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Statement on the Kilkenny Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023 - 2028

The Regional Assemblies' role in the LECP process is set out under Section 44 of Local Government Reform Act 2014 (amending Section 66C of the Local Government Act 2001), in particular section 66C 2(c) and 3(c), which states that the consideration of an LECP by the Regional Assembly shall relate to its consistency with (i) the core strategy and the objectives of the development plan of the local authority concerned, (ii) any Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) or, as appropriate, Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) that may apply, and (iii) between the economic and community elements of the Plan.

The Kilkenny LECP was considered by the members of the Regional Assembly at their meeting of 14 April 2023 where it was agreed:

1. To commend the work of Kilkenny County Council in the development of the LECP and
2. In accordance with Section 44 of Local Government Reform Act 2014 (amending Section 66C of the Local Government Act 2001), the Regional Assembly are satisfied that the Kilkenny Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2028 has demonstrated consistency with:-

(i) the core strategy and the objectives of the Development Plan

(ii) The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region;

(iii) between the community and economic elements of the LECP

Subject to: the content reflecting the statutory role of the RSES and Regional Assembly and recommendations for the inclusion of additional references to the RSES and Waterford MASP Statutory Designations & Regional Initiatives in the LECP Vision, Themes, High Level Goals as follows:

The strengthening of the Vision and High-Level Goals to reference:

- National and Regional policy objectives for Kilkenny as set out in *Project Ireland 2040* and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) including the development of Kilkenny as a Key Town, the development of the Kilkenny component of the Waterford Metropolitan Area and the achievement of economic, environmental and community objectives.

- The SRA Learning Region Initiative (suggested in High Level Goals 5, 6 or 7) to (i) Grow our Region's Human Capital base, (ii) to Improve Lifelong Learning, (iii) to develop the Region's skills and education proposition & (iv) to build Resilience and capacity building.
- The RSES Economic Strategy & the Smart Southern Region initiative which seeks to support better places, liveability and associated high quality of life through active participation and collaboration, connected communities with a focus on mobility, environment, creativity and wellbeing allied to the use of technology and digitalisation as a tool in the solution of regional/local challenges.

In addition, a number of references within the LECP Framework Document are recommended to be amended in the final document to reflect *Project Ireland 2040* /the NPF, RSES and associated legislation and these are set out in the attached appendix.

26th April, 2023

APPENDIX

Other recommended amendments/edits to the final document to reflect *Project Ireland 2040* /the NPF, RSES:

- (i) Section 2.9 the report refers to the Southern Region extending across '3 City Regions'. The Southern Region extends across 3 Strategic Planning Areas (SPA) which includes the 3 Cities of Cork, Limerick and Waterford, each designated as a Metropolitan Area, but the term 'City Region' is not used in the RSES.
- (ii) Section 2.9 also refers to Waterford as a 'focal city' whereas the NPF and RSES refer to Waterford as a City & Metropolitan Area.
- (iii) With regard to Kilkenny, it would also be appropriate to identify Kilkenny City's designation as a 'Key Town' in the RSES in section 2.9.
- (iv) Section 4.8 refers to the 'South-East Region' and should be amended to the 'South-East' or the 'South-East SPA' in accordance with established regional structures.