



Teil/Tel: +353 (0)51 860700 R-phost/Email: info@southernassembly.ie
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17th December, 2018,

A Chara,

Re: Notice of Public Consultation on the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region.

As you are aware, the Southern Regional Assembly was established in January 2015 under the Local Government Act 2014 and is part of the regional tier of governance in Ireland. One of the principal functions of the Assembly is the delivery of a Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES), a new concept in Irish planning where both spatial planning and economic factors are brought together into one all-encompassing strategy to set out a framework for the future development of the Southern Region.

The Assembly commenced the process of formulating a RSES for the region with an initial public consultation on an Issues Paper that was made available for public comment from November 2017 to February 2018. Submissions were sought on relevant strategic planning and economic development matters and, together with stakeholder consultation, these have contributed to our work in preparing the draft RSES.

I now give notice that the Southern Regional Assembly has prepared a draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the whole of the Southern Region for the period 2019-2031, as required under section 24(4) of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2018.

The objective of the RSES shall be to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework – Ireland 2040 and the economic policies and objectives of the Government by providing a long-term spatial planning and economic framework which shall be consistent with the NPF and the economic policies or objectives of the Government.

An Environmental Report has been prepared in accordance with the SEA Directive and the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations S.I. No. 436/2004 (as amended), accompanied by a Regional Flood Risk Appraisal Report. A Natura Impact Report (to inform the Appropriate Assessment) has also been prepared in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, the Planning and Development Act 2000-2018, and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations S.I. No. 477/2011 (as amended).

Tionól Réigiúnach an Deiscirt

Teach an Tionóil,
Sráid Uí Chonaill,
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The draft RSES and associated documents are now placed on public display and are available to view at the offices of the Southern Regional Assembly in Waterford and at all constituent Local Authority Planning Department offices. The documents may also be inspected online at www.southernassembly.ie

Submissions or observations on the draft strategy or associated environmental reports can be received between **Tuesday 18th December 2018 and 5pm on Friday 08th March 2019** (both dates inclusive) through one of the following media:

Online: www.southernassembly.ie

Email: rses@southernassembly.ie

Mail: RSES Submission, Southern Regional Assembly, Assembly House, O'Connell Street, Waterford. X91 K256.

The Regional Assembly will consider all submissions made in writing within the stated period before adopting the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.

As part of this public consultation period the Regional Assembly will engage with key stakeholders throughout the region. We are finalising the details of stakeholder engagement and arrangements will issue in due course.

We look forward to working with you on the preparation of this strategy which will guide and shape the future of our region for generations to come.

Mise le meas,

David Kelly
A/Director
Southern Regional Assembly

