



Tionól Réigiúnach
an Deiscirt

Southern Regional
Assembly

Regional Change

Potential & Opportunities

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The Challenge

Ireland faces significant challenges at a strategic level over the coming decades:

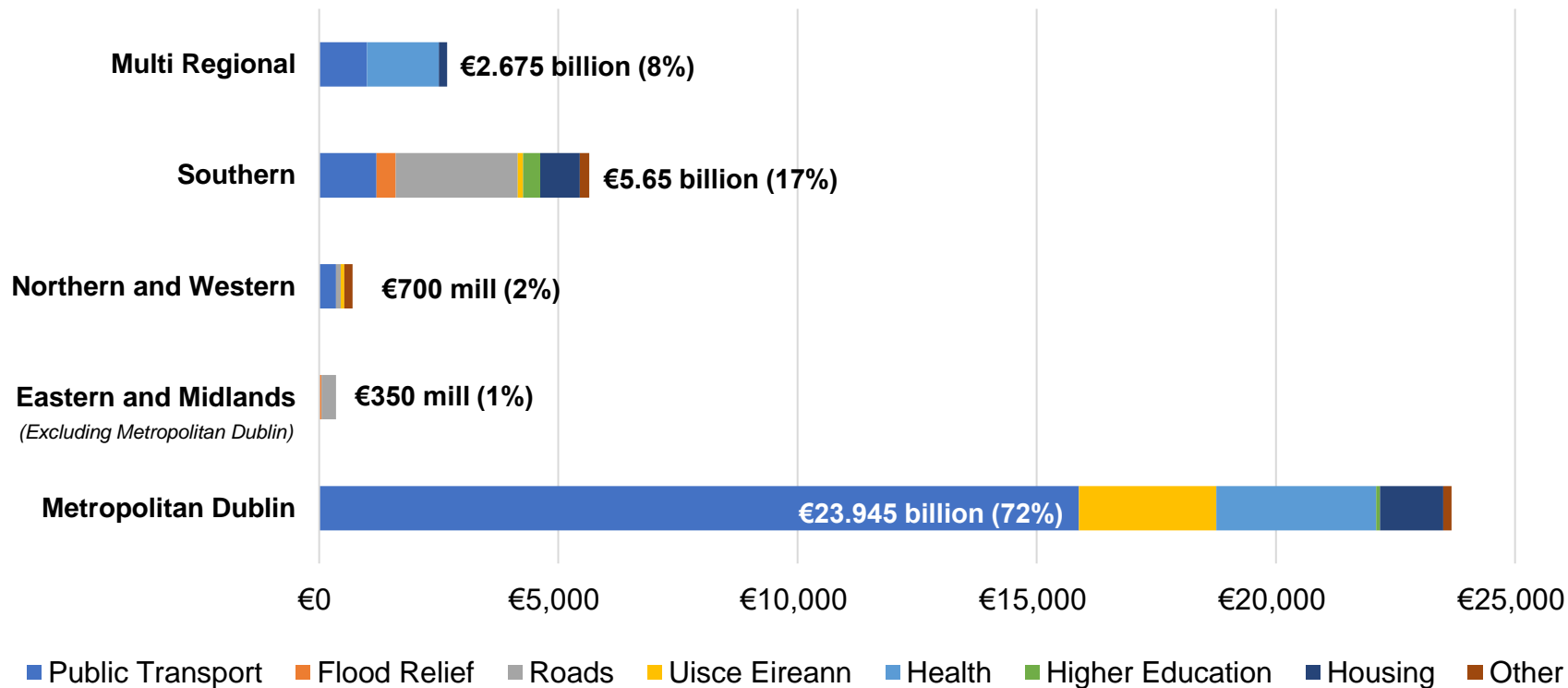
- **The management and coordination of very high levels of population growth of over one million people by 2040 .**
- **The need as identified in the NPF for a structural realignment for the overall betterment of our society and environment in population, homes, and jobs away from the Greater Dublin Area with a 50:50 distribution of growth between the Eastern and Midlands region and the Southern and Northern and Western Regions.**
- **The need to transform our transportation/communication network.**
- **Global uncertainty**
- **A Transition to a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Society.**

Progress

There has been substantial progress in addressing these issues including:

- **Substantial policy alignment between national, regional and local policy based on the NPF and RSES and Local Authority Development Plans .**
- **Significant investment by the state in a range of initiatives which support the implementation of the NPF and RSES .**
- **Development of initiatives Regional Assemblies – RDM etc.**

Regional Split of Investment



Projected and Actual Growth (2016 – 22) in Metropolitan Areas

Galway
Projected: 16,500



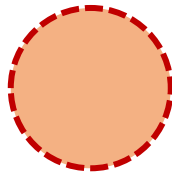
Limerick / Shannon
Projected: 18,086



Waterford
Projected: 8,766



Cork
Projected: 42,169



Dublin
Projected: 93,450



Projected and Actual Growth (2016 – 22) in Metropolitan Areas

Galway
Projected: 16,500
Actual: 3,399 (21%)



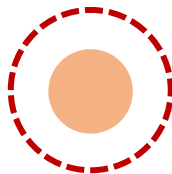
Limerick / Shannon
Projected: 18,086
Actual: 10,880 (60%)



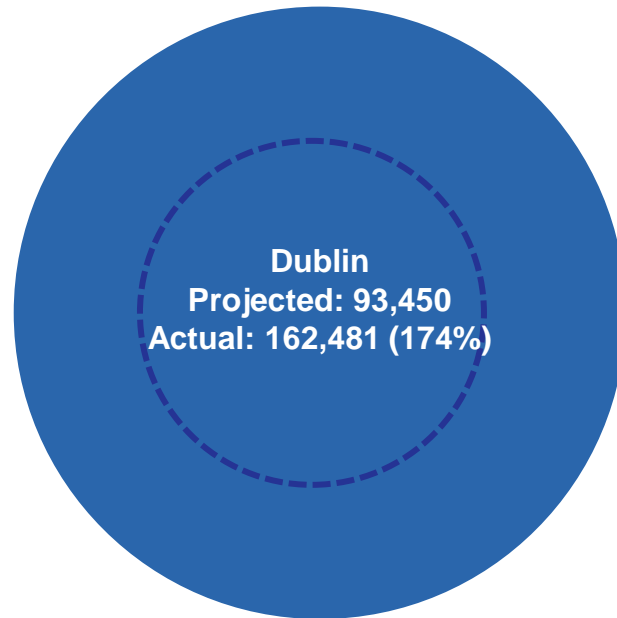
Waterford
Projected: 8,766
Actual: 4,864 (55%)



Cork
Projected: 42,169
Actual: 24,527 (58%)



Dublin
Projected: 93,450
Actual: 162,481 (174%)





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Question arises.

Can the regional tier play a better and more effective role in supporting national objectives; and if it should, is capacity to facilitate this role at the national level?

Regions



REGIONAL ASSEMBLIES

Enterprise Ireland regions, Republic of Ireland.



ENTERPRISE IRELAND



SPA's

Irish Water boundaries, Republic of Ireland.



IRISH WATER



CARO's

IDA regions, Republic of Ireland.



IDA



Conclusions

The Regional Assembly has played a critical role due to the combined effort of the elected members and executive. Structural issues relate to:

- 1. The dual and sometime times contradictory local and regional democratic mandate governing the Regional Assembly which has both positive and negative impacts.**
- 2. The fact that the Regional Assemblies are embedded in the local authority level by reference to funding and governance which has both positive and negative impacts.**
- 3. The weak, diffuse and ad hoc formal linkage of the regional structure to the national level.**
- 4. The lack of regional mechanism to deliver national priorities and cross boundary initiatives, particularly at the metropolitan level.**
- 5. The weak and diffuse nature of regional governance in Ireland including the multiplicity of regional bodies, many with overlapping mandates and boundaries.**
- 6. The low-level structure of the Regional Assemblies in Ireland.**

Overarching Recommendations

Regional structures need to change to improve its effectiveness in the delivery of Project Ireland 2040. The review should address:

- **The governance structure and its suitability to deliver strategic/regional priorities.**
- **The funding structure,**
- **The relationship to national and local level.**
- **Ability to effectively coordinate at metropolitan and cross boundary level.**
- **The range of regional bodies, their mandate and measures to improve coordination and effectiveness.**
- **The capacity to develop and implement effective and sometimes challenging regional and strategic policies.**
- **The limited staffing structure within the regional assembly.**
- **The development of evidence-based recommendations on optimum structures for implementation.**

Democratic Mandate/Short Term Measures

- **Through the organisation of a briefing campaign for potential Members prior to the nomination process;**
- **The provision of a role profile setting out what their statutory responsibilities entail at the regional level; and**
- **Putting in place provisions to ensure geographic and population balance**



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