and Local Economic and Community Plans (LECP)
- RSES delivery teams to be put in place



Co-ordination of Economic Planning, Regionally, Locally



But What About the National Spatial Strategy?...

- Ireland 2000 vs 2014 – radically changed circumstances...
- NSS has a pivotal role in planning policy but draws on data and policy assumptions going back to late 1990's...
- Forthcoming Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies of the three Regional Assemblies to run from 2016-2022 require a fresh strategic context...
- Infrastructure planning by Irish Water, National Transport Authority, energy grid operators needs a fresh strategic context...
- New economic realities require a more focused approach, including on regions...
- Wider policy context: climate change adaptation, transitioning to a low carbon economy, economic development, environmental protection...



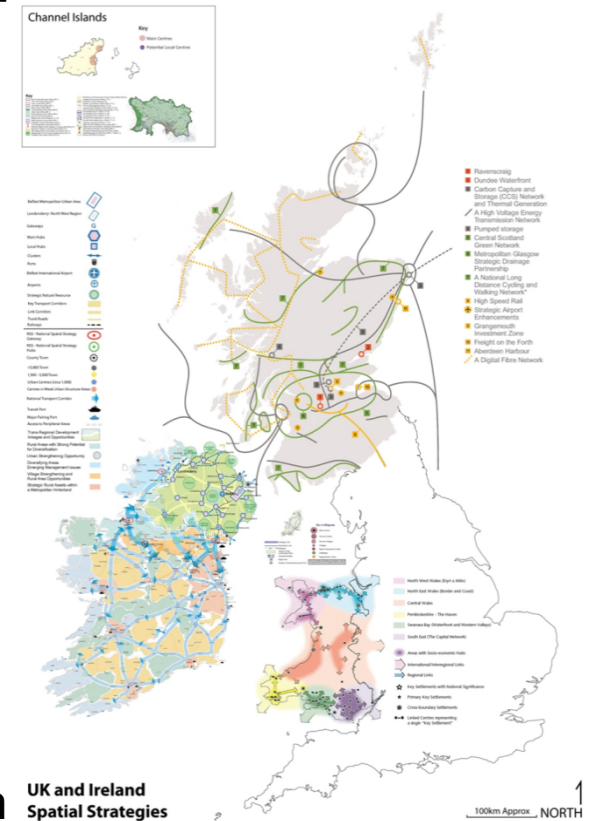
NSS Expert Scoping Report Conclusions

- **NSS2 must be:**
 - ***“national” in scope recognising that places have differing potentials whose activation will involve hard choices...***
 - ***“spatial” in focus integrating spatial implications of key existing and emerging sectoral policies, particularly relating to infrastructure...***
 - ***“strategic” in approach, long-term strategic vision avoiding wish-lists or vague aims and objectives...***
- ***...also NSS2 must propose clear policies on***
 - ***Role of Dublin as Ireland’s key international link***
 - ***Other major regional centres***
 - ***Complementary role of rural areas***



Matters to be Addressed

- An integrated view of how Ireland should develop strategically
- Urban and (not vs) Rural
- Competitive, Sustainable Place-Making
- Housing and other key property requirements
- Connectivity, Resilience, Low Carbon
- The Nationally Strategic Developments
- Implementation – How? Who? When? How Much



What are we doing in planning to support?

- **Core Strategies**
- **Land Activation measures – “Vacant Site Levy” to combat land hoarding**
- **“Use it or Lose it” clauses re planning permissions**
- **Urban development programme in next round of EU Regional OP’s**
- **Co-ordination of planning/strategic water services investment**



Overall Policy Framework to Enhance LG Role

- **National Level:** **National Planning Framework
Planning Bills 2014 and 2015**
- **Regional Level:** **Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies**
- **Local Level:** **City/County Plans
Local Economic and
Community Plan**
- **Governance -** **NOAC/Regulator**

