



Northern & Western Regional Assembly The Square Ballaghaderreen Co. Roscommon 24th August 2020

Administrative Officer Planning Section, Sligo County Council City Hall, Quay Street, SLIGO,

Proposed <u>Draft Variation No.1 to the Sligo County Development Plan</u>, 2027 - 2023

Dear Ms McNamara,

I refer to your notification on 27th July, 2020 that the Council had prepared a Draft Variation (No.1) to the County Development Plan, and that a submission on the variation can be made before 4pm on 24th August, 2020.

The Northern and Western Regional Assembly wish to commend Sligo County Council on the publication of the Draft Variation to the County Development Plan. The initiation of this Variation to the County Development Plan represents an opportunity to think regionally and operate locally as it gives effect to the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy. It will (alongside the signalled forthcoming Sligo & Environs Local Area Plan) shape the short / medium-term future of the county, and it is also important to areas that lie beyond the county area at both sub-regional and regional level.

The Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, requires that the Planning Authority ensure, when varying the County Development Plan, that it is consistent with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the area of the plan and the National Planning Framework, thus enabling full alignment between local, regional and national planning policy.

This submission is made in accordance with Section 27C of the Planning and Development Acts. It is a requirement of Section 27C that the Regional Assembly make a submission on this Variation and to state whether, in the opinion of the Assembly, the draft variation of the development plan and, in particular, its core strategy, are consistent with the regional spatial and economic strategy. Where it is not consistent then the Assembly must make recommendations as to what amendments are required, in order to ensure that the proposed variation is consistent with the RSES.

> Northern & Western Regional Assembly The Square, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon

Tionól Réigiúnach an Tuaiscirt agus an Iarthair An Chearnóg, Bealach an Doirín, Co. Ros Comáin















The Northern and Western Regional Assembly adopted the Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy 2020 – 2032 (RSES) for the Northern and Western Region in January 2020. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sligo County Council for their collaborative input to this strategy. The Strategy is available on our website www.nwra.ie/rses.

It identifies regional development objectives and coordinating initiatives that support the delivery and implementation of national planning and economic policy that are bespoke to the region and which implement and amplify the National Policy Objectives and National Strategic Outcomes of the National Planning Framework (NPF).

Consistency with the RSES

The proposed Variation contains 56 Draft Amendments across Chapters 1, 3, 4,5 and 8. This report addresses them collectively on the basis of proposed draft amendments across these chapters in 'A-E' below and then comments upon other amendments under 'F', identifying other potential recommendations that would help ensure that the Development Plan is consistent with the RSES.

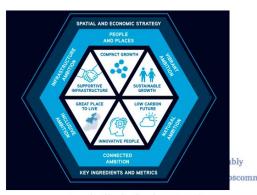
Draft Amendments to Chapter 1 of the CDP - Introduction.

Chapter 1 of the Sligo Plan sets the context for the plan, with reference to planning policy, the key development factors, population change and recent trends. The proposed Draft Amendments relating to this chapter looks to refresh this chapter in a manner that is reasonably consistent with the RSES. Notwithstanding, it refers to Sligo Town as a City and this is not consistent with the new language of the NPF and RSES whereby it is acknowledged that it is a significant town and a Regional Growth Centre. Furthermore, the significance given to the NPF and RSES, as the new national and regional frameworks that supersede the NSS and RPGs, requires further clarity. In particular, the context of the RSES growth framework should be articulated within this chapter.

- 1. Recommendation on Draft Amendment No.1 It is recommended that reference to Sligo City be omitted and refer instead to Sligo as a significant town that functions in a similar manner but at a different scale to the bigger cities and has accordingly been designated as a Regional Growth Centre.
- 2. Recommendation on Draft Amendment No.3: In making reference to the NSS being replaced by the NPF, it would be appropriate to confirm that the NPF is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of the country to 2040.

3. Recommendation on Draft Amendment No.4:

a) The opening paragraph which refers to the former Border RPG's should confirm that the RPGs for the Border region have been replaced by the RSES. Thereafter, the text should include the proposed narrative on the RSES and to include that the RSES has introduced the concept of a Growth Framework that incorporate 'Five Growth Ambitions' that define each priority and how they are mutually complementary.



Tionól Réigiúnach an Tuaiscirt agus an Iarthair An Chearnóg, Bealach an Doirín, Co. Ros Comáin

















- b) Confirm that the vision is for a region that is smarter, greener, more specialised and connected, with a stronger and more compact urban network, focusing on 'People' and 'Places'. The RSES brings a new "place-based" approach that from an enterprise development perspective, is key to delivering the elements that inform business location choices and this should be stated.
- c) The narrative, as proposed, refers to the 'streamlining' of the Regional Assemblies in 2015 but this is not correct and should be modified. Under the Local Government Reform Act 2014 a number of changes were made to the regional structures in Ireland. It was the eight Regional Authorities that were dissolved on 1st June 2014 and their functions were transferred to the Regional Assemblies with three Regional Assemblies being established on 1st January 2015 – the Northern & Western Regional Assembly, the Eastern & Midlands Regional Assembly and the Southern Regional Assembly.
- d) The proposed narrative states that the RSES identifies Sligo as an 'urban place of regional scale' and that it 'envisages' a 40% increase in the town's population by 2040. This is largely correct; however it may be understating the significance given to Sligo. It would be preferable for the wording to be amended to confirm the position of Sligo within the settlement hierarchy. It should state that the settlement hierarchy of the RSES includes one Metropolitan Area (Galway), three Regional Growth Centres (Sligo, Letterkenny and Athlone), and a network of 'Key Towns' that perform a support role in providing regionally strategic employment development of significant scale. The narrative should also state that the Regional Growth Centres have been designated as they fulfil city-like roles to a greater extent than elsewhere and that they perform as regional drivers that have the potential to grow as centres of scale.
- e) The language should reflect that the RSES sets a target of at least 40% increase in the population for the Sligo Regional Growth Centre and then confirm the population targets - the manner as stated in the proposed wording of the amendment is appropriate. The language around RPO 3.1 should also be amended to reflect the requirement of the RPO rather than the attributing it to be the 'intention' of the Assembly.
- **4. Recommendation on Draft Amendment 5**: The proposal to replace the term 'Gateway' with 'Regional Centre' should be amended to 'Regional Growth Centre'.
- 5. Recommendation on Draft Amendment 6: The comment given to Amendment 1 is also applicable to this proposed amendment.
- **6.** Recommendation on Draft Amendment 7: The comment given to Amendment 1 is also applicable to this proposed amendment.
- 7. Recommendation on Draft Amendment No.8: S1.3 should also include a narrative on the RGCSP and how a future LAP shall add further detail.

Northern & Western Regional Assembly The Square, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon

Tionól Réigiúnach an Tuaiscirt agus an Iarthair An Chearnóg, Bealach an Doirín, Co. Ros Comáin







+353 (0)94 9862973

info@nwra.ie







Recommendation on Draft Amendment 10: There is a need to refresh S1.4 to reflect the Regional Growth Centre Strategic Plan (RGCSP) more substantially and to provide reference to those regionally significant projects to be advanced as contained in the RGCSP.

В. Draft Amendments to Chapter 3 of the CDP - Core Strategy.

This chapter contains the core strategy for the plan and seeks to update the population target figures within the Core Strategy, the related housing target figures and the Settlement Hierarchy to reflect what is set out for the County in the NPF and the RSES. It has been reasonably successful in reflecting the NPF and RSES within the historical context of the NSS and RPGs. However, it is considered that there is further need to ensure there is absolute clarity that the NSS and RPGs have been superseded and that the NPF and RSES are the relevant policy frameworks at national and regional level. It is also an opportunity to set out the strategic need to address the weak urban structure within the region and to emphasise that Sligo has a significant role to play as a Regional Growth Centre - namely Sligo Town and its immediate hinterland, which includes the closest satellite villages of Ballysadare, Strandhill and Rosses Point.

The proposed amendments commit to the forthcoming Sligo and Environs Local Area Plan being prepared and that it shall have sufficient housing land available to cater for population growth over a 10-year period (i.e. up to 2031) to coincide with the RSES. The preparation of a LAP for the Regional Growth Centre that ensures that adequate lands are identified for the medium to long-term is to be welcomed but it is also important that the land bank is released for development incrementally. It is unclear if this is what is being proposed and therefore it will be necessary to recommend that the LAP identify an appropriate quantum of land for the initial six year cycle of the LAP, with any remaining landbank being held as 'residential reserve' for the subsequent period.

The proposed variation represents an opportunity to incorporate objectives and policies that shall guide the development of Sligo Regional Growth Centre in a manner consistent with the RPOs contained within the RSES, pending the adoption of the RSES, and which shall also act as a foundation for the architecture of the LAP. This would include RPOs that are contained within the Sligo RGCSP (3.7(c)) which relate to Town Centre vibrancy and Compact Growth which are not included within the Draft Variation, such as RPO 3.7.44, where the preparation of a Building Heights Study is outlined and RPO 3.7.56, supporting a major tourist attraction in Sligo Town, notwithstanding that Section 4.4.5 of the Development Plan does emphasise a number of projects in the field of Cultural Tourism.

Amendment 32 makes reference to RPO 3.2(b) and states that this provision 'could be interpreted as a requirement to accommodate 40% of the additional population (2,640 persons) within the existing built-up area of Sligo and Environs, in housing units built on infill and brownfield sites (i.e. within the CSO-defined Census boundary)'. It is considered that this statement should confirm that it is to be interpreted as a requirement to accommodate 40% of the additional population (2,640 persons to 2032) within the existing built-up area of Sligo and Environs, in housing units built on infill and brownfield sites (i.e. within the CSO-defined

The Square, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon

Tionól Réigiúnach an Tuaiscirt agus an Iarthair An Chearnóg, Bealach an Doirín, Co. Ros Comáin















Census boundary) - rather than stating that it 'should' and confirming the population target is the year 2032.

The draft variation sets out the methodology used to estimate population and housing targets. The methodology provides estimates that are based upon what is referenced as an elevenyear period between 2016 and 2026 and an eight year period between 2016-2023. The methodology includes an occupancy ratio of 2 persons per housing unit and 35 units per hectare for the future Sligo Town and Environs LAP, whilst the occupancy ratio for the rest of the county is estimated at 2.2 persons per residential unit and 12 units per hectare. The occupancy rate and the density ratio for lands other than the Regional Growth Centre LAP would appear to be low and would merit justification/clarification.

Furthermore, the requirements of the 2010 Guidance Note for Core strategies issued by the then DEHLG have not been fully translated into the variation. By way of example the Guidelines provide at Appendix 2 an illustrative example of the Core Strategy Table that should be contained within all Core Strategies. This table should enable the quantum of existing zoning, proposed zoning, housing yields on residential lands and separately on mixeduse lands, where mixed land-use will yield housing. It should be used in this variation to evidence that a clear and transparent strategy is in place. It should be used to identify undersupply/over-supply and to demonstrate commitment to the delivery of housing targets through future LAPs during the lifetime of this Development Plan, as necessary.

It is noted that the methodology is based upon the period 2016-2026 and the period 2016-2023 being considered to be eleven years and eight years respectively. An alternative interpretation could be that the periods are ten years and seven years respectively, which would impact upon the extent of land required for housing supply and therefore this aspect would benefit further clarification so as to confirm that sufficient land has been identified, that it is not excessive for the plan period and that there is consistency with the NPF and RSES.

Finally, there are some gaps that need to be filled in respect of supporting the vitality and viability of smaller towns, villages and rural areas and in particular RPOs 3.7 and 3.13.

Recommendation on Draft Amendment No11; The proposed wording should be modified so that it confirms that 'Sligo County Council remain determined to drive the development of the Sligo Regional Centre and County towards the vision set out in the NPF and RSES' – rather than the NSS as stated. Furthermore, the proposed wording (Pg15) states that the 'most relevant' RPOs have been incorporated – it is unclear what this means as all relevant RPOs should be reflected so that the plan is consistent with the RSES. This requires reconsideration.

2. Recommendation on Draft Amendment 14:

a) The language and tone of the NPF differs markedly from the NSS and therefore this section of the development plan would benefit from further reconfiguration by either, deletion of the opening paragraph, or, as an alternative - should it be decided to retain the historical context - then it should make it clear that the NSS is the

> Northern & Western Regional Assembly The Square, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon

Tionól Réigiúnach an Tuaiscirt agus an Iarthair An Chearnóg, Bealach an Doirín, Co. Ros Comáin







+353 (0)94 9862973



info@nwra.ie









predecessor to the NPF, thus making it clear that the NPF is the new policy framework.

- b) This section would also benefit from setting the context that the NPF has identified that the Northern and Western region has historically had a lower level of urbanisation compared to other regions and that one of the biggest challenges it faces is the identification and implementation of actions that will build up its urban structure. It would also benefit from confirmation that significant towns such as Sligo function in their areas in a similar manner, but at a different scale to the bigger cities. The plan could then include the text in blue as suggested, setting out that the NPF identifies Sligo as a Regional Centre.
- c) The narrative would benefit from inclusion of confirmation that the NPF is underpinned by the National Development Plan (NDP) which sets the framework for national capital investment to 2027. It should further confirm that the NPF is supported by the Implementation Roadmap for the National Planning Framework (July 2018) and that it sets out a programme for the implementation of the NPF and includes transitional population projections at Regional and County level to inform development plans.

3. Recommendation on Draft Amendment 15:

- a) The proposed amendment is set within the context of the opening paragraph (indicated as being retained) that relates to the former RPG for the Border Region and the plan would benefit from this paragraph being deleted. Alternatively, it should reference the RPGs as being the predecessor to the RSES, making it clear that the RSES is the new regional framework.
- b) The narrative should be amended to further reference that the RSES seeks to promote the vitality and viability of smaller towns villages and rural areas. It should commit to RPO 3.7 regarding the provision of serviced sites and to incorporate the requirement of RPO 3.13 and in that regard confirm the identity of those settlements (If these are the 'Key Support Towns' as identified in Map 3.A, then a statement to this effect would be welcome). It should be noted within the narrative that the development of brownfield sites is also necessary within urban areas.
- c) The term 'Key Support Towns' would benefit from being referred to as 'Support Towns' or some other term, so that there is no confusion with the 'Key Towns' defined within the RSES.
- 4. Recommendation on Draft Amendment 18: The proposed amendments are considered appropriate and the tabulated data is reflective of that contained within the NPF Roadmap. However, for information purposes, it should be noted that the said NPF Table contained a typographical error under the 2026 population column for the NWRA. The figures should be 942,500 -961,500 and not 942,500 - 986,500 - this is reflected in the figures provided in Table 2 of the RSES. It is recommended that the figures in Table 2 of the RSES are reflected in the proposed table.
- 5. Recommendation on Draft Amendment 20: The proposed amendments are generally considered appropriate but would benefit from amending the term 'Key

Northern & Western Regional Assembly The Square, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon

Tionól Réigiúnach an Tuaiscirt agus an Iarthair An Chearnóg, Bealach an Doirín, Co. Ros Comáin

















Support Town' to 'Support Towns' or an alternative term – to avoid confusion with the 'Key Towns' of the RSES as referred to above under No.17. Furthermore, it would be appropriate to include the villages of Ballysadare, Strandhill and Rosses Point under the heading of the Sligo RGC.

- 6. Recommendation on Draft Amendment 21: The proposed amendments are considered appropriate and while they reference that there are twenty-one Regional Policy Objectives bespoke to the Sligo RGC, they do not translate them into objectives/policy but leave this to a subsequent LAP. This approach fails to make the Policy Framework consistent with the RSES. Accordingly, it is recommended that meaningful effect is given to RPOs, including those relevant to the RGC, through objectives/policies within this proposed Variation. Matters of further detail may need to be developed through the proposed LAP for the Regional Growth Centre. This should also include but not be limited to:
 - the preparation of a Building Heights Study (RPO 3.7.44).
 - Support development of a major tourist attraction (RPO 3.7.56).
- 7. Recommendation on Draft Amendment 22: The proposed amendments are considered appropriate, but it should be clarified that the villages of Ballysadare, Strandhill and Rosses Point are within the Regional Growth Centre.

8. Recommendation on Draft Amendment 32 - 35:

- a) Amendment 32 makes reference to RPO 3.2(b) and states that this provision 'could be interpreted as a requirement to accommodate 40% of the additional population (2,640 persons) within the existing built-up area of Sligo and Environs, in housing units built on infill and brownfield sites (i.e. within the CSO-defined Census boundary)'. This statement should confirm that it is to be interpreted as a requirement to accommodate 40% of the additional population (2,640 persons to 2032) within the existing built-up area of Sligo and Environs, in housing units built on infill and brownfield sites (i.e. within the CSO-defined Census boundary).
- b) Provide a commitment that the LAP will identify an appropriate quantum of land for the initial six year cycle of the LAP, with any remainder being held as 'residential reserve' landuse zoning for the subsequent period. This to be articulated through a 'Core Strategy Table – see (d) below.
- c) The methodology used to estimate population and housing targets to be revisited and provide further clarity, having regard to the following:
 - The period 2016 to 2026 should be interpreted as ten years rather than eleven.
 - ii) The period 2016 to 2023 should be interpreted as seven years rather than eight.
 - iii) Clarification why number of units to be delivered through 'mixed use' landuse zoning has not been stated.
 - iv) Account to be taken of requirement that 40% of housing is to be within the existing built-up footprint of the Regional Growth Centres

Tionól Réigiúnach an Tuaiscirt agus an Iarthair An Chearnóg, Bealach an Doirín, Co. Ros Comáin

Northern & Western Regional Assembly The Square, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon

















- v) Account to be taken of the requirement that 30% of all new housing that is targeted to be within settlements is to be within the existing built-up footprints (RPO 3.2 (c) refers).
- vi) Account to be taken of extent of rural housing to be provided.
- vii) Justification for occupancy ratio of 2.0 in Sligo Town and 2.2 elsewhere. This appears somewhat low.
- d) Insert a Core Strategy Table in accordance with the illustrative example provided within the 2010 Guidance Note for Core strategies issued by the then DEHLG (See Appendix 2). This table should set out the population targets and the current and future quantum of residential zoned land required within the settlement hierarchy, together with the housing yield in the residential zonings and in 'other' zoned lands where mixed land-use will yield housing. It should be used to identify under-supply/over-supply and demonstrate how the housing targets will be delivered through future LAPs during the lifetime of this Development Plan, as necessary. It should also estimate the quantum of housing to be delivered in rural areas.

C. Draft Amendments to Chapter 4 of the CDP – Economic Development.

The proposed amendments refresh the economic context presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and include a narrative regarding the Atlantic Economic Corridor. Other interventions include amending references to NPF and RSES and include specific reference to 'Industry and Enterprise', 'Tourism' and 'Retail'. However, the proposed amendments do not appear to fully integrate the Regional Policy Objectives of the RSES Growth Strategy -Growth Ambition 3 - in respect of these sectors nor the RSES more broadly. The variation process represents an opportunity to demonstrate how it has influenced the Sligo County Development Plan and to deliver the RPOs of the RSES. Further gaps are reflected further under heading 'Additional Recommendations'.

Recommendation on Draft Amendment 43 - 49: The proposed amendments are considered appropriate, but it fails to make the policy framework consistent with the RSES. Accordingly, it is recommended that meaningful effect is given to the suite of RPOs within the RSES, in particular those within Growth Ambition 1 of the RSES see further under 'Additional Recommendations'

D. Draft Amendments to Chapter 5 of the CDP - Housing.

The proposed amendments are reflective of the provisions within the core strategy. This chapter includes a narrative about population targets and states that it is between 5,088 and 6,325 persons to 2023 without explaining how the figure of 6,325 has been arrived at. This requires further clarification as it may not be consistent with the core strategy figures. The narrative under Amendment 51-53 would also benefit from a modification to reflect RPO 3.2(c) which requires the delivery of at least 30% of all new homes targeted in settlements (with population of at least 1,500) to be within the existing built-up footprints – it is noted that the proposed policy intervention has been included in this regard.

Recommendation on Draft Amendment 50: The observations made to Draft

Northern & Western Regional Assembly The Square, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon

Tionól Réigiúnach an Tuaiscirt agus an Iarthair An Chearnóg, Bealach an Doirín, Co. Ros Comáin







+353 (0)94 9862970







info@nwra.ie









Amendments 32 - 35 are applicable here. Furthermore, provide clarification explaining the origins of the population target range of between '5,088 and 6,325'.

2. Recommendation on Draft Amendment 51 - 53: This amendment is appropriate, subject to the narrative being modified to reflect RPO 3.2(c) which requires the delivery of at least 30% of all new homes targeted in settlements (with population of at least 1,500) to be within the existing built-up footprints.

E. Draft Amendments to Chapter 8 of the CDP – Transport and Mobility.

These Draft Amendments incorporate the references of the NPF and RSES to the Atlantic Economic Corridor and to the designation of Sligo as a Regional Growth Centre which is appropriate. The amendment also makes a slight amendment to the reference in the current plan to the Border Regional Guidelines by proposing to reference them as the '2010' Border Guidelines within the context of the support they gave to a number of strategic routes. This is something that is acceptable, as the reference to the Border Guidelines may be of historical interest. However, the Border Guidelines have been superseded and are no longer material considerations. The amendment should include more substantive narrative to the support that the RSES gives to the various transport provisions through the RPOs, especially those contained within Growth Ambition 3.

The Western Rail Corridor (WRC) was a significant consideration when making the RSES and it is noted that the proposed Variation does not contain any significant proposals to modify the existing narrative nor policies/objectives in that regard. It retains reference to the RPG support for the re-opening of the Claremorris-Sligo railway line as a 'long-term priority'. It also contains an objective (O-CW-5) to 'Seek the development of a footway and cycleway (greenway) on or alongside the disused railway line from Claremorris to Collooney insofar as such route does not compromise the reopening of the Western Rail Corridor, if reopening the railway line is deemed feasible.' Section 8.4.2 includes a narrative specific to the WRC and includes policy (P-PT-5) to 'Examine the feasibility of reopening the Western Rail Corridor, as a strategic transport corridor linking Sligo and the North-West with Mayo, Galway and Limerick in the context of the new rail policy to be developed by the DTTaS.'

The support given for a greenway on the Western Rail Corridor in the Sligo Development Plan Objective O-CW-5 is heavily qualified and differences with the wording of RPO 6.11 and 6.13 are nuanced to an extent that it is arguable that it is largely consistent with the RSES. However, it is considered by the Assembly that it would be preferable if the Sligo Development Plan did not describe the reopening of the WRC as a 'long term priority' and that the narrative in the Sligo Development Plan be amended so that it reflects the overwhelming support given in the narrative of the RSES and in Regional Policy Objectives RPO 6.11 and 6.13 (See Chapter 6.8 - Pages 222-223). Additionally, the Assembly would ask that the Policy P-PT-5 be amended to align more closely with that of RPO 6.11 and take account of the current Programme for Partnership Government.

1. Recommendation on Draft Amendment 54: Include more substantive narrative to the support that the RSES gives to the various transport provisions through the RPOs, especially those contained within Growth Ambition 3 and referenced below under the heading 'additional Recommendations'.

Northern & Western Regional Assembly The Square, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon

Tionól Réigiúnach an Tuaiscirt agus an Iarthair An Chearnóg, Bealach an Doirín, Co. Ros Comáin















2. Recommendation on Draft Amendment 55 & 56:

- a) Make amendments to the text so that it is clear that the Border RPGs have been superseded by the RSES.
- b) Include more substantive narrative to confirm the support that the RSES gives to the various transport provisions through the RPOs, especially those contained within Growth Ambition 3. The development plan should reflect the overwhelming support given to the reopening of the Western Rail Corridor as a priority within the narrative of Chapter 6.8 (Pages 222-223) and RPOs 6.11 and RPO 6.13. The narrative in respect of the former Border RPGs is perhaps of interest but it is the RSES that is the current policy framework and it should receive greater detail to reflect its relevance and support within the Sligo Plan.
- c) Amend Policy P-PT-5 to align more closely with that of RPO 6.11 and taking account of the current Programme for Partnership Government.
- d) The narrative should outline that the RSES highlights that this region is highly dependent upon the private car and it requires that land-use and transport planning is better integrated in a manner that enhances the connectivity of people and places by promoting sustainable transport options for people of all age groups and levels of mobility and to reduce dependency upon the private car. The RSES reflects the need for an attractive, effective transport infrastructure system as this can represent a key factor in attracting (and retaining) skilled labour to the region both in terms of the overall amenity of public spaces and for leisure, education and work mobility purposes. This should be reflected.
- e) The RSES identifies that there are significant gaps in the quality of the transport network across the region, which require prioritised investment to bring it up to a comparable standard with the rest of the country and this should be highlighted within the narrative.
- f) That meaningful effect is given to the suite of RPOs within the RSES, in particular those within Growth Ambition 3 of the RSES see also under 'Additional Recommendations'

F. Additional Recommendations:

The purpose of the proposed variation is to make amendments to the development plan to make it consistent with the RSES for the Northern and Western Region and with the NFP. The recommendations contained within the above sections relate to the proposed amendments as published. However, there is also a need to reflect on any additional potential amendments that are necessary to make the development plan consistent with the RSES. The Regional policy Objectives relating to 'People and Places' has been dealt with within the foregoing recommendations in respect of the proposed Draft Amendments. However, there are relevant Regional Policy Objectives in the RSES which do not have corresponding objectives in the Development Plan even if the present variations are adopted and this is an opportunity to review the plan and bring them into effect so that the plan is fully consistent with the RSES.

Recommendation: That meaningful effect is given to the suite of RPOs within the RSES, in particular but not be limited to the following:

 RPO 5.3 Zone of North Sligo / North Leitrim (Belbulbin and its hinterland) as a potential National Park / National Recreation area

Northern & Western Regional Assemble

- 2. RPO 6.4 Smart Ports
- 3. RPO 6.17 Rail Electrification
- 4. RPO 6.18 Smart Technology

+353 (0)94 9862970 +353 (0)94 9862973 info@nwra.ie

The Square, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon

Tionól Réigiúnach an Tuaiscirt agus an Iarthair

An Chearnóg, Bealach an Doirín, Co. Ros Comáin







www.nwra.ie

- RPO 6.20-22 Bus Services Network Review.
- RPO 6.23, 6.26, 6.27, 6.28 Local Transport Plans
- 7. RPO 6.41-60 Smart Technology.
- 8. RPO 7.1- 7.6 Education/Skills- including support for Technological University.
- 9. RPO 7.8 Slainte Care.
- 10. RPO 7.11 Healthy Ireland.
- 11. RPO 7.14 Specific designation of lands for nursing homes and sheltered housing.
- 12. RPO 8.2 Support Electricity Transmission Projects in Sligo (North West Project).
- 13. RPO 8.5 and 8.6 Gas Networks and Natural Gas.
- 14. RPO 8.8 Support for implementation of CURWMP.
- 15. RPO 8.15 and 8.17 Water Infrastructure projects.

It is hoped that the above observations are of assistance in ensuring that the Sligo County Development Plan is consistent with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the region in a manner that shall be of benefit to our communities. The Assembly look forward to further engagement with Sligo County Council and if you have any queries in respect of the above observations, then do not hesitate to revert.

Is mise le meas.

Doub Minh

David Minton,

Director

The Square, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon Tionól Réigiúnach an Tuaiscirt agus an Iarthair

Northern & Western Regional Assembly

An Chearnóg, Bealach an Doirín, Co. Ros Comáin





