

Tracking Progress: Southern Regional Assembly Publishes *Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) Two-Year Monitoring Report 2022-2024*

The report, prepared under Section 25A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), outlines progress in achieving the RSES objectives by the Regional Assembly, public bodies and local authorities that made submissions to the report.

While significant strides have been made in aligning policies across national, regional, and local levels—supported by the adoption of City and County Development Plans and investments under Project Ireland 2040—concerns remain. There is a need for stronger alignment between government funding and policies to fully achieve the National Planning Framework's (NPF) goals for balanced regional development.

David Kelly, Director of the Southern Regional Assembly, notes that:

“Considerable progress has been made in delivering on the RSES objectives and its effective implementation is key to delivering the transformative change as set out in Project Ireland 2040 and NPF to provide for the sustainable growth of the Region. The report provides an opportunity to take stock and reflect on areas that are working well and areas that need further consideration. A number of recommendations have therefore been put forward to improve and support the RSES, and NPF delivery for consideration by the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC).”

Cllr. Garret Kelleher, Cathaoirleach of the Southern Regional Assembly, states that:

“At national level there is evidence of major investment in the Region through Government Departments and State Agencies in support of the key objectives, allied to major initiatives by the Regional Assembly. However, it is important to acknowledge that there are still very significant challenges to achieve the transformation required under Project Ireland 2040 and these are highlighted in the Report. With the release of important data from Census 2022 and other sources, the Report includes detailed analysis of how the Region is performing in the national context.”

Read the full report on www.southernassembly.ie

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Notes to Editor

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The Southern Regional Assembly has published its *Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) Two-Year Monitoring Report 2022-2024*:

<https://www.southernassembly.ie/news/news-article/regional-spatial-and-economic-strategy-for-the-southern-region-two-year-monitoring-report-2022-2024-published>

About the Southern Regional Assembly

The Southern Regional Assembly works to promote sustainable development and regional cooperation across Ireland's Southern Region, encompassing the Metropolitan Areas of Cork, Limerick-Shannon, and Waterford, alongside numerous towns, villages, and rural communities.

Based in Waterford city, the [Southern Regional Assembly](#) is the regional tier of government in Ireland with a remit for the Southern Region. The Southern Region covers the local authorities of Kilkenny, Carlow, Waterford, Wexford, Tipperary, Cork City, Cork County, Kerry, Clare and Limerick. The Regional Assembly has 34 Members representing the ten local authorities at regional level, 27 appointed by their local authority and six as Committee of the Regions Members.

The Regional Assembly forges links between EU, national and local levels through regional spatial and economic planning and European Regional Development Funding (ERDF) for the benefit of the Southern Region. It is responsible for strategic regional and economic planning and supporting balanced, sustainable regional development by:

- Leading the implementation of the Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy ([RSES](#)).
- Promoting balanced regional development through the management of, support for, and involvement in European Regional Development Fund ([ERDF](#)) funded programmes and projects.
- Linking local, regional, national and EU policy goals through regional planning and EU regional development.