

**From:** Claremorris Chamber [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday 7 February 2019 09:53  
**To:** rses  
**Subject:** Submission to RSES

Claremorris Chamber of Commerce wishes to make a submission to the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and echo the sentiment of the Cathaoirleach that it is also our wish to make our region a better place to live in, grow up in and indeed to visit.

There needs to be more emphasis on the Atlantic Economic Corridor and greater recognition of the importance of connectivity between Ireland West Airport (the region's only international arrival point) and Galway City (the region's largest population centre).

Specifically the regional authority must ensure delivery of the most important program for government commitment made to Ireland North West Region, i.e. reinstating to the CORE TEN-T (Europe's Main Infrastructure network for Motorway, Rail, Air & Port)

Page 44 Section 4.2.C Jobs and Rural Development - Attracting New Investment  
[https://www.merrionstreet.ie/MerrionStreet/en/ImageLibrary/Programme\\_for\\_Partnership\\_Government.pdf](https://www.merrionstreet.ie/MerrionStreet/en/ImageLibrary/Programme_for_Partnership_Government.pdf)

### **Regional Policy Objectives: Rail Network**

Claremorris Chamber welcomes and fully supports the inclusion of Objectives 115 (a) and (b) in the Draft Regional and Spatial Strategy. These objectives appropriately respond to the National Strategic Outcomes as provided for in Project Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework (NPF). The objective to deliver the extension of Athenry-Tuam-Claremorris-Sligo rail is a current necessity as our region is already facing unprecedented change and the fruition of this objective will produce the cultural, economic, environmental and social benefits which the NPF demands.

### **Regional Policy Objectives – Smaller Towns, Villages and Rural Areas-Regeneration and Revitalisation**

Although the Chamber welcomes the objectives set out above, the regeneration of the existing core block of smaller towns is considered but it lacks teeth. In a bid to encourage retailers or developers to consider redeveloping brownfield sites, land banks, gap sites and derelict buildings (which can form a whole street at times), there ought to be an objective for local authorities to exercise its powers within the "programme for the provision of services sites" to include a Derelict Site Levy, CPO's and that capacity within existing urban core should be examined for feasibility on such sites before greenfield development is granted.

The above is a necessary step so that regional towns can attract investment and is a prerequisite before any collaborative applications for funding through the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund as committed by Project Ireland 2040 can occur.

Yours faithfully,

Patrick Broderick  
President  
Claremorris Chamber of Commerce