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Wexford Town Local Area Plan
Forward Planning Section,
Planning Department,
County Hall, Carricklawn,
Wexford Town.

3rd August, 2023

RE: Wexford Town Local Area Plan 2024-2030 Consultation Paper SRA File Ref: IP 23/003

A Chara,

I refer to your Notice of the commencement of the preparation of a new Local Area Plan for Wexford Town received on 7th June, 2023.

The Southern Regional Assembly (SRA) welcomes this opportunity to comment on the Issues Paper and make a pre-draft submission.

The new statutory Local Area Plan for Wexford is an important next step in the strategic planning framework for Wexford following on from the adoption of the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028, and recognition of Wexford Town as a Key Town in the Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy for the Southern Region (RSES).

We note and welcome the recognition given to the role of Wexford Town as a Key Town in the Consultation Paper, having regard to its location on the Eastern Economic Corridor and proximity to Rosslare Europort. We also note the importance of Trinity Wharf and the planned expansion of SETU (South East Technological University) in Wexford for the future development of the town. In this regard, we would encourage policy reference in the emerging plan to the Regional Assembly's objective for the Southern Region to become a UNESCO Learning Region. This is a regional scale project with Actions in the report – 'Toward a Learning Region' https://www.southernassembly.ie/uploads/general-files/Final_Web_Version_-DO_NOT_DELETE.pdf (published in 2022) that will support Lifelong Learning, skills and knowledge development in Wexford and across the Region.

The Local Area Plan will play a particularly important role in guiding the growth and development of Wexford Town. The RSES addresses key elements for Wexford Town's future development in **Regional Policy Objective (RPO) 20 - Wexford** which sets the following objectives:-

- a. To strengthen the role of Wexford as a strategic location, a self-sustaining regional economic driver and Key Town on the Eastern Corridor. The RSES seeks to leverage its strategic location and accessibility to Rosslare Europort and to build upon its inherent strengths including digital connectivity, skills, innovation and enterprise, tourism, culture and retail services.*
- b. To develop supporting industrial, commercial infrastructure and residential development in Wexford Town for the Port function at Rosslare Europort.*
- c. To strengthen 'steady state' investment in existing rail infrastructure and seek investment for improved infrastructure and services including increased line speeds to ensure its continued renewal and maintenance to high level in order to provide quality levels of safety, service, accessibility and connectivity including improved frequency and journey times;*
- d. To support development of additional capacity at Rosslare Europort and provision of freight rail services and facilities to support sustainable increases in port operations;*
- e. To Support development of the Wexford Campus as part of the Multi-Campus SETU is as a key driver for the economic and social development in the town with a focus on educational attainment and lifelong learning*
- f. To support the delivery of the infrastructural requirements identified for Wexford subject to the outcome of the planning process and environmental assessments.*
- g. To improve the public realm and attractiveness of the Town Centre through urban regeneration of key locations.*
- h. Transport measures through a Local Transport Plan including retention and expansion of the town bus network, improvements to cycling and walking infrastructure and rural transport services into the town.*

We note and welcome the Council's commitment to the preparation of a Local Transport Plan for Wexford as part of a wider 10 Minute Town Concept for the LAP, as this will play an important role in promoting sustainable mobility. We would also encourage the linking of new transport and active travel initiatives to the development of Blue and Green Infrastructure and in this regard, we would refer you to two key documents we have published on our website which may assist in the development of the draft plan:

- Our Green Region - a Blue Green Infrastructure and Nature-based Solutions Framework for the Southern Region: https://www.southernassembly.ie/uploads/general-files/BGC_Framework_web.pdf
- Ten Minute Towns Accessibility & Framework Report: <https://www.southernassembly.ie/uploads/general-files/SRA%20-%2010%20Minute%20Town%20Oct%202020.pdf>

The SRA welcomes the public consultation at pre-draft stage for the preparation of a new Local Area Plan for Wexford Town.

Further engagement between the SRA as a key stakeholder in the next phases of developing the Draft Plan is encouraged and the RSES team is available for future consultation and discussion during the plan preparation process.

Mise le meas,



David Kelly
Director, Southern Regional Assembly