

**Liam Hannaway**  
Chief Executive



Comhairle Ceantair  
**an Iúir, Mhúrn  
agus an Dúin**  
**Newry, Mourne  
and Down**  
District Council

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Your Ref: NWRA/RSES

Our Ref:

RSES Submissions  
Northern & Western Regional Assembly  
The Square  
Ballaghaderreen  
Co. Roscommon  
F45 W674

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re. Northern & Western Regional Assembly: Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy  
Response of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council**

The Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Northern & Western Regional Assembly (NWRA).

Newry, Mourne and Down District shares a border with County Monaghan which forms part of NWRA.

The Council refers to its submission response to the 'RSES Issues Paper' in January 2018, whereby it emphasised the need for the RSES to recognise and take account of the issues which are important to the District from an economic infrastructure and planning context. It requested that, through cross border co-operation and collaboration, the economic, social, and environmental interests of Newry, Mourne and Down District are fully taken in to account in the in the strategic planning and economic development of the Northern & Western Region. In guiding future development and sustainable growth, and in the co-ordinated delivery of strategic development, infrastructure and services, it requested that the RSES recognise, acknowledge and be ever mindful of the role and position of Newry, Mourne and Down District as it borders the Northern & Western Region, in particular its placement on the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor and the contribution it makes to the whole of the island of Ireland. Specific reference was made to the strategic positioning of Newry, together with the neighbouring port of Warrenpoint, and the role they serve as a regional and international gateway.

In respect of the Councils interests and issues previously expressed, as reference above, the only comments the Council wishes to make is in respect of the Draft RSES are as follows:

- In reference to the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor, the Draft RSES acknowledges that Counties Cavan and Monaghan have a close relationship with it. Within the Region, it recognises that Counties Cavan and Monaghan have an easterly focus and that they comprise

**Oifig an Iúir**  
**Newry Office**  
O'Hagan House  
Monaghan Row  
Newry BT35 8DJ

**Oifig Dhún Pádraig**  
**Downpatrick Office**  
Downshire Civic Centre  
Downshire Estate, Ardglass Road  
Downpatrick BT30 6GQ

0300 013 2233 (Council)  
0300 200 7830 (Planning)  
council@nmandd.org  
www.newrymournedown.org

Ag freastal ar an Dún  
agus Ard Mhacha Theas  
**Serving Down  
and South Armagh**



part of a North Eastern functional area with County Louth, where the key driver is the Dublin-Belfast cross border network, which influences both these counties. In this context the Draft RSES refers to the Cavan/Monaghan sub region providing an important connection between the NWRA region and the Greater Dublin Area. However, it is considered there is an omission in this context. In terms of its strategic context to both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor is an internationally important spine connecting the two largest settlements on the island of Ireland via the growth centres of Drogheda, Dundalk and Newry, with access to a number of ports of regional significance, including Warrenpoint. Within the Draft RSES it is considered that further weight needs to be given to the importance of this economic corridor to the Northern & Western Region. Reference should be made to the Cavan/Monaghan sub region providing an important connection between the NWRA region and the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor. Overall, in supporting the implementation of Project Ireland 2040, and in particular the National Planning Framework, it is considered that the RSES needs to make stronger references to the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor and the relationship and importance of this internationally important strategic transport spine to the economic development and well-being of the whole of the NWRA region.

- In reference to 'All Island Cohesion', the Council notes that the Draft RSES recognises the need for ongoing North-South cooperation across a wide range of policy areas. In doing so it identifies three key categories of practical co-operation that will be of strategic significance to communities on the island of Ireland:
  - **Working Together for Economic Advantage**
  - **Co-ordination of Investment in Infrastructure**
  - **Managing our Shared Environment Responsibly**

While the first key category includes reference to the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor, as expressed above, it is considered that this reference needs to be stronger.

In respect of the other two key categories, in discussing energy transmission networks, digital infrastructure, tourism, and the environment, cross border references are focussed on the North West and Central Border sub regions. However, in respect of the latter, it is noted that there are no references to any areas of common interest between County Monaghan and Newry, Mourne and Down District. While the related Regional Policy Objectives are welcomed, in particular RPOs 209 and 210, the associated preamble, amplification and justification should include references to Newry, Mourne and Down District.

Overall, the Council welcomes the Draft RSES, which it considers to be positive towards the interests of Newry, Mourne and Down District.



I trust all is satisfactory. Should you require any further information or wish to discuss this response please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liam Hannaway'.

*for* **Liam Hannaway**  
**Chief Executive**

