

<b>Northern &amp; Western Regional Assembly: Regional Spatial &amp; Economic Strategy (RSES): Issues Paper 2035 – Pre-Draft Public Consultation Document</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> January 2018</b>
<b>PLANNING COMMITTEE</b>	

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)</b>	
<b>Strategic Theme</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
<b>Leader and Champion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will establish key relationships with Government agencies and potential strategic partners in Northern Ireland and external to it which helps us to deliver our vision for this Council area.</li> </ul>
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Principal Planning Officer/LDP Manager
<b>Cost:</b>	N/A

## **For Decision**

### **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 The Northern & Western Regional Assembly (NWRA) in the Republic of Ireland (ROI) has published its 'Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy (RSES)' Issues Paper 2035 for pre-draft public consultation (see Appendix 1, link attached).
- 1.2 NWRA wrote to Council on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017 to advise of their intention to make the RSES for the whole of the Northern and Western Region.
- 1.3 The purpose of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) is to support the implementation of the emerging National Planning Framework ('Ireland 2040 Our Plan') and the economic policies and objectives of the Government by providing a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the development of the region over a period of between 12 years and 20 years.
- 1.4 The issues paper details the matters to be considered in the RSES, including:
  - People and Places;
  - Our Regional Economy and Potential Disrupters;
  - Our Environment, Heritage, Culture, Marine & Recreation;
  - Community Health and Education; and
  - Infrastructure.
- 1.5 Donegal County Council (DCC), which lies within the NWRA and is one of this Borough's four adjoining councils; having a common water body (Lough Foyle) and a ferry crossing (Magilligan to Greencastle) (see map at Appendix 2).

- 1.6 This Borough also lies within the Donegal-Derry NWRA Sub Regional Catchment Area (see map at Appendix 3). As such, the transboundary implications of this Strategy must be considered.

#### Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

- 1.7 It is proposed to carry out an SEA (incorporating a Regional Level Flood Risk Appraisal) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) as part of the making of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, and for this purpose, the Regional Assembly will prepare a natural impact report and an environmental report on the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the regional spatial and economic strategy. This shall necessitate transboundary consultation in such matters as part of that process.

#### Collaborative Working

- 1.8 Council planning officials have been liaising and consulting with DCC throughout our respective Local Development Plan programmes. DCC also attend the Cross Border Development Plan Working Group, made up of both NI & ROI Planning authorities. This collaboration is set to continue throughout our work programmes.
- 1.9 Council's Place & Prosperity Section has also been consulted on the economic proposals contained within the document.
- 1.10 The public consultation period ends at 5pm on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

## **2.0 Recommendation**

- 2.1 **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that Members agree to the Head of Planning issuing a consultation response on behalf of Council.

### **Appendices:**

**Appendix 1:** NWRA Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy: Issues Paper – Pre-Draft Public Consultation Document. <http://www.nwra.ie/wp-content/uploads/NWRA-RSES-Issues-Paper.pdf>

**Appendix 2:** Map showing ROI Regional Assembly boundaries.

**Appendix 3:** Map showing ROI Regional Assembly catchment areas.

Appendix 2

Map 2.1 Configuration of the Regional Assemblies in Ireland



**Appendix 3**

