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From: Brendan Quinn [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday 8 February 2019 14:11
To: rses
Subject: Galway and regional acute hospital

Objective 170

To support the development of a new acute hospital facility within the Galway City Metropolitan Area.

I note the above objective on page 265 of the draft RSES.

May I suggest an even more radical plan.

There is a landbank of publically owned land at Galway Airport. Proposals to develop this site are currently being looked at and are mentioned on page 73.

I suggest that this brownfield landbank should be used to build an entirely new super regional hospital and specialist regional cancer and heart centre of excellence.

The new super Western Hospital on this site would be a big enough landbank to also provide hospital staff living accommodate (student nurse accommodation, short term family accommodation for relatives of critically ill patients etc).

Positioned as it is almost at the interchange of the M6 and the newly opened M17 it would make a regional hospital much more accessible to the greater region, This plan is supposed to be a regional plan. Positioning this kind of socially critical infrastructure near motorway junctions is simply following what the retail sector does with superstores (think of IKEA for your example)

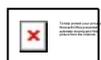
The radical suggestion I have is that the current Galway University Hospital would be entirely relocated to this new super regional hospital. The important word is relocated not closed.

This hospital would still only be 3 miles from the city centre and university and would release a city centre landbank for development of critically needed student accommodation close to the university campus, the release landbank could also be used for development of city centre retail and leisure facilities with adequate multi-story parking.

Connectivity would be via continuous shuttle buses to the hospital and a bus interchange could be put on campus for interchange of mainline buses running north south on the M17 axis and running East West (ie Dublin/Galway) on the M 6 axis.

The title of this plan is Regional Spatial Economic Strategies. This idea fits everyone of those words perfectly.

Brendan Quinn
[REDACTED]



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