



Niall Cussen
National Planning Framework
Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government
Custom House
Dublin 1
D01 W6X0

McCumiskey House
Richview
Clonskeagh Road
Dublin 14
D14 YR62
Phone: 01 2680180
Email: info@climatecouncil.ie

16 March 2017

Dear Mr Cussen,

RE: Climate Change Advisory Council Response to the Consultation on the National Planning Framework

I am writing to you to let you know that at its meeting of the 22nd February, the Climate Change Advisory Council had initial discussions on the public consultation on the National Planning Framework (NPF). The members of the Council consider that the associated Issues and Choices Paper (ICP) is an important document that is relevant to the work of the Council.

The Council considers the NPF development process a key opportunity to influence the spatial pattern of development throughout Ireland over the next twenty years and beyond. In this context, the members of the Council identified that the NPF can play an important role in supporting and enabling progress towards the National Transition Objective established in the Climate Action and Local Carbon Development Act of 2015, that is “the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by the end of the year 2050”.

The Council therefore welcomes the recognition of the need for the NPF to fully coordinate with other major Government policies including integration with national climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies. As noted in the ICP, spatial patterns of development and associated infrastructure are key drivers of transport demand with associated greenhouse gas emissions, while development densities influence the efficiency of the provision of services including public transport. Spatial development plans can enable or impede the enhancement of carbon sinks and deployment of renewable energy solutions at a range of scales.

The impacts of climate change are projected to increase over the coming decades. Spatial patterns of development need to be cognisant of current and future vulnerabilities to the impacts of climate change. These are expected to include increased flood risk, coastal erosion and changes to extreme weather events. These

can entail significant economic and societal costs. Therefore inclusion of relevant vulnerability and risk analysis, and identification of options and strategies to reduce these are considered to be a necessary part of the future NPF.

I have included a copy of the Council's First Report in this correspondence. The report outlines the Council's views on the nature and extent of the challenges that climate change presents for Ireland. It was also designed to provide guidance for the development of the National Mitigation Plan and the National Adaptation Framework which are to be published in 2017.

The Council also requests that the NPF team meet with the Council as part of the process for developing the NPF. The Council considered that this would facilitate an exchange of information and analysis which can contribute to enhancing coherence between climate and planning policy. The Council Secretariat will contact you separately in order to identify a suitable date for such a meeting.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank McGovern", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Dr. Frank McGovern

Manager
Climate Change Advisory Council Secretariat