

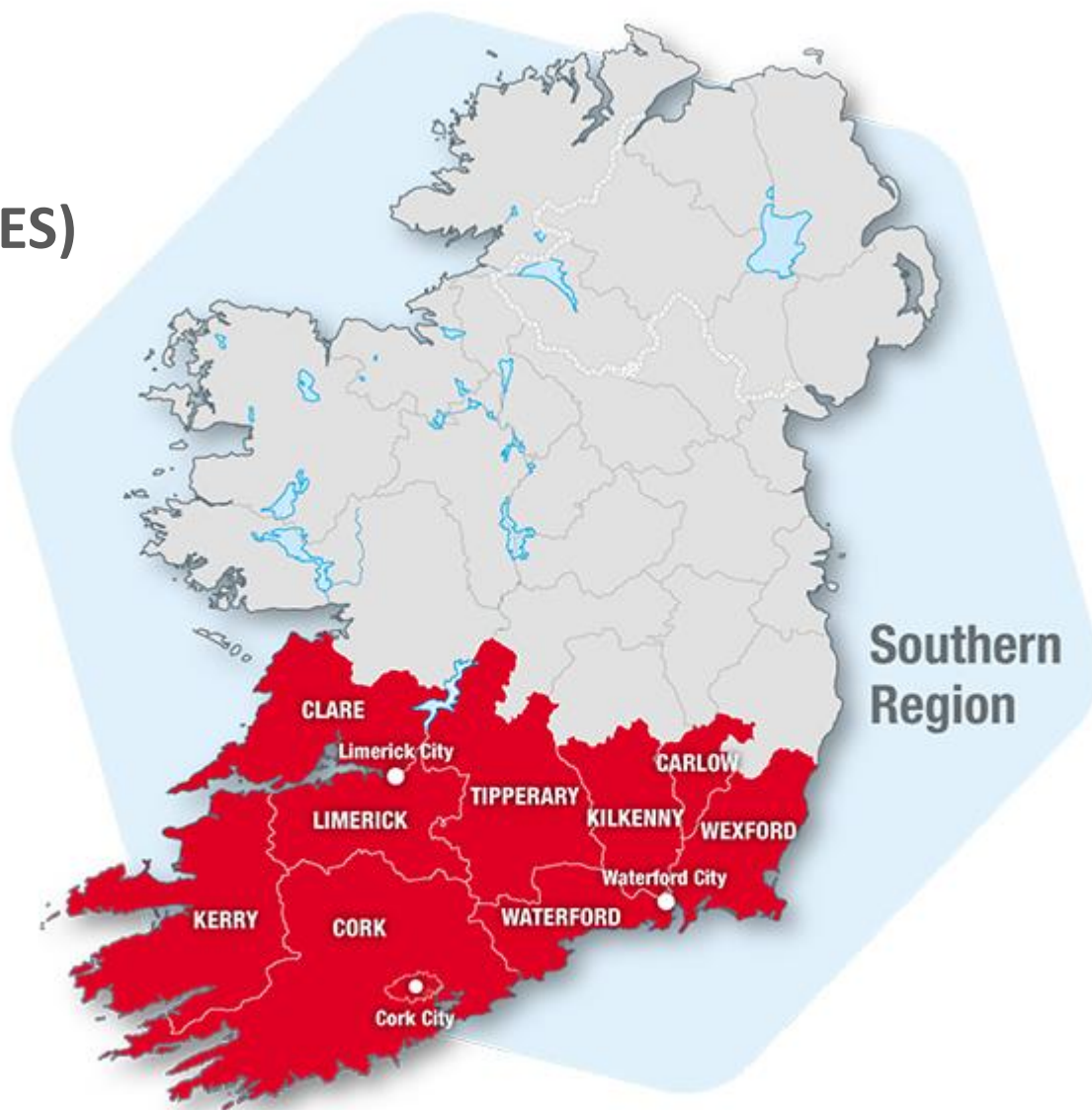
Southern Regional Assembly

Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)

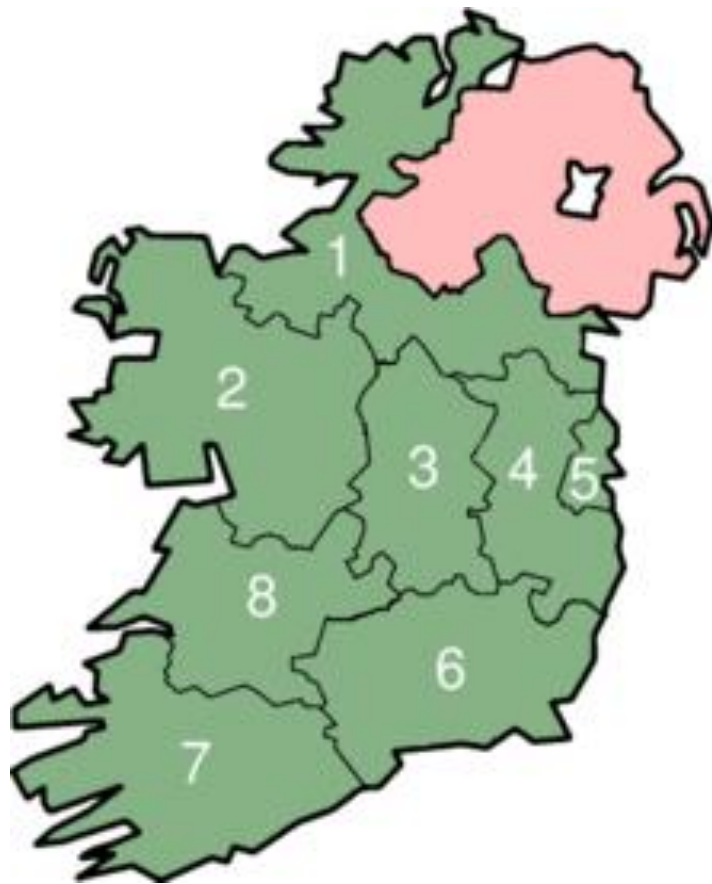
Liam McGree
Senior Planner



Tionól Réigiúnach an Deiscirt
Southern Regional Assembly

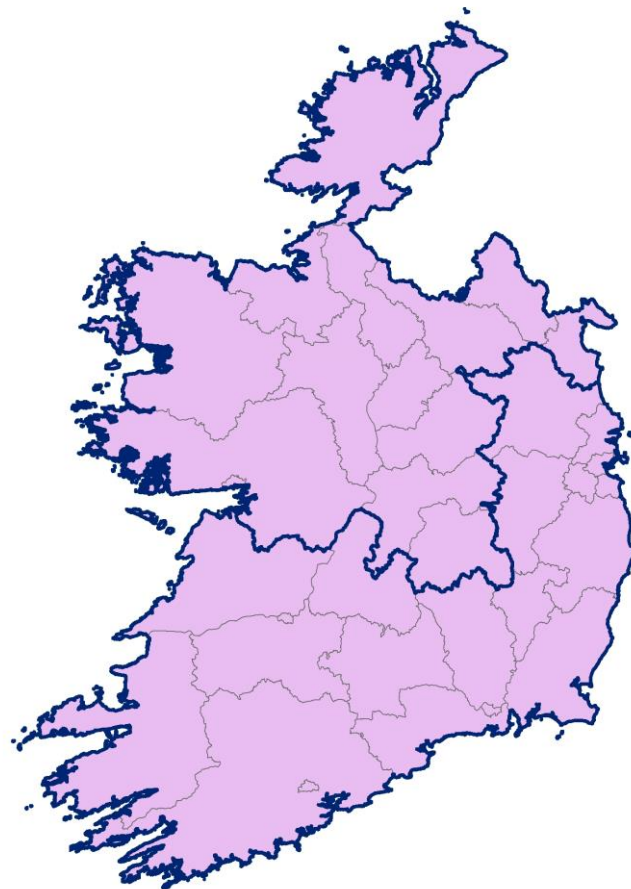


Establishing Regions in Ireland



NUTS 3 Regions

Eight **Regional Authorities** – Established in 1994
Regional Planning & Participation in EU projects



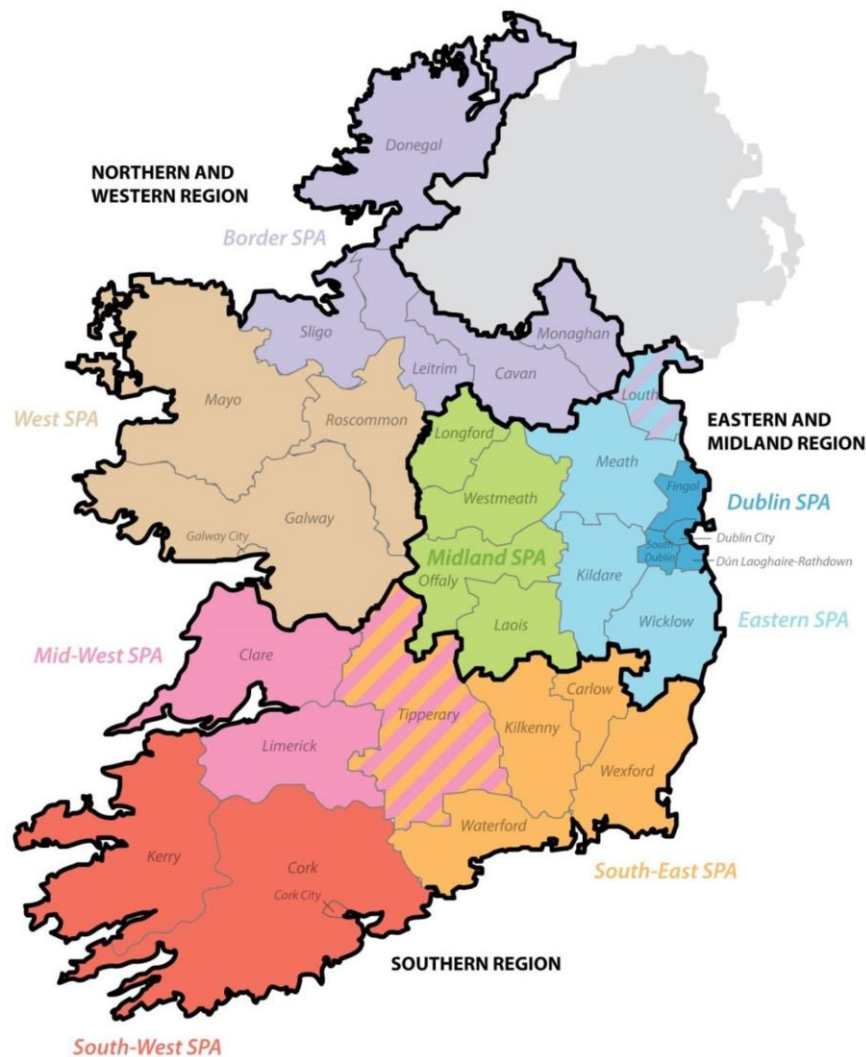
NUTS 2 Regions

Two **Regional Assemblies** – Established in 1999
Management of Regional Operational Programmes

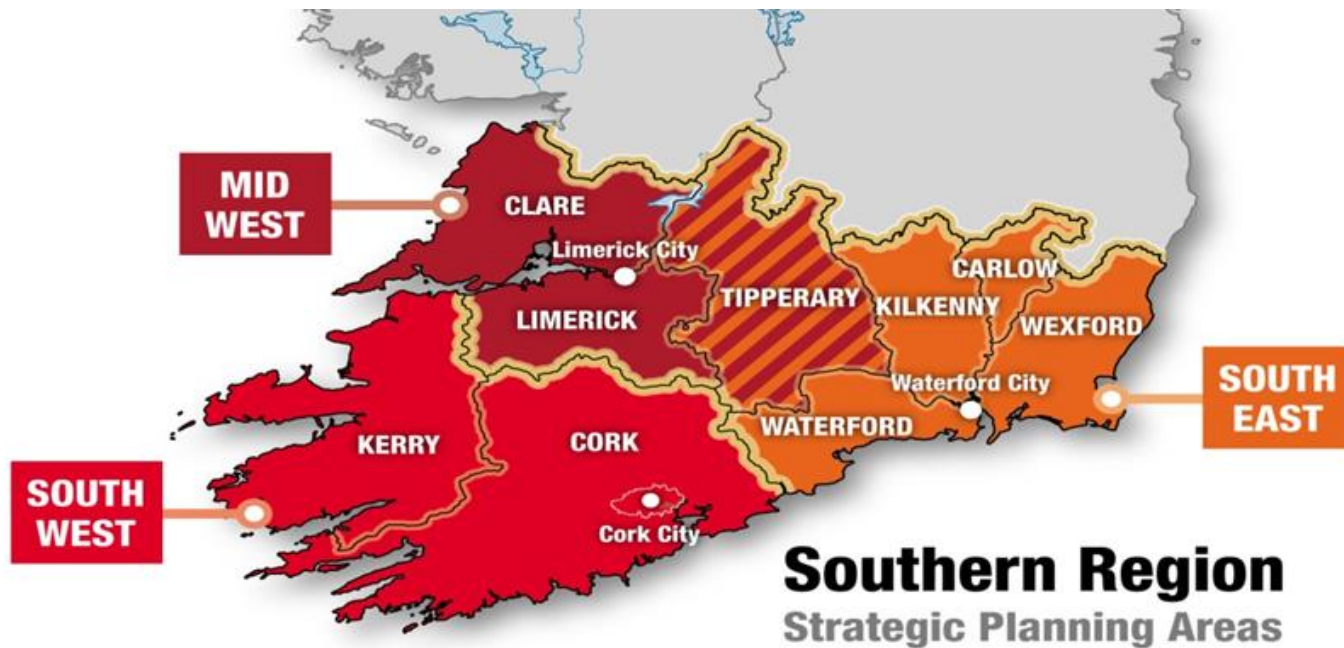
Establishment of New Regions

- Putting People First – Action Programme for Effective Local Government 2012
- Local Government Reform Act 2014
- Three** new Regional Assemblies established on the 1st January 2015
- Each Assembly required to have a number of Strategic Planning Area (SPA) Committees

(SI 573 of 2014 - Local Government Act 1991 (Regional Assemblies) (Establishment) Order 2014)



The Southern Regional Assembly



- Almost 43% of the total area of the state
- Population of 1.59 million people in 2016
- One-third of the population of the state as a whole

Functions of Regional Assembly

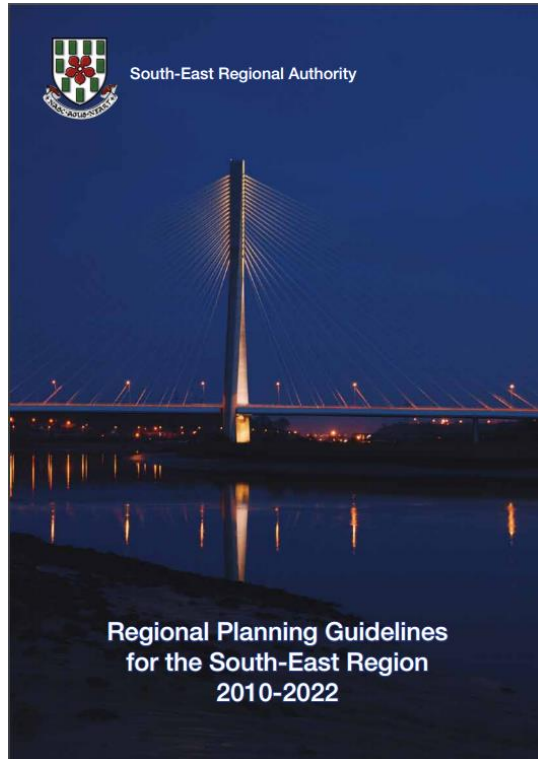
- ◉ Manage Regional Operational Programmes as well as monitoring and making proposals in relation to the general impact in the region of all EU programmes of assistance from the EU
- ◉ Co-ordinate, promote or support strategic planning and sustainable development of the region
- ◉ Prepare and oversee the implementation of the Regional Planning Guidelines, to be replaced by new **Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSES)**, and providing statutory observations on local authority development plans and variations
- ◉ Promote effectiveness in local government and public services in the region, in conjunction with the National Oversight & Audit Commission

National Planning Policy Hierarchy

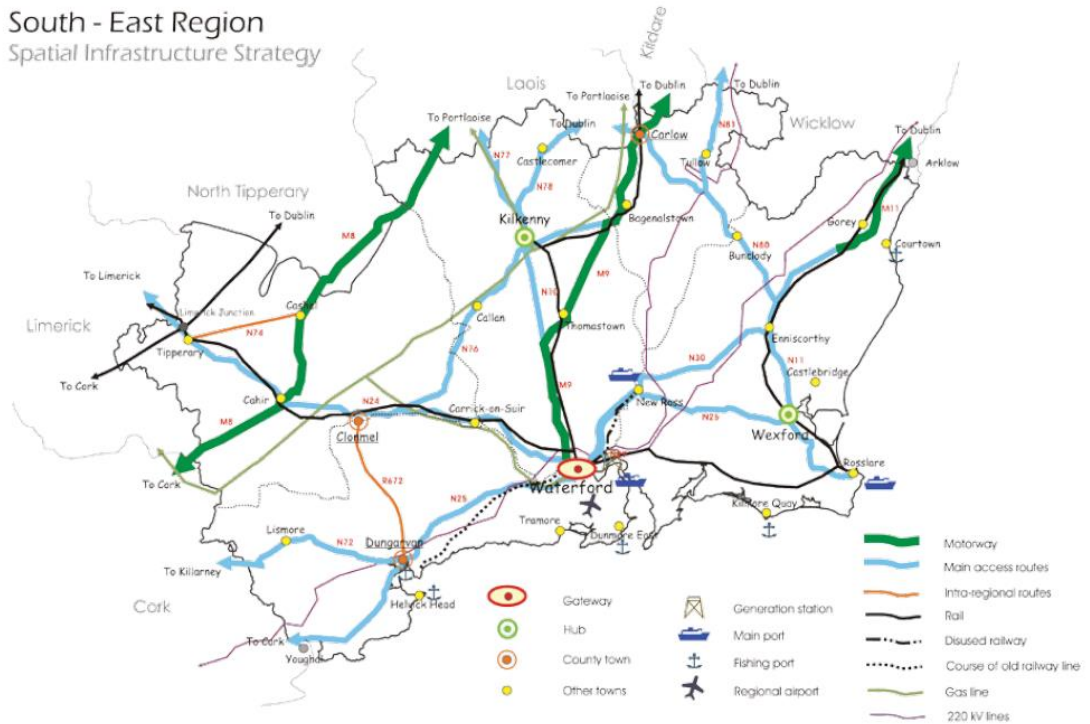
Planning Policy Hierarchy, Ireland 2017



Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022



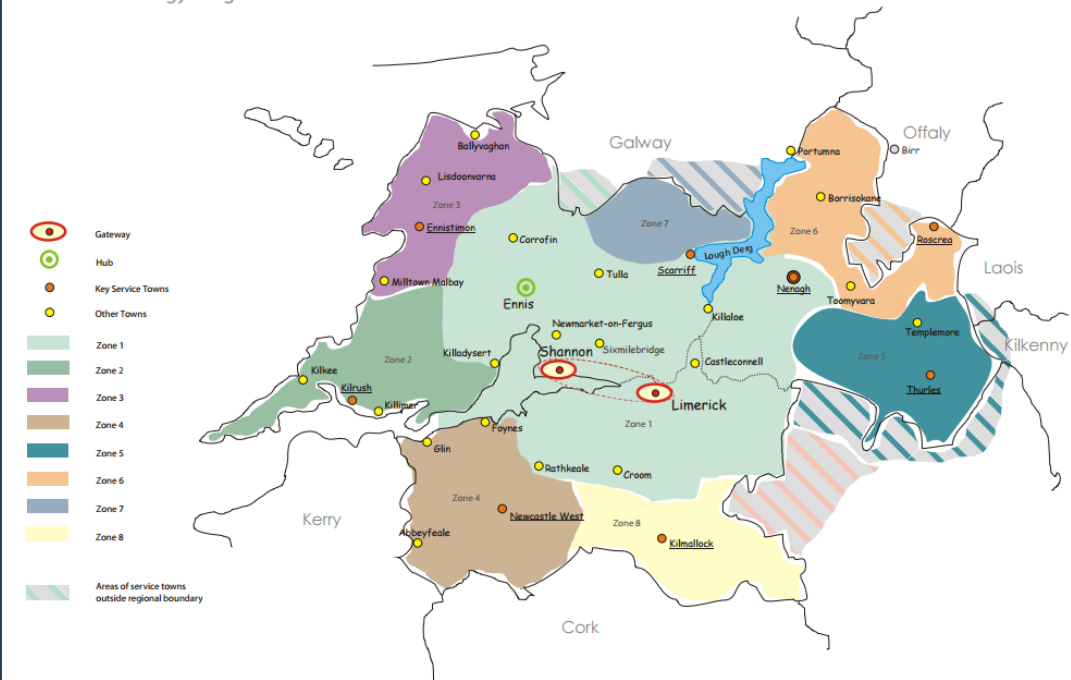
South - East Region Spatial Infrastructure Strategy



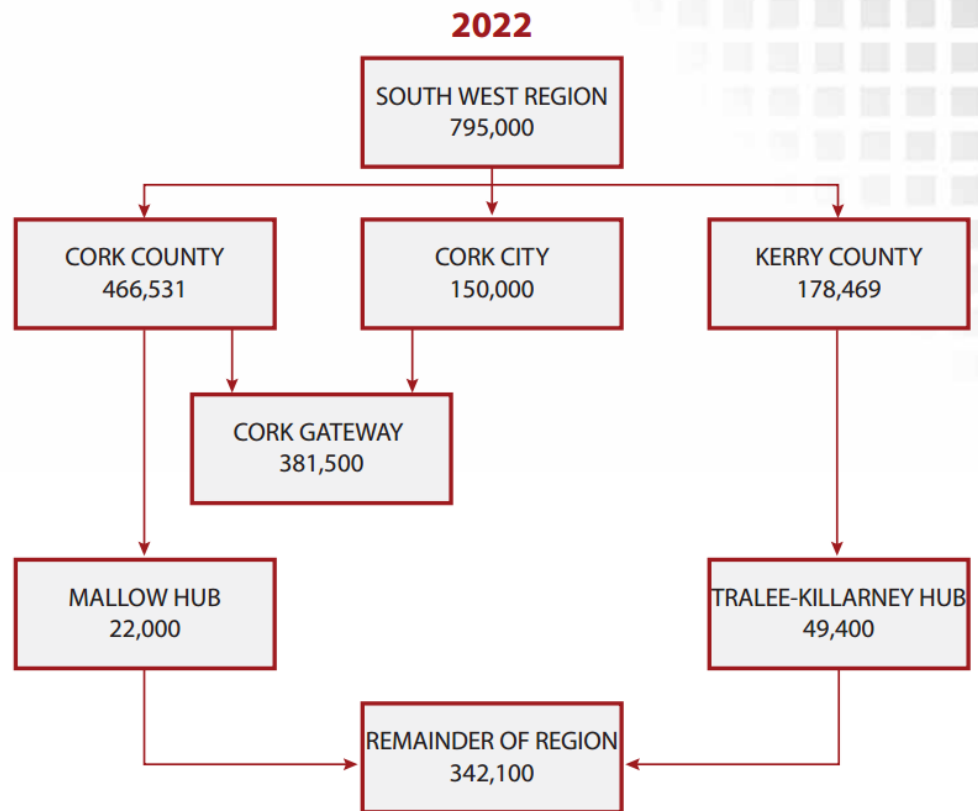
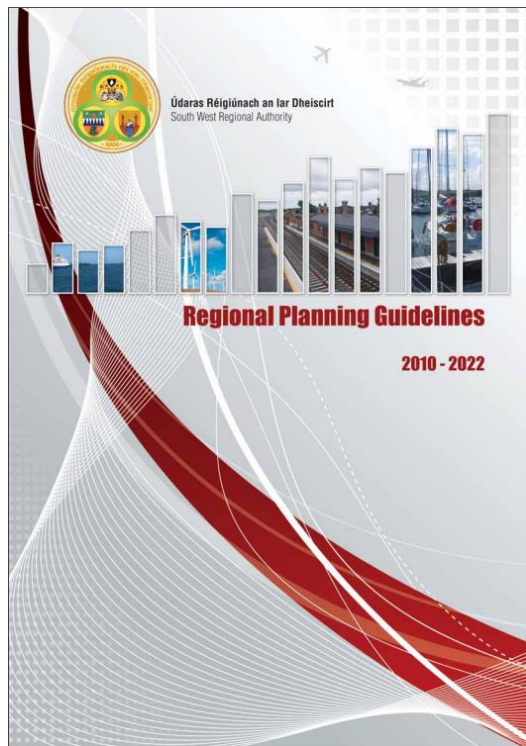
Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022



Mid West Region Settlement Strategy Diagram



Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022



Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy

- Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) prepared by the dissolved regional authorities for the period 2010 to 2022 continue to have effect until a Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy is prepared and adopted by the regional assembly
- Each Regional Assembly will prepare a long-term (12-20 years) Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the whole of their region
- The RSES shall support the implementation of the National Planning Framework (NPF) and economic policies and objectives of the Government
- Adoption of the RSES is a *Reserved Function* which requires the consent of the members of the Assembly
- Regional Assemblies have established Strategic Planning Area (SPA) committees to perform functions in relation to the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)

Working with Planning Authorities and Public Bodies

- The regional assembly must consult with all the planning authorities within the region to make arrangements for making the RSES
- The assembly and the planning authorities agree procedures for preparing and making the RSES including the establishment and membership of committees and the roles of those committees in preparing the draft strategy, considering submissions or observations and drawing up reports
- Planning authorities will assist the regional assembly including the provision of financial assistance, the services of staff and the provision of accommodation, where necessary
- Also, the assembly will consult with all relevant public bodies who in turn will assist and co-operate with the assembly in the preparation of the strategy and in the implementation of that strategy

Scope and Content of RSES

- The economic elements of the RSES will focus on —
 - Creating and sustaining jobs
 - Identifying regional strengths and opportunities
 - Identifying the regional attributes that are essential to enhancing regional economic performance
 - Proposals for augmenting the economic performance of the region
- The spatial strategy will address the location and provision of —
 - Employment, industrial and commercial development
 - Retail development
 - Housing
 - Transportation, including public transportation, water services, energy and communications networks and waste management facilities
 - Educational, healthcare, sports and community facilities,Having due regard to the preservation and protection of the environment and its amenities
- The RSES will also set out clear proposals in relation to both implementation monitoring, and reporting

Consultation

- **Pre-Draft** Regional Assemblies are required to give notice of their intention to make the RSES by publishing a notice in one or more newspapers circulating in the region and by notifying the Minister, An Bord Pleanála and all of the prescribed authorities and the public notices must indicate that submissions may be made within a specified period which shall be **not less than 8 weeks**
- **Draft Stage** All submissions received must be considered before preparing the draft RSES and the draft must go on public display for a further period of consultation of **not less than 10 weeks**
- **Amendment Stage** Following consideration of submissions or observations, the regional assembly shall, subject to any amendments that it considers necessary, make the regional spatial and economic strategy. However, if the assembly determine that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) or an Appropriate Assessment (AA) are required as a result of any of the proposed material amendments to the draft, then a further public consultation period of **not less than 4 weeks** shall be publicised.
- **Adoption** Following formal adoption of the RSES, the Regional Assembly will publish a notice in at least one newspaper circulating in the functional area of each planning authority in the region for which the strategy is prepared.

Process and Estimated Timeline

Issues Paper

Pre-Draft Consultation (min. 8 weeks)

Preparation of
Draft RSES

Consultation (min. 8 weeks)

Consideration of
amendments

Consultation
(min. 4 weeks)

Adoption

Estimated Project Duration – 18 Months



Implementation and Monitoring

- Every 2 years, each local authority within the regional assembly area, and each of the public bodies prescribed in the legislation, is required to prepare and submit a report to the assembly setting out progress made in supporting objectives, relevant to that body, of the strategy.
- The regional assembly will prepare a monitoring report every 2 years and that monitoring report shall specify the progress made in securing the overall objectives of the regional spatial and economic strategy, including those specific actions and outcomes which the prescribed public bodies are responsible for.
- The regional assembly will submit its monitoring report to the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) who may make recommendations to the Minister in relation to necessary measures to further support the implementation of the RSES.



RSES and County Development Plans

- Each planning authority must ensure, when making a development plan or a local area plan, that the plan is consistent with any RSES in force for its area.
- The Minister may, by order, determine that a planning authority shall comply with the relevant RSES when preparing and making a development plan, or may require that an existing development plan comply with the RSES.
- Following the making of a RSES for its area, each planning authority shall review the existing development plan and consider whether any variation of the development plan is necessary in order to achieve the objectives of the RSES.

Review of the RSES

- The regional assembly will review the adopted RSES within **six years** of its adoption



- When carrying out a review, the assembly must follow the same general procedures in relation to consultation with the public, the planning authorities and the prescribed bodies as if it were making a new RSES.

Emerging Issues for the Southern Region

National Challenges

- A national population increase of around 1 million people
- More than one fifth of Ireland's total population being over 65
- More than 500,000 additional people at work
- At least 500,000 extra homes required close to employment and services
- Rebuilding community and commercial life in the hearts of our cities, towns and rural communities
- Major environmental challenges such as protecting air and water quality, bio-diversity and a move away from dependence on fossil fuels

Regional Opportunities

- Well-developed and relatively well connected urban network
- Higher than average population growth
- Diverse, mature and competitive economic base
- Network of high quality third-level educational and research institutions
- International airports, seaports and deep-water berthage
- Good agricultural land, strong agricultural production base and processing capabilities
- Well-developed tourism sector with a wealth of visitor attractions, a high quality environment and a wide range of affordable activities (golf, equestrian, angling, walking, cycling etc.)

Thank You

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Southern Regional Assembly

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