



IRELAND

National Development Plan 2007-2013

TRANSFORMING IRELAND

A Better Quality of Life for All

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Foreword by an Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, T.D.



The past decade has seen tremendous economic and social progress in Ireland. We have put in place the foundations of a truly modern, forward looking, internationalised society. The greatest challenge we now face is to consolidate and sustain this remarkable achievement to ensure that we provide a better quality of life for all.

Improved living standards, understandably, give rise to heightened expectations. Furthermore, the progress achieved over the past decade does not constitute an end in itself. Rather, it provides us with the resources to continue with the task of making this a superb country in which to live, learn, work and play; a country where opportunities for self-development, wealth and job creation and innovation abound, but where, equally, the more vulnerable in society are cherished and cared for.

Consequently, this National Development Plan encompasses investment of €184 billion over the next seven years. This is a scale of funding which until recently was unimaginable. With these resources comes responsibility: responsibility to ensure that they are deployed intelligently, in an optimal manner that secures and delivers real value for money.

A number of key themes are critical to the successful implementation of this plan and the realisation of meaningful improvements in quality of life:

- We will continue to build on the substantial progress made recently to eliminate major infrastructure deficits;
- We will ensure that our enterprise sector stays at the leading edge globally, by continuing to attract key inward investment, by further stimulating the indigenous sector, by renewed emphasis on worker training and skills and above all by expansion of our science, technology and innovation capacity;
- Recognising that economic and social progress are inter-dependent, almost half of the total funding commitment under this plan is destined for social infrastructure and social inclusion priorities;
- By ensuring that the National Spatial Strategy is fully reflected in implementation of this plan, we will achieve balanced regional development, which is crucial to our ability to absorb the huge population growth predicted over the next twenty years;
- Protection, preservation and improvement of our natural environment will be a priority, with long-term sustainable development underpinning policy planning and implementation; and
- Innovative and integrated or “whole-of-Government” policy development and ensuring value for money for the taxpayer will permeate the implementation of this plan.

The experience of the past ten years shows the need for, and benefits of, longer-term policy planning to ensure that we rise to the challenges and maximise the opportunities facing us. In the new national agreement, *Towards 2016*, the Social Partners recognised the case for longer term planning, by agreeing

for the first time to a ten-year framework for social partnership. This new National Development Plan sets out the resourcing commitments necessary to give effect to major policy developments over the medium term, including many which are put forward or endorsed in *Towards 2016*. Recognising this close synergy, Social Partnership will continue to play an important role throughout the implementation of this plan.

For example, the investment under this plan will give substantial effect to the life cycle approach outlined in *Towards 2016*, which orientates public services around the needs of people at different stages of their lives — children, young adults, people of working age, older people and people with a disability. In particular, it will help deliver the goals for each stage of the life cycle as set out in the National Action Plan on Social Inclusion.

The life cycle approach demonstrates the need for, and willingness to engage in, more flexible and innovative approaches to implementation of policy as befits a modern society in the rapidly changing world of the 21st century. Efficient and effective delivery of this Plan will be a major challenge for the public service — one I know it is capable of meeting in partnership with key stakeholders.

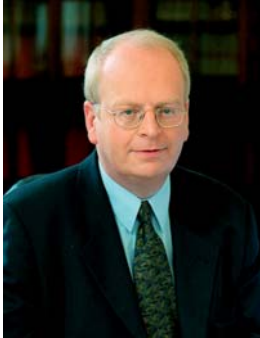
This Plan will also reinforce Ireland's position on the global stage. International developments such as the continued expansion of the European Union, globalisation and the rise of major new economies mean that we must constantly pay attention to the international competitiveness of our economy and indeed to the high regard in which this country is held by many other nations. Many of the measures envisaged under this Plan will be critical to maintaining and improving Ireland's position as a well respected, openly trading, economy and society.

Equally, the launch of this plan is especially timely in relation to North/South co-operation. Since the Good Friday Agreement, we have seen an unprecedented period of peace, prosperity and a better society. There is great scope to build on this progress. This Plan provides a comprehensive overview of North/South co-operation, it sets out proposals for significant investment in new North/South projects that will benefit every single person living on this island, and it brings North/South co-operation firmly into the mainstream of policy-making. I look forward to working together, on a basis of mutual respect and for mutual benefit, with democratically elected representatives of all traditions on this island in building a better future for the people we represent.

In conclusion, I commend to our people this new National Development Plan, with its massive €184 billion investment, as a hugely important further step in transforming Ireland and ensuring a better quality of life for all of its people.

Bertie Ahern, T.D.
Taoiseach

Foreword by an Tánaiste, Michael McDowell T.D.



Ireland has experienced a level of growth in the last decade that has resulted in our achieving one of the highest levels of economic and social development in the world. As a nation, we can feel truly proud of this achievement. However, there are major challenges to be met, particularly in the areas of infrastructure, innovation and social inclusion. This Plan will allow us to continue to improve our quality of life in a sustainable manner, while remaining internationally competitive.

The National Development Plan 2007-2013 sets out a programme of integrated investments that will underpin our ability to grow in a manner that is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable — not just for this generation but for our children and grandchildren.

As well as providing the physical infrastructure to support progress, a major focus of the plan is on investment in education, science, technology and innovation. This remains the key to Ireland's future development. Only a society that is committed to growth based on education, innovation and a spirit of enterprise can successfully meet its social and environmental challenges.

Meeting these challenges also requires the full participation of all our citizens in society. Recent growth has given us the resources to provide greater support than ever before to the less well off. The measures in this Plan will strengthen the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion focus on ensuring that people have the supports necessary to achieve their full potential at all stages of their life.

While it is a measure of the country's success that we can fund this ambitious programme of investment almost exclusively from domestic resources, this in no way obviates the need to ensure that we achieve value for money. The Plan therefore sets out comprehensive measures to ensure that we get full value for your money both in procuring projects and in ensuring their efficient use.

The implementation of this ambitious, considered and appropriate Plan will require the co-operation of all sections of society and I look forward to working with them to ensure its success.

Foreword by the Minister for Finance, Brian Cowen, T.D.



This Plan is called 'Transforming Ireland — A Better Quality of Life for All'. In the past decade Ireland has enjoyed unprecedented economic success, employment growth and a dramatic rise in general income levels and standards of living across all sectors of our society. This is a country already transformed, a country that has, without exaggeration, reversed its own history.

Over the next seven years we will face many challenges; some new and unpredictable; others posed by the fruits of our success in the past decade. As a people we have always shown resilience in the face of so-called 'external shocks' in the macro-economic sphere. We have been flexible, adaptable and patient in circumstances that might otherwise have overwhelmed us.

In my view, the most predictable challenge we now face is the consolidation of the progress we have made. The previous NDP was about expanding our economy and employment and providing the physical and social infrastructure to facilitate that. In overall terms the NDP 2000-2006 has been successful in fulfilling the overriding objective of economic growth within a broadly sustainable framework.

As a direct consequence of our success the population of our country has increased by 17% over the past ten years to 4.2 million. By 2021 our population may well be in excess of five million people. This Plan addresses these demographic challenges.

How we use land — our spatial strategy — and the infrastructure we develop to service the planned growth and development of our urban centres and their rural hinterlands is crucial to managing the challenges of the future and harnessing the potential for future growth and development provided by the expansion in our population. In this new NDP, spatial objectives are integrated within the goals of economic, social and environmental sustainability and our national and international responsibilities under these headings.

Our young people are now, more than any previous generation, "Citizens of the World", connected by the internet, travel, music and education to a wider world of ideas and influences as part of their normal daily existence. The privations of our own national past, including the difficulties of the decade in which many of them were born, the 1980s, are alien to them. This generation of young Irish people are highly politicised: Globalisation, Climate Change and World Poverty are issues of deep and genuine concern to them. They are wholly conscious of the interdependence of the political, economic and environmental fragilities of a shared world and of the place and role of our own island country within that world.

This National Development Plan is about the future of those young people, their parents, and their grandparents. It establishes a blueprint for the economic and social development of this island for future generations.

In this Plan, we have a unique window of opportunity to get it right: in terms of spatial planning, support infrastructure, environmental sustainability and economic growth.

At the end of this Plan, wherever you live in Ireland, in Dublin, in a Gateway urban centre, in a county town or a rural area, you, your children, your parents, your grandchildren can look forward to a better quality of life in a sustainable environment within a progressive and dynamic economy and society.

You can also look forward to a peaceful future.

Building on the historic achievements since the Good Friday Agreement, this Plan sets out a comprehensive statement of future Government policy on North/South co-operation. It also includes, for the first time, proposals for Irish Government investment in North/South projects and initiatives for mutual benefit. The Government wishes to agree and implement these with the British Government and a restored Northern Ireland Executive in the period 2007-2013. These projects and initiatives will benefit all communities and the entire island of Ireland.

This is an ambitious Plan. Nothing on this scale has ever been attempted before in our history. We are talking about a total investment commitment of €184 billion of, in the main, taxpayers' money over the next seven years to secure the further transformation of our country, socially and economically, within an environmentally sustainable framework. This level of investment is also necessary to secure our future.

Value for money is a prerequisite. It calls for a consistently prudent approach to budgetary policy in the coming years. It demands rigorous monitoring of all the programmes set out in the Plan and a commitment to flexibility by all Governments in determining priorities in accordance with the economic circumstances of the day.

The new NDP has been arrived at following an extensive period of consultation with all interest groups and reflects their input, including the strategy agreed with the social partners in *Towards 2016*. Its investment parameters will enable us, economically and socially, to effectively confront the challenges we face over the next seven years.

As Minister for Finance, I feel especially privileged to present this National Development Plan — 'Transforming Ireland — A Better Quality of Life for All' — to the Irish people. It is a roadmap for sustainable economic expansion, social justice and a better quality of life for all our citizens over the next seven years and beyond. Ireland will be again transformed and, in transforming Ireland, we will deliver a better quality of life for all.

Brian Cowen TD,
Minister for Finance

January 2007

OVERVIEW SUMMARY

Transforming Ireland — A Better Quality of Life for All

Introduction

The National Development Plan *Transforming Ireland — A Better Quality of Life for All* sets out the roadmap to Ireland's future. Within the next seven years, our economy and our society will undergo a transformation almost as radical as the changes we have experienced in the past decade of growth and development. That transformation will be driven largely by the continuing increase in our population, projected to reach over five million people by 2021.

We will experience a change in our economic base, as we move towards more high value added economic activities and industries, both foreign-owned and indigenous. To optimise our choices for a better long-term future we need a roadmap, clearly marking out the landmark challenges we face such as:

- removing the remaining infrastructure bottlenecks that constrain our economic development and inhibit balanced regional development and environmental sustainability;
- further equipping our children and youth with the skills and education to grasp the opportunities presented to us;
- creating and sustaining high value employment opportunities; and
- redistributing the product of wealth to foster an inclusive society, including adequately catering for those who have already contributed to Ireland's success over previous decades.

This National Development Plan integrates strategic development frameworks for regional development, for rural communities, for all-island co-operation, and for protection of the environment with common economic and social goals.

Funding of its investment relies almost completely on our own domestic resources, produced by the taxpayer and invested in priorities that will generate a real economic return, increasing overall wealth in our society and raising standards of living beyond what they might otherwise be.

Securing value for money for the Plan investment and monitoring its implementation will be a key priority and essential to its success in transforming Ireland.

The priorities and approach set out in the Plan are consistent with the ten year social partnership framework agreement — *Towards 2016* — concluded in 2006.

1. Investing in the Future

A €184 billion Investment Framework

Over the next seven years, the National Development Plan 2007-2013 proposes investment of some €184 billion in our economic and social infrastructure, the enterprise, science and agriculture sectors, the education, training and skills base of our people, environmental services and in the social fabric of our

society that, within a strong and vibrant economy geared to meet the challenges of the future, will deliver a better quality of life for all.

The five Investment Priorities of the Plan are:

	€ billion Investment (Current Prices)
Economic Infrastructure	54.7
Enterprise, Science and Innovation	20.0
Human Capital	25.8
Social Infrastructure	33.6
Social Inclusion	49.6
Total	183.7

Funding

Since 1988 National Development Plans have involved a significant contribution from EU Funds, although this contribution had lessened significantly in the 2000-2006 Plan. This new Plan is almost completely funded from domestic sources, the vast bulk of it by the Central Exchequer. The Plan also encompasses new areas as compared with previous Plans such as capital investment by key Commercial State Bodies and certain Social Inclusion schemes. These latter schemes are part of an unprecedented multi-annual level of commitment to investment in Social Inclusion that will benefit people at all stages of their life cycle, from childhood to old age, and promote Social Inclusion of disadvantaged groups.

EU Funding

It is estimated that some €3 billion in EU rural development and structural funding will be made available over the period 2007-2013. The drawdown of this funding will be the subject of separate programmes to be agreed between Ireland and the European Commission. This funding is provided for in the Plan's overall financial envelope.

Infrastructure

The Plan will decisively tackle economic and social infrastructure deficits in areas such as Transport, Energy, Housing, Water, Education and Health. This will be mainly funded by a significantly enhanced 7-year Central Government Capital Envelope of almost €80 billion.

Supported by Prudent Budgetary and Fiscal Strategy

Ability to fund the investment priorities will require economic and budgetary policies that deliver sustainable growth and provide the requisite levels of resources to meet the commitments in this Plan. A prudent budgetary policy, fully consistent with the EU Stability and Growth Pact, that does not add to inflationary pressures within the economy and as endorsed in the National Partnership Agreement *Towards 2016*, will therefore be pursued throughout the Plan period. In this context growth in day to day spending must remain in line with economic growth. There will be an inbuilt flexibility to allow for reallocation as necessary depending on evolving priorities and the economic and budgetary situation.

Necessary and affordable

A solid foundation for the next phase of development of our economy and society has been laid through the economic performance of the past decade and the successful delivery of the previous NDP. Our population has already increased by 8% since 2002 and is expected to grow by a further 12% in the next ten years. 100,000 extra children will enter the education system over the Plan period and this, combined

with other demographic factors, will increase pressure on public and social services and on other infrastructure.

The investment envisaged under this new NDP is therefore necessary to generate and maintain economic growth and employment and fulfil the expectations of our growing population for a better quality of life.

Investment in infrastructure and services under this Plan will generate a long-term rate of return as well as contributing to sustainable economic growth. On the assumption of a broadly favourable international economic climate, the Irish economy is expected to expand at an average rate of around 4 – 4½% per annum over the period 2007-2013. The Plan is affordable on this basis. In fact the period to 2013 provides a major “window of opportunity” in resource terms to invest for future sustainable economic and social development.

Reflecting consensus on priority areas

The investment priorities in this Plan reflect policies agreed under *Towards 2016*, and priorities identified through an extensive consultation process with a wide range of organisations, interest groups and communities. The investment priorities were also independently evaluated by the ESRI. The new NDP in general accords with the infrastructure investment prioritisation proposed by the ESRI but provides for significantly enhanced levels of investment over that proposed by the ESRI.

Value for Money and Implementation

Value for Money in Plan implementation will be central to ensure maximum output and impact for the investment of taxpayers’ money and will build on the recent experience whereby most major capital projects are being completed on time and within budget. All programmes and projects will be appraised and implemented within the enhanced VFM framework now in place. Robust implementation and monitoring procedures including measurement of performance by reference to target outputs and inputs will be put in place. Progress will be overseen by a Monitoring Committee representative of social partners, regional and other interests. There will also be an Annual Report on Plan progress submitted to the Oireachtas.

2. Meeting the Challenges — General Goals

Improving the quality of life for all requires integrated development and progressing of social and economic policies. Maintenance of a productive and competitive economy, the availability of rewarding employment opportunities and the generation of sufficient resources to ensure provision of comprehensive social and recreational facilities and services are all inherently bound together in the context of improving quality of life. Many of the key elements of this Plan underpin these common, and interlinked, objectives.

- **Decisively tackle structural infrastructure deficits** that continue to impact on competitiveness, regional development and general quality of life and to meet the demands of the increasing population;
- **Greatly enhance enterprise development, Science, Technology and Innovation, working age training and skills provision** to improve economic performance, competitiveness and our capacity to generate new enterprise ‘winners’ from the indigenous sector as well as continue to attract high added value foreign direct investment;
- **Integrate regional development within the National Spatial Strategy framework** of Gateway cities and Hub towns to achieve the goals of economic growth in the regions and provide for major investment in the rural economy;
- **Invest in long-term environmental sustainability** to achieve our national goal of preserving the integrity of our natural environment for future generations as well as meeting our international

responsibilities and Climate Change obligations; this also involves a more balanced, efficient and sustainable use of our land resources;

- **Realise the opportunities of strengthened all-island collaboration in areas of mutual interest** to build up the island's competitive strengths particularly in the areas of infrastructure, R&D, skills and innovation and to enhance the provision of public services on the island;
- **Deliver a multi-faceted programme for Social Inclusion** and improvements in the quality of life across all age groups and among all population cohorts; and
- **Provide Value for Taxpayers' Money** through robust and transparent appraisal, management and monitoring systems for NDP investment.

3. Investment Plan — Priority Spending Areas

Priority I: Economic Infrastructure

Dealing with infrastructure deficits is crucial to our future economic growth, regional development and environmental sustainability.

Total investment by sector under this Priority is as follows;

Economic Infrastructure Priority €m Current Prices 2007-2013

Programme	Total
Transport	32,914
Energy	8,526
Environmental Services	5,772
Communications and Broadband	435
Govt. Infrastructure	1,413
Local Authority Development Contributions	2,100
Unallocated Capital Reserve	3,500
Economic Infrastructure Total	54,660

Transport

Investment in transport infrastructure over the Plan period will total nearly €33 billion of which:

- €13.3 billion will be invested in upgrading and building new national roads;
- €4.3 billion will be invested in non-national roads, funded by the Exchequer and the Local Government Fund;
- €12.9 billion will be invested in public transport, particularly in the Greater Dublin Area, this investment is a quadrupling of that allocated in the previous Plan;
- €90 million will be invested in the Rural Transport Initiative;
- €1.8 billion will be invested in improving air transport facilities at the country's three national airports; and €96 million for investment in the six regional airports and City of Derry Airport; and
- €480 million will be invested in upgrading strategic ports facilities and regional harbours.

Energy

Security of supply, competitively priced energy and environmental sustainability underpin the €8.5 billion investment in Energy over the Plan period. Major capital investments will be undertaken by the ESB, Bord

Gáis Éireann, Bord na Móna and EirGrid. There will also be investment in key strategic energy infrastructure projects including the East/West and North/South interconnectors and ongoing investment in sustainable energy with a view to meeting the target of 15% of electricity production from renewable sources by 2010.

Environmental Services

Environmental Services priority investment, totalling € 5.8 billion includes:

- €4.75 billion for Water Services;
- Over €750 million for Waste Management, including dealing with the legacy of old landfill sites; and
- €270 million for Climate Change trading allowances purchase.

Communications and Broadband Programme

- €435 million under the Programme to support regional economic development and to address market failures in the provision of broadband in certain parts of the country.

Government Buildings Infrastructure

- €580 million for sites and buildings; and
- €830 million for the Decentralisation programme up to 2011

Priority II: Enterprise, Science and Innovation

Total investment under this Priority is as follows:

Enterprise, Science and Innovation Priority 2007-2013 €m Current Prices

Programme	Total
Science, Technology & Innovation	6,112
Enterprise Development	3,323
Tourism Development	800
Agriculture & Food Development	8,028
Rural Social & Economic Development	844
Gaeltacht & Islands Devopment	457
Marine and Coastal Communities	442
Enterprise, Science & Innovation Total	20,006

Total proposed investment in Enterprise, Science and Innovation of €20 billion is essential to Ireland's attractiveness to high-quality Foreign Direct Investment and the development of our own indigenous companies, including those capable of becoming world leaders in product areas as well as niche companies making specialised products based on our natural resources. The investment will also underpin the modernisation of the agriculture sector, development of the tourism industry and support the rural economy. The breakdown of investment under this priority is in the order of:

- €6.1 billion in Science, Technology and Innovation;
- €3.3 billion in Enterprise development;
- €800 million on Tourism marketing, product development and training programmes;

- €8 billion to modernise and develop Agriculture and Food, in line with the strategy set out in the Agri-Vision 2015 Action Plan;
- €844 million on Rural Social and Economic Development programmes;
- Over €455 million on the Gaeltacht and Islands; and
- Over €440 million for Seafood Development, Fisheries and Coastal Infrastructure and Coastal Protection.

Priority III: Human Capital

Total investment under this Priority is as follows;

Human Capital Priority 2007-2013 €m Current Prices

Programme	Total
Training & Skills Development	7,718
Higher Education	13,017
Schools Modernisation & Development	5,061
Human Capital Total	25,796

Ireland's track record in education investment has been fundamental to generating our economic success. The main objective of the proposed investment of €25.8 billion over the Plan period is to maintain access to the highest standards of education for all in our society, to meet the labour skills requirement of the future and to focus investment in particular on developing the key Third Level Sector. Key features are:

- Over €2.8 billion will be invested in training and skills development programmes, including employment training, apprenticeships, new skills training for adult workers and programmes for school leavers;
- Nearly €4.9 billion in training and development programmes for a wide range of groups, including lone parents, people with disabilities, Travellers, ex-offenders and other categories requiring special interventions (this will also support the goals in the social inclusion priority);
- €13 billion for Third-Level Infrastructure and for ongoing costs of the sector in the context of the promotion of strategic and structural development; and
- €5 billion in First and Second Level schools modernisation and development

Priority IV: Social Infrastructure

Total investment under this Priority is as follows;

Social Infrastructure Priority 2007-2013 €m Current Prices

Programme	Total
Housing	21,214
Health Infrastructure	4,970
Justice	2,346
Sports, Culture, Heritage & Community Infrastructure	3,631
Unallocated Capital Reserve	1,450
Social Infrastructure Total	33,612

Investment in social infrastructure underlines the commitment to the fair and equitable redistribution of the fruits of economic success among all sections of our community. The total investment in this priority area of over €33 billion will complement the investment in Social Inclusion under Priority V to greatly enhance social development. The investment consists of:

- Over €21 billion in housing, delivering assistance through social, affordable and voluntary housing schemes to over 140,000 households over the Plan period, including 100,000 new social and affordable units and delivering support under the rent supplement scheme to other households;
- Just under €5 billion investment on health infrastructure, including acute hospitals and primary community and continuing care facilities;
- €2.3 billion to deliver a modernised prison infrastructure, new criminal courts complex and improvements to Garda Stations and Garda infrastructure generally; and
- Over €3.6 billion for sports, culture and heritage infrastructure, including the first phase of the Abbotstown sports complex, the Lansdowne Road stadium, many cultural facilities and a range of programmes to ensure the preservation, protection and display of our natural, cultural, architectural and archaeological heritage.

Priority V: Social Inclusion

Total investment under this Priority is as follows;

Social Inclusion Priority 2007-2013 €m Current Prices

Programme	Total
Children Programme	12,290
Working Age — Education	4,201
Working Age — Social & Econ. Particip.	1,160
Working age — Justice	300
Older People	9,725
People with Disabilities	19,250
Local & Community Development	1,862
Horizontal Programme	848
Social Inclusion Total	49,636

Investment in social priorities is central to this National Development Plan as reflected in the major investment of €49.6 billion in related programmes and policies over the next seven years. This does not encompass social welfare payments which will be addressed in each Budget over the period of the Plan. Key features are:

- €12 billion Children's Programme to provide childcare services, child protection and recreational facilities for children, and educational help for children from disadvantaged communities and those with special needs;
- Over €4 billion in Working Age Education Support programmes to support further education, student support and third level access;
- €9.7 billion to help older people live independently at home and to provide investment in quality residential care facilities for older people who are no longer able to live at home;
- €19 billion to support the provision of programmes and services for people with disabilities;
- The RAPID programme, which prioritises investment on 46 of the most disadvantaged urban areas and provincial towns, will be strengthened and enhanced;

- €1.9 billion to support the development of our increasingly diverse communities, including voluntary community bodies, and implementation of the National Drugs Strategy; and
- €848 million to support immigrant integration, language support, the social and economic advancement of members of the Traveller Community, the National Action Plan Against Racism and programmes and measures to combat gender inequality in Ireland.

These measures will support the achievement of the objectives of the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion (see High Level Goals of Social Inclusion).

4. Integration of National Development Goals and Investment Strategies

Under the Plan, investment priorities are influenced by strategic policy goals specifically in the following areas:

- Regional Development;
- Rural Economy;
- All-Island Co-operation;
- Environmental Sustainability; and
- Social Inclusion.

Regional Development

The Plan sets out a strong framework for the promotion of regional development with a particular focus on investment in the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) Gateway centres. Strong urban centres are directly related to regional growth and development, affecting employment, incomes and quality of life throughout the regions.

The key to regional development will be efficient utilisation of Plan investment, especially in infrastructure. To further assist the process a Gateways Innovation Fund will be established. The Fund will initially operate on a pilot basis between 2008 and 2010. The Exchequer will provide an initial €300 million and this will be designed to attract significant matching funding — public or private or a combination of both. Lead local authorities within Gateway centres will be able to advance bids for local economic infrastructure not already part of mainstream Plan investment or local capital programmes, such as urban regeneration projects, transport initiatives (in addition to those under *Transport 21*) and Quality of Life projects.

Gateway Area Challenges

Each Regional/Gateway Area faces specific development challenges and opportunities of their own, providing a focus for targeted investments throughout the Plan period. Key projects and programmes for implementation over the Plan period in each NSS Gateway area are set out in Chapter 3.

Rural Economy

About 40% of Ireland's population live in rural areas, a high proportion by European standards. Rural areas present different experiences, economically and socially. A key task is to support diversification in the rural economy as traditional sectors, whilst still important, make a lesser contribution. All rural communities

require proper access to the wider national economy through physical infrastructure and services. The Plan envisages promoting the partnership between urban and rural areas through complementary developments in infrastructure and services.

Rollout of broadband in rural areas and towns is acknowledged as of central importance to the future economic development of rural Ireland, as is investment in micro-enterprises, tourism and the natural resource industries of agriculture, fisheries and forestry, all provided for under the Plan's Investment Priorities.

Other examples of specific initiatives that will benefit the rural economy include the Rural Transport Initiative, made permanent from the beginning of 2007, with priority assigned to areas that have no public transport services; major investments in Non-national roads and rural water and in the reopening of the Western rail corridor.

All-Island Co-Operation

The NDP sets out in detail the full range of current and planned initiatives for North/South co-operation. For the first time, this Plan also contains proposals for significant Irish Government investment in North/South projects and initiatives for mutual benefit. The Government wishes to agree and implement these with the British Government and a restored Northern Ireland Executive in the period 2007-2013. These projects and initiatives will benefit the entire island of Ireland. Importantly, the proposals are designed to benefit the entire community in Northern Ireland on the basis of sound economic principles and equality. The proposed investment, to be funded from the overall Plan funding envelope, is additional to current planned investment and projects. This Plan therefore includes a comprehensive statement of future Government policy on North/South co-operation. Any new proposals are of course subject to discussion and agreement with the Northern Ireland authorities.

The proposed new investment package includes two new, innovative elements:

- Joint investment in new strategic projects to benefit North and South; and
- The opening up of access to existing development funding on an all-island basis, and/or the introduction of new, agreed joint funding measures with the British Government (and Northern Ireland Executive on restoration).

New Strategic Projects

The Government's priorities for agreement on joint projects with Northern Ireland include:

- The completion by 2013 of a high quality road network on the inter-urban routes linking the major population centres of Dublin, Belfast and the North West (especially the Letterkenny-Derry Gateway);
- The future development of the Dublin-Belfast rail line as part of an integrated rail network serving other major population centres, North and South;
- Improved access for tourism and other opportunities along the Eastern corridor, including better links between Co Louth and Co Down in Northern Ireland;
- A significant upgrading of higher education capacity in the North West and the border region through strategic alliances between the educational institutions, North and South;

- New schemes to promote graduate mobility, graduate retention and access for people from disadvantaged areas to higher education;
- Comprehensive studies on health and education co-operation to be overseen by the responsible Departments and agencies, North and South;
- Maximising the potential for cross-border cancer services, building on the project to provide services for Co Donegal; and
- Examining the possibility of restoring the Ulster Canal.

Development Funding

The Government proposes to develop all-island funding, subject to agreement with the British Government (and the Northern Ireland Executive on restoration) in the following areas: education, skills, science and innovation; energy research, including renewable and sustainable energy; regional development; tourism development; and poverty, social inclusion and community infrastructure.

These areas address the long-term challenges that both Governments agree need to be tackled in the modern, global economy. Funding will be awarded on a competitive basis, thereby rewarding innovation and collaboration and ensuring funds are allocated to the best projects.

Cost

In some cases, these proposals involve more effective use of existing funding on an all-island basis. Other projects will involve a significant investment by the Irish Government. The Government is providing sufficient funding within the overall NDP expenditure allocation to provide for that investment.

The details will be finalised in discussion with the British Government and the Northern Ireland Executive on restoration.

In addition, the Plan sets out important work on North/South co-operation in the full range of policy areas, including:

- infrastructure provision;
- science, technology and innovation projects;
- enterprise and training;
- tourism;
- health services;
- education;
- environment;
- energy;
- agriculture and fisheries;
- culture and heritage;
- social inclusion; and
- reconciliation projects.

Environmental Sustainability

This Plan provides for a direct investment of some €25 billion in Environmental Sustainability. This investment will be complemented by the strategy for balanced regional development and land use as envisaged in this Plan, based on the National Spatial Strategy model for compact and sustainable urban development. This robust framework can accommodate the anticipated rapid growth in our population and concomitant economic growth while maintaining the quality of our natural environment.

Measures such as promoting the switch from car to public transport, especially in Dublin and the other major urban centres, will have a substantial impact on environmental sustainability over the longer term and on our potential to meet international commitments relating to climate change.

Other areas in which this NDP will benefit our environment, whether in terms of reducing damage to the environment by curtailing harmful emissions or discharges or in the protection of our environmental heritage for future generations, include the investment priorities for:

- Environment Services and Waste Management Investment;
- Climate Change Strategy — through investment in public transport, for example;
- Promotion of renewable energy, with a 15% commitment to use of renewables in electricity production by 2010;
- Agriculture;
- Built and Natural Heritage preservation; and
- Environmental Research.

High Level Goals for Social Inclusion

The Government is committed to a coherent strategy for social inclusion based on the life cycle approach set out in *Towards 2016*, with implementation supported by the NDP and the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion. While both Plans identify a wide range of targets and interventions, the Government has also identified a number of high level social inclusion goals to achieve the overall objective of reducing consistent poverty. Based on the life cycle approach, these goals aim to:

Children

- Ensure that targeted pre-school education is provided to children from urban primary school communities covered by the DEIS action plan;
- Reduce the proportion of pupils with serious literacy difficulties in primary schools serving disadvantaged communities. The target is to halve the proportion from the current 27%-30% to less than 15% by 2016; and
- Work to ensure that the proportion of the population aged 20-24 completing upper Second Level education or equivalent will exceed 90% by 2013.

People of Working Age

- Introduce an active case management approach that will support those on long term social welfare into education, training and employment. The target is to support 50,000 such people, including lone parents and the long term unemployed, with an overall aim of reducing by 20% the number of those whose total income is derived from long term social welfare payments by 2016. This target will be reviewed in the light of experience.

Older People

- Continue to increase investment in community care services for older people, including home care packages and enhanced day care services to support them to live independently in the community for as long as possible.

People with Disabilities

- Increase the employment of people with disabilities who do not have a difficulty in retaining a job. The immediate objective is to have an additional 7,000 of that cohort in employment by 2010. The longer term target is to raise the employment rate of people with disabilities from 37% to 45% by 2016 as measured by the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS). The overall participation rate in education, training and employment will be increased to 50% by 2016. These targets will be reviewed in the light of experience and the availability of better data.

Communities

Housing

- Deliver high quality housing for those who cannot afford to meet their own housing needs and to underpin the building of sustainable communities. An important element will be the enhanced housing output reflected in Towards 2016, which will result in the accommodation needs of some 60,000 new households being addressed over the period 2007 to 2009. This will embrace meeting special housing needs (the homeless, travellers, older people and people with disabilities).

Health

- Develop 500 primary care teams by 2011 which will improve access to services in the community with particular emphasis on meeting the needs of holders of medical cards.

Integration of Migrants

- Develop a strategy aimed at achieving the integration of newcomers in our society. As an initial action, resources for the provision of 550 teachers for language supports in the education sector will be provided by 2009 and access to other public services through translation of information and supports will be improved.

Summaries of Chapters of National Development Plan

Summary of Chapter 1 — National Investment Priorities 2007-2013 — A Better Quality of Life for All

The National Development Plan 2007-2013 provides for an indicative investment of €183.7 billion in the broad areas of infrastructure, enterprise, human capital and social inclusion over the Plan period. The vast bulk of this investment (some €143 billion) will be provided by the Central Exchequer. The objective of this ambitious investment Plan is to deliver a better quality of life for all within a strong and vibrant economy that maintains our international competitiveness and promotes regional development, social justice and environmental sustainability.

A strong consensus exists throughout our society on the quality of life agenda that underpins this Plan. A solid foundation for the next phase of development of our economy and society has been laid through the economic performance of the past decade and the high level of investment completed under the previous NDP. The investment priorities in this new Plan are compatible with the long term strategic commitment to social and economic policy evolution agreed under the National Partnership Agreement, *Towards 2016*. They also reflect wide and intensive consultations with social partner and regional interest groups undertaken in the course of the Plan's preparation.

Investment Priorities

Investment Priorities in the Plan are grouped under five strategic headings:

	€ billion
	Total Investment (Current Prices)
Economic Infrastructure	54.7
Enterprise, Science and Innovation	20.0
Human Capital	25.8
Social Infrastructure	33.6
Social Inclusion	49.6
Total	183.7

In deciding on these Priorities, and the weight attached to individual programmes within them, the Government was informed by the following assessment of key strengths and weaknesses of the economy:

Strengths

- Macroeconomic stability and sound public finances;
- High quality education system which has underpinned employment growth from 1.1 million in 1991 to over 2 million by 2006;
- Positive demographics, boosted by skilled immigration flow;
- Taxation and regulatory regime favourable to productive investment, including Foreign Direct Investment;

- EU membership and access to a market of almost 500 million persons; and
- Consensus on economic and social policy as reflected in Social Partnership model

Weaknesses

- Significant infrastructure deficits that continue to impact on competitiveness, regional development and general quality of life;
- Imbalance in regional development;
- Environment challenges;
- Housing affordability problems, especially in urban areas;
- Concerns about loss of competitiveness;
- Relatively undeveloped Science, Technology and Innovation sector; and
- Disadvantaged areas, urban and rural.

Overall the high level objectives of this NDP are:

- Maintenance of a framework of macroeconomic and budgetary stability;
- Addressing economic and social infrastructure deficits;
- Supporting enterprise, innovation and productivity;
- Promotion of Social inclusion;
- Balanced regional development;
- All-island economic and sectoral co-operation;
- Environmental sustainability; and
- Value for Money on delivery of programmes

Chapters 2-6 set out the strategic process to attain the Plan's objectives on budgetary policy, regional development and spatial strategy, the rural economy, environmental sustainability and the all-island dimension. Chapters 7-11 outline the investment programmes and priorities of the Plan. Chapters 12 and 13 set out the process for ensuring value for money is obtained under this Plan and the robust monitoring arrangements in place for its successful implementation.

ESRI Evaluation

Following a competitive tendering process the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) was selected to perform an independent evaluation of the investment priorities for this NDP. The ESRI published its comprehensive report in October 2006, fully endorsing the concept of a further National Development Plan. The ESRI recommended prioritisation of investment in infrastructure, notably in areas such as Transport, Education and R&D, is reflected in the Plan. However, the scale of the investment in these and other capital investment areas is considerably higher than that proposed by the ESRI. More generally, the Plan is much broader than the areas encompassed by the ESRI study. In regard to capital investment, it is considered that the higher level of investment is warranted by reference to the urgency of addressing existing infrastructural deficits and by projected significant increases in population. It is also justified by economic return that will arise from the investment.

Summary of Chapter 2 — Economic and Fiscal Framework

Budgetary and Fiscal Policy

Throughout the period of the last NDP Ireland fulfilled all its obligations under the EU Stability and Growth Pact (SGP) to keep the public finances close to balance or in surplus. From 1997 a Budget surplus was recorded in every year, with the exception of 2002 when there was a small deficit. The General Government

Debt was reduced from 38% of GDP to 25% in the period. Close to 5% of GNP, twice the EU average, was invested in each year of the Plan in infrastructural development with 1% of GNP set aside annually for the National Pensions Reserve Fund to meet future pension costs. The low tax burden was maintained.

National Development Plan 2007-2013 Economic Assumptions

On the assumption of a broadly favourable international economic climate, the Irish economy is expected to expand at an average rate of around 4-4½% per annum over the period 2007-2013. For the first time in the history of the State, over two million people were at work in Ireland by mid 2006. Labour force projections for the Plan period suggest an average increase of around 2-2.5% per annum, with average productivity growth of around 2% per annum.

The State's ability to fund the investment priorities in the Plan depends on stable economic and budgetary policies that deliver the requisite level of growth and resources, as acknowledged by the Social Partners in *Towards 2016*. A prudent budgetary policy throughout the period is essential.

Therefore, budgetary policy over the period of the Plan:

- Will not add to inflationary pressures in the economy;
- Will allow for flexibility in the event of an economic downturn due to external shocks such as currency fluctuations or oil prices;
- Will continue to make provision for the challenges of the future e.g. NPRF transfer;
- Will keep growth in day to day spending in line with the increase in economic growth; and
- Will aim to realise maximum Value for Money for all Government expenditure

On the basis of the projections above and adherence to this prudent budgetary strategy, the seven-year investment programme set out in the new Plan is affordable. It is also necessary. The next seven years provide a window of opportunity to address investment needs crucial to national and regional competitiveness in Ireland and to promote long term sustainable economic and social development.

Summary of Chapter 3 — Regional Development

The National Development Plan 2007-2013 sets out a Regional Development Strategy which is based on the framework of the 2002 National Spatial Strategy (NSS). This involves promotion of investment in the nine Gateway centres¹ referred to in the NSS complemented by development of the NSS Hub and County towns and their rural hinterlands. The importance of maintaining a strong and competitive Greater Dublin Area (GDA) is recognised but a major focus will be on investing in the other Gateway areas to boost their potential for development.

This strategic approach to Ireland's regional development will deliver a coherent investment programme that, long term, is both environmentally and economically sustainable. NDP investment will impact positively on physical infrastructure, enterprise, and education and training, working to enable the different regions to achieve their economic potential and enhance the quality of life for all our people, wherever they live.

The following Plan interventions will be especially important for the objective of regional development:

- Massively enhanced investment of €33 billion in transport infrastructure, including roads, rail and airports which will address deficits in these areas and thereby help to promote regional competitiveness; it will also facilitate appropriate land use and spatial planning;
- Major investment in environmental services and energy infrastructure, housing, urban renewal and related services;

¹ Dublin, Cork, Limerick-Shannon, Galway, Waterford, Dundalk, Letterkenny-Derry, Athlone-Tullamore-Mullingar, Sligo

- Regional enterprise development, training and education investment, taking account of the opportunities for regional enterprise growth afforded under the new State Aids regime; and
- Establishment of a Gateways Innovation Fund, with initial Exchequer funding of €300 million for the pilot period 2008-2010. The Fund will promote co-funded competitive bids from the Gateways/Regions for funding local economic infrastructure developments not already part of the mainstream Plan or local capital programmes. Examples will include socio-economic regeneration projects, transport initiatives in addition to those under *Transport 21* and Quality of Life projects.

Regional Development Indicators

The recent census indicates an increase of 8% in the population of the State since 2002, from 3,917,000 to 4,235,000 in 2006. The population in all eight regions has increased, but at varying rates. The highest annual average increases occurred in the Mid-East (3.6%); Midlands (2.8%); South-East (2.1%); and the West (2.1%). Revised population forecasts, flowing from the results of the 2006 Census, could project a national population of up to 5.3 million people by 2021. Current CSO projections for 2021 suggest significant population increases for all areas with the highest areas of growth in the West (35%), followed by the Greater Dublin Area (34.3%) and the Midlands (31.6%).

All Regions have experienced strong economic and population growth in recent years with the strongest growth in Regions with large urban centres.

In summary, the recent population and economic trends suggest that:

- (1) The population of Ireland will continue to grow substantially;
- (2) The population levels of all the Regions will increase;
- (3) Regions containing large urban centres with a relatively high percentage of the Region's population are performing comparatively better economically;
- (4) Regions with comparatively weaker urban structures will need an enhanced level of critical mass to drive development; and
- (5) The urban-based Gateways are growing at different rates.

Regional Development: Strategic Policy Framework

The investment framework and strategy of this NDP will assist and enhance physical and spatial planning. The Plan establishes an ambitious and medium-term sectoral policy and financial framework within which national and local physical planning can be articulated and its strategies advanced. In order that Ireland's future spatial development is structured in a manner that is internationally competitive, socially cohesive and environmentally sustainable, investment in support of five key elements of the Government's regional policy framework will be made under this Plan:

- (1) **More efficient Greater Dublin Area:** supporting a strong and competitive GDA in order that it continues to drive its own development and that of the State through improved and more public transport based mobility, development of more compact and sustainable communities and high quality international and domestic transportation connections;
- (2) **Strong Gateways in other Regions:** accelerating the development of strategically placed and national scale urban centres to act individually and collectively in delivering more spatially balanced patterns of economic development and population growth throughout their regions;
- (3) **Hubs:** linking and extending the capabilities and performance of the Gateways to more outlying and rural areas by supporting the development of key towns at strategic locations along the transport corridors between the Gateways;

- (4) **County and other town structure:** capitalising on the important regional and local roles of Ireland's network of towns so that they can attract investment and act as engines of local growth within a wider revitalised and diversifying rural economy; and
- (5) **Vibrant and diversified rural areas:** sustaining the continuing process of diversification in the rural economy through enhanced accessibility, communications infrastructure and activation of local development potential in areas such as local enterprise and services, tourism and the natural resource sectors.

Meeting the Challenges — NDP Priority Investments in Gateway Centres

The projects indicated below are seen as key to the development of each of the Gateways but there will be many additional programmes and projects funded under the Plan which will play an important role in the economic and social development of the Gateway Regions, including the Hubs, county towns and rural areas of the Regions.

Dublin Gateway

The National Spatial Strategy envisages the continued development of the Greater Dublin Area (GDA), with its population of about 1.2 million, in a more sustainable manner than in the past. Dublin has driven the growth of the Irish economy, but the very success of Dublin's economy has also pushed housing development well beyond the boundaries of the Greater Dublin Area, forcing longer distance commuting and diminution of the quality of life for many young families. Dublin's future growth will be anchored through higher density development around a strengthened and efficient public transport grid.

Investment priorities include:

- Implementation of the key public transport elements of *Transport 21*, including the completion of Metro North to the Airport and Swords, a major extension of the lightrail network, enhancement of suburban rail and DART services, the provision of additional bus services and further development of the Quality Bus Corridors;
- Major investment in suburban rail including the Kildare line and the opening of a rail link from Dublin to Navan;
- Completion of the M50 upgrade and completion by 2010 of all Major Inter-Urban routes between Dublin and other Gateway centres. These improvements will also greatly benefit the counties in the Region adjoining Dublin;
- Feasibility and planning work on the Eastern Bypass and on a new Outer Orbital Road to serve the Gateway;
- Enhancement of the capacity of Dublin Airport;
- A comprehensive study of the role of Dublin Port, taking account of locational considerations, in the context of overall ports policy on the Island of Ireland;
- Further Investment in Environmental Services Infrastructure to facilitate the consolidated development of the Greater Dublin Area;
- Development of tourism, sport and cultural facilities on a PPP basis (such as the National Conference Centre, the new National Theatre and the new National Concert Hall) or by direct grant (Lansdowne Road Stadium);
- Provision of social, community, cultural, sporting and amenity facilities throughout the Gateway region to match rapidly developing residential development;
- Strengthening the international status and STI capacity of the Gateway's higher education institutes; and
- Continuing investment in urban renewal and enhancement of the physical fabric of the Gateway, e.g. the regeneration of Ballymun.

Cork Gateway

Ireland's second city, with its population of 119,143, is the largest urban and economic centre in the South-West Region. The challenge for Cork is to accelerate growth and development. Cork's derelict Docklands area offers significant potential for commercial and housing development. NDP investment in the city's infrastructure will act as a trigger to significant private investment.

Investment priorities:

- Completion by 2010 of the M/N8 Dublin — Cork road to full motorway standard and other road and public transport aspects of *Transport 21*;
- The development, as part of the CASP Strategy, of an integrated public transport system built around the Green Route programme of improved bus priority, the re-opening of the Cork City — Midleton/Cobh rail service by 2008 and the development of commuter rail services on the Mallow-Midleton corridor;
- Introduction of hourly rail services on the Cork-Dublin route;
- Roads, water services, port relocation and associated infrastructure to facilitate docklands regeneration;
- Improved road and bus-based public transport links to Cork airport;
- Enhancement of road links to other Gateways along the Atlantic Road Corridor;
- The upgrading of N28 road access to Ringaskiddy Port and its associated industrial zone;
- Pedestrianisation and similar urban renewal activity, building on recent progress in this area;
- Enhancement of tourism, cultural and recreational facilities;
- Lands at Ringaskiddy and Carrigtohill to be developed by IDA Ireland as part of its Strategic Sites Initiative; and
- Continued development of the City's R&D capacity such as the recently opened Tyndall Institute.

Limerick-Shannon Gateway

The economic core of the Mid West region, Limerick, benefits from a strong enterprise base and the proximity of Shannon Airport. The population of Limerick City and County stands at 183,863, an increase of 4.9% since 2002. The city retains considerable potential for development, especially the city centre and docks areas. An effective public transport system and further diversification of enterprise are vital to its future growth.

Priority Investments:

- Completion by 2010 of the M/N7 Dublin — Limerick motorway, Phase II of the Southern Ring Road and the N69 route to Tralee;
- The enhancement of the Atlantic Road Corridor, including links to other Gateways, with accelerated priority going to the completion of the Limerick-Galway section of the N18 to high quality dual carriageway;
- Introduction of enhanced rail services on the Limerick-Dublin route;
- Improvement of road access to Shannon Airport via the above investment;
- Development of the Western Rail Corridor between Ennis and Claremorris;
- Creation of an effective bus-based public transport network, including links to Shannon Airport, building on recent fleet investment and widespread bus prioritisation measures;
- Significant upgrading of the public areas and streets in Limerick city centre and re-imaging of Limerick through a major urban renewal initiative;
- Implementation of the cultural, recreational and public amenity strategy for Limerick and its wider environs;
- Strengthening of R&D capacity in the city's third level institutions;

- Implementation of a shared innovation strategy between education providers and the enterprise sector to strengthen the city's third level and enterprise sector;
- The delivery of critical physical infrastructure such as water services and local access roads in a co-ordinated manner to enable accelerated delivery of housing and the renewal of docklands areas; and
- Development of leisure and technology parks and strategic sites.

Galway Gateway

Galway has a strong record of economic growth. The population of Galway City and County grew by 10.5% to 231,035 persons between 2002-2006. Tackling traffic congestion, revitalising the City Centre and more compact urban planning are among its current challenges.

Investment priorities:

- Completion by 2010 of the M/N6 Dublin-Galway motorway;
- The enhancement of the Atlantic Road Corridor, thereby improving road links to other Gateway centres, with accelerated priority going to the completion of the Limerick-Galway section of the N18 to high quality dual carriageway;
- Provision of a new road from Galway to Ros An Mhíl;
- Introduction of enhanced intercity rail services on the Galway-Dublin route;
- Introduction of a commuter rail service between Athenry and Galway City;
- Creation of an effective bus-based public transport network, building on recent fleet investment through widespread bus prioritisation measures;
- Development of the Western Rail Corridor between Ennis and Claremorris;
- Focused and co-ordinated investment in water services and access infrastructure to open up major new housing and development areas to the east of the city;
- Continued support for Galway Regional Airport;
- Provision of sport, social and community facilities to match fast developing residential areas;
- Strengthening research and innovation capabilities at the city's third level institutions;
- Regeneration of docks area of Galway city;
- Conservation and protection of the city's considerable stock of natural and built heritage; and
- Development of strategic sites as part of IDA Ireland Strategic Sites Initiative.

Waterford Gateway

Over the past ten years, Waterford's population has grown steadily and the City is now home to over 50,000 people. Many of the challenges facing Waterford are similar to those that confront other Gateway cities, especially in the area of planning and development and maximising the value of key assets, including in Waterford's case a major national port complemented by a compact City with a high quality urban fabric.

Investment priorities:

- Completion by 2010 of the M/N9 Dublin — Waterford road and N25 Bypass;
- Creation of an effective bus-based public transport network building on recent fleet investment through widespread bus prioritisation measures;
- Enhancement of road links to other Gateways along the Atlantic Road Corridor;
- Enhanced intercity rail services between Waterford and Dublin;
- Enhancing port facilities and facilitating relocation of port activities;

- Investment in the R&D capacity of Waterford Institute of Technology to underline the importance of education to Waterford as a centre of excellence;
- Development of industry/Institute of Technology linkages within the South-East Region;
- Renewal and development of the North-Quays;
- Development of strategic sites as part of IDA Ireland Strategic Sites Initiative; and
- Continued support for Waterford Regional Airport.

Dundalk Gateway

Located mid-way along the Dublin-Belfast rail and road corridor and close to Newry in Northern Ireland, Dundalk, whose population has increased by 5.9% between 2002 and 2006 to 29,010 needs to expand and strengthen its enterprise and economic structures. Tackling social exclusion and facilitating the strategic expansion of Dundalk's western environs, are among the challenges it faces.

Investment priorities:

- Strengthening and modernising the local economic and enterprise structure;
- Investment in local roads and water services to facilitate the development of the town's western environs;
- Development of a bus-based urban transport system;
- Community development and measures to tackle social exclusion;
- Investment in social housing;
- Provision of recreational and cultural amenities;
- Strengthening the research and innovation capability of the Dundalk Institute of Technology;
- Pro-active promotion of mutually beneficial cooperation with Newry; and
- Development of strategic sites as part of IDA Ireland Strategic Sites Initiative.

Letterkenny-Derry — the Northwest Gateway

Although still a relatively small town of 15,000 people, Letterkenny's population growth has been the highest among the Gateway centres, at about 30% between 2002 and 2006. The two urban areas of Letterkenny and Derry have an estimated population of over 100,000, and Letterkenny and the North-West's future success are contingent on fostering enhanced linkages within the northwest gateway and between the Gateway and other parts of the island of Ireland, a strong and innovative enterprise sector linked to a dynamic education sector and the provision of services in a complementary manner on either side of the border.

Investment priorities:

- Implementation, by the relevant local authorities, of an integrated strategy for the strategic development of Letterkenny as an integral part of the Northwest Gateway;
- Enhancement of road links to other Gateways along the Atlantic Road Corridor;
- Further improvements on the N2 route, in co-operation with the Northern Ireland Authorities, to greatly improve the road link to Dublin over the period of the Plan;
- Further investment at Derry Airport and continued support for Donegal Regional Airport;
- Enhancement of the capacity and resilience of energy supply networks;
- Strengthening the innovation capacity at Letterkenny Institute of Technology and building on complementary strengths at Magee College in Derry;
- Initiatives to deepen the skills base of the labour force in order to facilitate the creation and attraction of higher value-added enterprise functions; and

- Improvements to the stock of healthcare and social infrastructure such as regional hospital and specialist care services on a shared basis between Donegal and facilities in Northern Ireland.

Midlands Gateway

At the centre of the country, the towns of Tullamore, Athlone and Mullingar, with an aggregate population of over 42,000, combine to form the Midlands Gateway. Increased growth in the populations of the three towns and the implementation of the agreed development strategy for the Gateway are essential to the success of this innovative concept in national spatial planning. The Midlands Gateway is at the centre of the Dublin-Galway, Dublin-Limerick and Dublin-Cork road corridors and will benefit from upgrading of these routes to motorway standard, linking the East Coast and the Atlantic Gateway Corridors.

Investment Priorities:

- Strengthening the R&D capacity of Athlone Institute of Technology and its linkages to industry/employers in the Region;
- Development of enhanced road and public transport links between the three towns in the Gateway;
- Development of strategic local roads and water services capacity to facilitate and attract development to the towns in the Gateway;
- Enhancement of tourist facilities and amenities, building on the natural heritage of the midlands and the potential of the inland waterways network;
- Development of Strategic Sites as part of IDA Ireland's Strategic Sites Initiative
- Further development of the N52, with accelerated priority to the provision of the Tullamore Bypass; and
- Implementation of the Strategic Development Framework for the Gateway drawn up by the Local Authorities, including the establishment of a Gateway Coordination Unit.

Sligo Gateway

The population of Sligo Town and County has increased by 4.6% to 60,863 since 2002 and the town has benefited from infrastructure improvements, including the M/N4 under the previous NDP, resulting in greatly increased private sector investment in retailing, hotels and value added enterprise. Occupying a strategic position in the Northwest, Sligo now stands poised to attract further investment in driving the development of its wider environs.

Investment Priorities:

- Completion of the remaining sections of the N4 requiring upgrades;
- The development of the Atlantic Road Corridor with consequential enhancement of road links to other Gateways;
- Introduction of enhanced railway services on the Sligo-Dublin route;
- New eastern and western urban distribution road routes to open up strategic land banks for accelerated development of new private housing areas;
- Strengthening the R&D capacity of Sligo Institute of Technology;
- Development of regional sports and recreation facilities;
- Continued development of the emerging cultural and entertainment quarter;
- Strengthening regional research and innovation capacity and third level — industry linkages;
- Continued support for Knock and Sligo Regional Airports; and
- Targeted urban renewal including urban enhancement, pedestrianisation and urban redevelopment of the port area.

Key Gateway Corridors

The upgrading of the entire Dublin-Belfast road to motorway/dual carriageway status will ensure that this corridor will form a major axis for economic development on the island of Ireland.

To complement the emergent Dublin-Belfast corridor, the Government's investment strategy envisages much stronger connections such as the Atlantic Road Corridor and the Western Rail Corridor between the Gateways of Cork, Limerick, Galway and Waterford and onwards to other gateways such as Sligo and Letterkenny-Derry. The Atlantic Gateways of Cork, Limerick, Galway and Waterford have much initial potential through strengthened individual cities, enhanced connectivity and a collaborative approach to planning and promotion, to develop the start of the second major metropolitan corridor on the island of Ireland. Further collaboration between the Atlantic Gateways in preparing and implementing joint development strategies will also be supported by this Plan.

The Midlands Gateway occupies a central position on the Dublin/Galway, Dublin/Limerick and Dublin/Cork Corridors. It will in particular benefit from the upgrading of these routes to motorway standard and will also be the focus for road investment to improve links within the Gateway. In this way, the Midlands Gateway can capitalise on its central position and accessibility, strengthen local employment and link the East coast and Atlantic Gateway corridors.

Hub Towns

The National Spatial Strategy identified nine Hub towns — Castlebar/Ballina, Tuam, Ennis, Tralee/Killarney, Mallow, Kilkenny, Wexford, Monaghan and Cavan — located on key transport routes between the Gateways. The Hub towns act as an economic bridge between the Gateway centres and their rural environs. It is vital that national investment, in these and other large towns in the country, is partnered with local vision and leadership and the attraction of private investment. Already, good local planning added to urban renewal initiatives have transformed the central areas of many of these towns, encouraging significant and subsequent private investment in retailing and commercial activities.

Investment in the towns under this NDP will prioritise:

- Implementation of *Transport 21* to ensure improvement in infrastructure linkages;
- Broadband access;
- Water services infrastructure;
- Physical regeneration of local housing stock;
- Education and training;
- Development of social infrastructure to enhance quality of life, and
- Economic linkages with surrounding rural areas.

Other Urban and Rural Areas

By strengthening Ireland's urban structure, this Plan will facilitate the creation of the types of places across the country that can attract and sustain both the type and the levels of private investment essential in providing employment not only in the Gateways, Hubs and other towns themselves but in their wider regions as well.

In addition to the network of Gateways and Hubs, there are other strategically positioned county towns and other large towns whose continued development must be facilitated in national investment terms so that they may continue to play an important role in ensuring that balanced development takes place not only between regions but within them as well. The further development of these and other similar locations will be encouraged through effective local planning and leveraging wider public and private investment.

More widely, investment in essential infrastructure in rural areas as detailed in the chapter on the rural economy will ensure that the necessary and essential development of our cities and towns will be

complemented by investment in rural areas. This should ensure that Ireland will sustain strong cities and towns as well as a vibrant and diversified rural economy.

Delivery of the Regional Development Strategy

The Plan implementation and monitoring arrangements will have a special focus on regional development.

To maximise the added value of public sector investment, the relevant regional and local authorities will work together, along with the private sector in ensuring that local planning and development policies and private investment matches and complements public investment policy, maximising its impact. For example, investment in suburban rail services in Dublin, Cork, Galway and the Western Rail Corridor must be matched by a concerted effort to focus new housing developments in these areas around these new rail corridors in order to maximise their usage, encouraging modal shift and promoting environmental sustainability.

More generally, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, together with the regional and local authorities, will work together to ensure that plans at national, regional and local levels are integrated. For example, as well as focusing major new housing development a long key public transport corridors, Local Authorities are working to create more attractive and sustainable communities where the provision of housing, employment, transport and community facilities can be integrated, cutting commuting time and enhancing quality of life. For the future, these are the types of places that will be capable of attracting population and growing the Regions.

Implementation of the Plan will support sustainable land use policies by Local Authorities.

Summary of Chapter 4 — Development of the Rural Economy

The development challenges facing our rural communities differ to those of urban areas. However, the relationship between urban and rural communities is symbiotic. Strong, vibrant rural communities are essential to attracting and maintaining industry, including Foreign Direct Investment, in the NSS Gateways. The development of modern roads infrastructure, particularly upgrading national routes to motorways and the development of the Atlantic Road Corridor, as well as the modernisation of railway networks and rolling stock, as envisaged in this NDP, provide the rural economy with better access to the wider national economy and beyond.

The overall challenge is to develop the partnership between urban and rural areas, where each supports and complements the strengths of the other; and standards of living and quality of life are raised in ways that preserve the distinctive heritage of local rural areas, maintain and increase their population and promote economic enterprise and activities appropriate to their needs and a sustainable environment.

Context of Change

About 40% of Ireland's population live in rural areas, a relatively high proportion by European standards. Rural areas present a diversity of economic experiences. Areas close to cities and large towns are experiencing rapid population growth and, consequently, development pressures. Some more remote rural areas have struggled to find alternatives to replace economic activities lost due to structural changes in the agriculture sector over the past several decades. Others while geographically remote but enjoying a strong natural and cultural heritage, have experienced growth in tourism, inward-migration and the development of locally based micro-enterprises.

In the past five years, the agricultural labour force has declined by about 14.5%, as has the relative share of forestry and the marine sector within the overall economy and the national labour force. But agriculture, forestry and the marine make a significant contribution to maintaining indigenously-based exports and this NDP will provide significant investment to consolidate, enhance and modernise the strengths and values of these traditional components of the rural economy.

Developing the Rural Economy

The five investment priorities of the Plan will deliver a wide range of improvements to rural areas and their communities. Specifically, the Rural Economic and Social Development Programme and the Gaeltacht and Islands Programme under the Enterprise Priority are targeted at economic development and diversification of rural areas.

In general, infrastructure and services investment under the Plan will aim to minimise urban and rural differences in the supply and quality of facilities. Priority areas for investment include:

- Infrastructure;
- Enterprise and Employment;
- Agriculture and Food;
- Tourism, Culture and Sport;
- Marine Sector; and
- Social Inclusion.

Infrastructure

Broadband: Under the Plan's Infrastructure Priority, the Communications and Broadband Programme will advance the rollout of broadband to all rural areas by encouraging commercial operators to deliver the service and channelling support to compensate for market failure in the private provision of broadband facilities.

Non-National Roads & Transport: The network of non-national roads comprises 94% of the country's roads, carrying about 60% of all road traffic and is of vital importance to local economic activity. Over the seven years of this Plan, some €4.3 billion will be expended on restoration of existing non-national roads and new projects; much of it concentrated in rural areas.

The Rural Transport Initiative (RTI), established on a pilot basis under the current NDP will be made permanent from the beginning of 2007. Funding for the RTI will double over the 2005 allocation and priority will be given to areas of the country that currently have no public transport services, involving a total investment of €90 million.

Rail investment priorities include the renewal of national and local rail services.

Energy: Renewal of the low voltage networks will be completed by 2015. Nationally, the energy network investment programme to 2010 envisages 350,000 new connections; 50 new transmission/HV stations; 1100 MW connections for renewables and 400Km of transmission lines.

Low population densities and extended transport systems mean that rural Ireland is especially dependent on non-renewable energy sources. Over the seven years of the NDP, emphasis will be placed on an increase in renewable energy production in rural areas, especially projects that create environmentally sustainable enterprise and generate employment.

Rural Water Services: The NDP will invest €0.85 billion over the Plan period to improve rural water services, in the provision of water treatment equipment for group water schemes with private sources; connections to public mains and improvement of waste-water infrastructure in smaller towns and villages.

Knowledge Infrastructure: A dedicated research programme will be inaugurated to examine the dynamics of the rural economy and the challenges it faces.

Enterprise and Employment

The dependence in rural areas on the more vulnerable manufacturing, natural resources and construction sectors for employment is acknowledged. Some 65% of enterprises in rural areas have less than ten employees and are categorised as micro-enterprises. Issues for these companies include transport costs, market access, a tight labour market, communications deficiencies and physical infrastructure.

Regional strategies in place for Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland over the Plan period will address both the attraction of high value added enterprise to rural areas and the development of indigenous enterprises. Programmes of support for micro-enterprises, that build on the achievements recorded over the life of the previous NDP, will be provided at the local level by the County and City Enterprise Boards (CEBs). The programmes offered by LEADER groups under the new National Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 complement the activities of the enterprise agencies.

LEADER/Rural Development Programme 2007-2013: The Plan will invest in the creation of new rural micro-enterprises and the development of existing ones engaged in artisan food, forestry, marine, rural/agri-tourism and community economic activities along with the development of recreational tourism packages and upgrades in tourist accommodation.

Agriculture and Food

Agriculture and forestry account for around 72% of land use in Ireland. There are 135,000 family farms and around 800 industrial units. One half of all farms, farmers or their spouses have an outside occupation, reflecting the advancing structural change in the rural economy. The agri-food sector remains vital to the Irish economy, accounting for 9% of gross domestic product and total employment, and 20% of the net flow of export earnings.

Over the NDP period, some €8 billion will be invested under the various programmes that support agriculture and agri-food production, to enhance their competitiveness while at the same time preserving the quality of the rural environment.

NDP investment will include support for:

- On-farm investment;
- Food marketing;
- Start-up assistance for young farmers and early retirement for older farmers;
- Agricultural training and education;
- Protection of the environment; and
- Forestry.

Tourism, Culture and Sport

Tourism has significant potential to assist the economic development of rural areas. While tourism is a major instrument of regional development, Ireland continues to experience a diverse spatial spread of business that favours Dublin and some urban centres. A priority for this NDP is to spread the benefits of tourism more widely. Schemes established under the previous Plan, such as regional and niche product marketing will be continued and new initiatives will include a fund for tourism infrastructure, supports for cultural events and to encourage investment in soft adventure products. This NDP will also invest in the development of sporting, arts and cultural facilities at local level to meet recreational needs and build stronger local communities.

Marine Sector

Almost 60% of the employment and added value created in the marine sector is located in isolated rural areas. The fisheries sector has been forced to adjust to fishing restrictions imposed by the Common Fisheries Policy to conserve and rejuvenate endangered fish stocks. The seafood processing sector is also facing a period of restructuring and rationalisation. The NDP will support investment in research, new technologies and new product development in the seafood sector as well as assistance in restructuring companies to improve their competitiveness in this increasingly globalised sector. Supports will also be provided to assist fishing communities to diversify into other marine based activities, like aquaculture and marine tourism.

Social Inclusion

Combating social exclusion is fundamental to the quality of life for all people in rural areas. Within the ambit of a variety of existing programmes, significant funding to combat the deleterious effects of social exclusion on individuals and communities will be provided under the new NDP.

CLÁR Programme: This is an investment programme for disadvantaged rural areas which have suffered from historical depopulation. The NDP will invest €141 million over the period of the Plan in this programme to improve the quality of life in such rural areas.

Rural Social Schemes: Under this scheme, some €214 million will be spent over the period 2007-2013 providing enhanced rural amenities and services, while also giving low-income farmers and fishermen access to a supplementary income.

The NDP will invest €417 million in the broader Local Development Social Inclusion Scheme, which addresses local employment, education and training opportunities.

Investments under the RAPID Programme and the Community Development Programmes, totalling over €900 million in the Plan period, will also be of particular benefit to provincial towns and rural areas.

Summary of Chapter 5 — All Island Co-Operation

Since the Good Friday Agreement, there has been a transformation in Northern Ireland and in North/South co-operation. This Plan seeks to build on that transformation and to seize the unprecedented opportunities presented over the period to 2013. This Chapter sets out in detail a range of existing and planned North/South projects that have already been agreed with the current Northern Ireland administration and are being implemented. It also sets out, for the first time, proposals for Irish Government investment in North/South projects and initiatives for mutual benefit.

A New Programme of Investment in North/South Co-Operation

This Plan contains proposals for significant Irish Government investment in North/South projects and initiatives for mutual benefit. The Government wishes to agree and implement these with the British Government and a restored Northern Ireland Executive in the period 2007-2013.

The proposed package includes two new innovative elements:

- Joint investment in new strategic projects to benefit North and South; and
- The opening up of access to existing development funding on an all-island basis, and/or the introduction of new, agreed joint funding measures with the British Government (and Northern Ireland Executive on restoration).

New Strategic Projects

The Government's priorities for agreement on joint projects with Northern Ireland include:

- The completion by 2013 of a high quality road network on the inter-urban routes linking the major population centres of Dublin, Belfast and the North West (especially the Letterkenny-Derry Gateway);
- The future development of the Dublin-Belfast rail line as part of an integrated rail network serving other major population centres, North and South;
- Improved access for tourism and other opportunities along the Eastern corridor, including better links between Co Louth and Co Down in Northern Ireland;
- A significant upgrading of higher education capacity in the North West and the border region through strategic alliances between the educational institutions, North and South;
- New schemes to promote graduate mobility, graduate retention and access for people from disadvantaged areas to higher education;
- Comprehensive studies on health and education co-operation to be overseen by the responsible Departments and agencies, North and South;
- Maximising the potential for cross-border cancer services, building on the project to provide services for Co Donegal; and
- Examining the possibility of restoring the Ulster Canal.

Development Funding

The Government proposes to develop all-island funds, subject to agreement with the British Government (and the Northern Ireland Executive on restoration) in the following areas: education, skills, science and innovation; energy research, including renewable and sustainable energy; regional development; tourism development; and poverty, social inclusion and community infrastructure.

These funds address the long-term challenges that both Governments agree need to be tackled in the modern, global economy. Funds are awarded on a competitive basis, thereby rewarding innovation and collaboration and ensuring funds are allocated to the best projects.

Cost

In some cases, these proposals involve more effective use of existing funding on an all-island basis. Other projects will involve a significant investment by the Irish Government. The Government is providing sufficient funding within the overall NDP expenditure allocation to provide for that investment. The details will be finalised in discussion with the British Government and the Northern Ireland Executive on restoration.

Economic and Sectoral North/South Co-Operation

Infrastructure Co-operation: Co-operation in developing infrastructure will help ensure more efficient planning and joined-up delivery of key infrastructure projects resulting in better Value for Money and economies of scale in public investments.

Spatial Strategies: A non-statutory framework for collaboration between the National Spatial Strategy and the Northern Regional Development Strategy will be pursued.

Transport: The continued upgrading of road links with Northern Ireland is one of the principal objectives of *Transport 21*. The Dublin-Belfast motorway upgrade will be completed in the early years of the Plan. The

Government will invest in the development of City of Derry Airport. The Government has committed €7.5 million, on a joint funding basis. A review of ports policy in Northern Ireland and the study of the sector recently completed in the South will identify all-island capacity needs and inform spatial planning.

Energy: The common challenge, North and South, is to provide a reliable, sustainable, secure and competitively priced energy supply on this island. Under the All-Island Energy Market Development Framework, the two Governments are working together across the range of energy issues including electricity, gas, energy efficiency, renewable energy and research. The introduction of the Single Electricity Market in November 2007 is the key immediate priority, which will deliver enhanced scale, efficiencies and greater competition to the benefit of the two economies, business and consumers, North and South. The market will be further underpinned by the completion of the second North/South interconnector by 2012.

Communications: Throughout the Plan period as broadband rollout is completed in the South, close liaison will be maintained with the Northern Ireland authorities. In summer 2007, all-island licences for spectrum will be launched. The two Governments will continue to build on the successful joint approach to greatly reducing roaming charges on the island.

Science, Technology & Innovation: The Government will work closely with Northern authorities to increase the quantity and quality of research and enhance the contribution of research to economic and social development on the island. Researchers will be encouraged to develop collaborative cross-border relationships, promoting economies of scale and strengthening international contacts. Operating competitive schemes on an all-island basis could further enhance the quality of research on the island. It is envisaged that proposals for the establishment of a new Centre for Science, Engineering and Technology will be called on an all-island basis.

Enterprise & Training: Intertrade Ireland, the all-island trade and business promotion body, will continue to promote the culture of entrepreneurship over the period of this Plan through initiatives that encourage North/South trade and business development networks. Expert skills groups will work together to ensure that mapping and forecasting of skills needs are available to underpin policies that will ensure the availability of a skilled workforce throughout the island.

Trade, Tourism and Investment Promotion: Building on the co-operative approach to tourism marketing that has seen an increase from about six million visitors to the island of Ireland in 1998 to almost nine million in 2006, the NDP will continue to support Tourism Ireland to increase tourist numbers and tourism revenue on the island. Recognising the benefits of pooling resources to support companies on the island in foreign markets, trade missions and the services of Enterprise Ireland and Invest NI overseas offices are being opened up to companies across the island.

Health Services: Co-operation on health promotion, collaboration on research and development and jointly improving access to health services in border areas are among the co-operation initiatives already in place and will be enhanced and strengthened over the period of the NDP. The Food Safety Promotion Board will run the all-island safe food campaign. The potential for further co-operation on access to services and facilities, including high technology care will be pursued as will the issue of greater mobility of health professionals.

Education: Throughout the Plan period, the Government will seek to enhance collaboration between Institutes of Technology, particularly those in the Border Gateways of Dundalk, Sligo and Letterkenny, and their Northern counterparts. Further work will be undertaken on mutual recognition of qualification agreements, especially in the area of apprenticeships.

Environment: Co-operation will be pursued in the development of the NDP's environmental services programme, including water supply, waste-water, waste management and climate change. Intensive North/South technical co-operation will be required for implementation of the Water Framework Directive on shared river basins. Jointly funded projects to address environment challenges on a North/South, cross-border and all-island basis, as appropriate, will be undertaken.

Agriculture & Fisheries: Existing institutional co-operation, such as the Cross Border Steering Committee on rural development, and Teagasc liaison with the Northern Ireland Department for Agriculture and Rural Development, will be consolidated throughout the plan period. The development of the aquaculture industry in the Carlingford and Foyle Loughs will be co-ordinated through the North/South Loughs Agency.

Culture & Heritage: The NDP Culture Programme will facilitate co-operation between cultural institutions in Northern Ireland and the South, including commemorative programmes and projects. Scope for North/South co-operation in the development of sporting facilities will be explored. An Foras Teanga will also continue to receive support.

Social Inclusion: Ireland's National Strategy for Social Protection and Social Inclusion 2006-2008, submitted to the EU in September 2006, includes a common text with the UK NSSPI. The common text commits both jurisdictions to prepare a report on North/South social inclusion, equality and reconciliation. It is anticipated that further areas where joint approaches should be developed may be identified as a result of this process. A scheme is being developed to introduce an all-Ireland Free Travel scheme for pensioners resident in both parts of the island.

EU and International Support

PEACE III: Since 1995, the EU has provided funding of €1.4 billion in support of the Northern Ireland Peace Process. The PEACE III programme will provide €225 million to Northern Ireland and the Border Region during the Plan period. This funding will be supplemented by the Irish and UK Governments. PEACE III will focus on reinforcing progress towards a peaceful and stable society and promoting reconciliation.

Ireland/Northern Ireland/Western Scotland Territorial Co-operation: Successor to the EU INTERREG Community Initiative 2000-2006, this cross border programme is expected to provide a total of €193 million of EU funding between 2007-2013. In addition, for the first time, the eligible area will include parts of Western Scotland.

International Fund for Ireland (IFI): the IFI has to date invested €750 million in cross-border programmes and projects to promote reconciliation and economic development. International involvement with and contributions to the IFI will continue to the end of 2010 and will include EU contributions of €15 million per annum.

Summary of Chapter 6 — A Sustainable Environment

The Plan provides for investment of over €25 billion in Programmes which will directly and positively impact on Environmental Sustainability. This will be complemented by the Plan's Regional Development Strategy based on the framework of the National Spatial Strategy, including land use policy that is environmentally sustainable.

A sustainable environment is fundamental to the quality of life. Protection of the environment is integrated in the planning and implementation of all development projects in the NDP and informs its investment strategy and priorities where appropriate.

Climate Change

Climate change is, by a considerable margin, the most pressing international environmental issue that we face. It is fundamental equally to our global environment, to social stability within and between nations, and to sustainable developments more generally. There is no unilateral solution to the challenges it presents. All countries must play their part in stabilising and reducing greenhouse gas emissions to the point where climate change no longer threatens us. And, within countries, all sectors in society must share the burden of the necessary corrective measures. The Government is acutely conscious that, domestically and as part of the European Union, we must play our full part in addressing this vital issue. Investment policy in this

Plan has been fully informed by this policy imperative. More generally, protection of the environment is integral to the NDP investment programmes for:

- Public Transport;
- Environment Services;
- Climate Change;
- Energy;
- Agriculture;
- Tourism and Heritage; and
- Research

The NDP Framework

Incorporating the National Spatial Strategy in the NDP creates an environmentally sustainable framework within which future development pressures and needs can be effectively managed:

- Large scale urban growth will be encouraged within a settlement structure of Gateway cities and Hub towns, supporting balanced regional development.
- This model for compact and sustainable urban development can accommodate the anticipated rapid growth in our population without a serious detrimental impact to the environment.
- It will create conditions necessary to support the delivery and use of public transport options, both within and between urban centres; and facilitate the environmentally efficient delivery at regional level of water, waste management, energy and related services.
- Urban-rural interdependence is implicitly recognised in this development model and parallel but complementary policies for rural development will further conserve environment resources and afford protection to our natural and cultural heritage.

Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) have been adopted by all eight Regional Authorities and provide a statutory framework for the development plans of City and County Councils. Spatial planning is strengthened by the integration of these plans at national, regional and local levels. For example, the RPGs for the Greater Dublin Area have facilitated a greater housing yield within the city in the past five years. Identification of Strategic Development Zones, located on the city's improving rail network, contributed to doubling the housing output in Dublin since 2001.

Impact of NDP Investment on the Environment

Transport: Investment in public transport will benefit the environment by facilitating a modal shift away from private to public transport, with implications for consumption of fossil fuels and emissions reductions.

Investment in road improvement and new roads will reduce congestion, thus improving fuel efficiency of motorised vehicles and curtailing environmentally harmful emissions. Bypassed towns and villages further benefit from reduced emissions and noise pollution.

Investment and support will be provided for increased use of alternative fuels and technologies and eco-driving initiatives, including a range of pilot sustainable transport projects

Energy: The Plan will promote use of renewable energy resources and increased energy efficiency. The 2010 target for the contribution of renewable energy sources to electricity production is set at 15%. In the case of bio-fuels, a target of 5.75% of the transport fuel market to consist of low emission renewable fuels has been set. NDP supports, including those for R&D will advance the deployment of renewable technology options in transport, domestic energy consumption and industrial use.

Environment Services: The NDP will continue to make substantial investment in water and waste-water services and the completion of a national waste management infrastructure. It will also deal with legacy waste issues through remediation of certain closed landfills.

Agriculture: The environment is central to the NDP development and investment plans for agriculture, and measures to address this priority are included in proposed investments in afforestation, agri-environment, compensatory allowances and farm waste management related capital investments. Investment in forestry will help mitigate climate change. Agri-environment measures will protect bio-diversity, building on the success of REPS. Waste management support will mitigate water pollution. Compensatory allowances are essential to sustaining the use of agricultural land and maintaining the countryside. Environment sustainability will also be promoted through agricultural education and training.

Tourism: The NDP Tourism Development Programme will emphasise adherence to the best environmental practices through the promotion of regional and seasonal tourism and in the development of tourism products.

Environment R&D: Environmental research will form part of NDP measures and programmes, including in the energy, transport, agriculture and marine sectors and the provision of environment services. The Plan will support the Environmental Protection Agency’s R&D Programme for environmental protection which informs environment policy in Ireland.

Summary of Chapter 7 — Economic Infrastructure Priority

The level of investment in economic infrastructure proposed in this Plan, at circa €55 billion, reflects the central role of economic infrastructure in stimulating the competitiveness of the Irish economy, sustainable economic growth and employment.

Key Challenge

The demographic context for this infrastructure investment is the significant population increases over the past ten years and a projected population of over 5 million by 2021. Most of the population growth is concentrated in urban areas, placing major additional pressure on the transport system and on the environment. Excellent progress in upgrading our economic infrastructure was made in the NDP 2000-2006 but meeting the challenges of population growth and achievement of quality of life standards will require ongoing major investment in transport, energy, communications and environment services over the next seven years.

Economic Infrastructure Priority

Programme	All figures in € million current prices					
	Exchequer	PPP	Local Auth.	State Bodies	Other	Total
Transport	19,858	7,035	0	2,221	3,800	32,914
Energy	276	0	0	8,250	0	8,526
Environmental Services	4,156	271	1,219	0	125	5,772
Communications and Broadband	435	0	0	0	0	435
Govt. Infrastructure	1,222	191	0	0	0	1,413
Local Authority Development Contributions	0	0	2,100	0	0	2,100
Unallocated Capital Reserve	1,534	1,966	0	0	0	3,500
Economic Infrastructure Total	27,482	9,463	3,319	10,471	3,925	54,660

Highlights of Economic Infrastructure Investment

Transport — Investment: €33 billion

Implementation of the *Transport 21* investment programme over the Plan period will be a central part of the overall Plan strategy. Some 98.3% of internal merchandise is carried by road in Ireland, underlining the need for a world-class roads system, particularly linking major urban centres. Car ownership levels in Ireland remain below the EU average but will continue to increase. The objective of investment in public transport systems, particularly in Dublin, is a switch from cars to public transport, especially for transport to work.

The €33 billion investment will be allocated among the following programmes:

- Roads: A €17.6 billion investment in upgrading and building new national and non-national road infrastructure is anticipated, including toll-based PPP investment of €1.9 billion;
- Public Transport: €13 billion with the objective to switch from car use to public transport, particularly in Dublin. Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) will account for €5.17 billion of this investment;
- Air Transport: €1.8 billion from internal resources in improving facilities at the three State airports, Dublin, Cork and Shannon, which account for 96% of all air traffic. Capital funding of €96.5 million will be made available for the six regional airports and City of Derry airport over the Plan period; and
- Ports: Investment in port improvements is expected to amount to €450 million in the Plan period and will be financed by the port companies themselves. Investment in regional harbours will take place with Exchequer funding already earmarked for remedial works.

The Government proposes to undertake a comprehensive study of the role of Dublin Port, taking account of locational considerations, in the context of overall ports policy on the island of Ireland.

At the launch of *Transport 21* in 2005, the Minister for Transport indicated that feasibility and planning work would be undertaken on the proposed Dublin Outer Orbital Route and the Eastern Bypass. This work is currently being pursued by the NRA.

Energy — Investment: €8.5 billion

The Plan anticipates an €8.5 billion investment in energy, funded in part by the Exchequer and mainly by the Energy State Sponsored Bodies. The Energy Programme will support the policy objectives for security of supply, competitively priced energy in the long-term and environmental sustainability. Investment will be spread over:

- Strategic Energy Infrastructure Sub-Programme (€1.24 billion);
- Sustainable Energy Sub-Programme, (€276 million); and
- State Energy Companies Sub-Programme (€7.01 billion).

Environmental Services — Investment: €5.8 billion

The major emphasis in the previous NDP was to meet statutory and EU performance requirements particularly in water and waste management. Indicative investment for this NDP will be in the following areas:

- Water Services Sub-Programme (€4.7 billion);
- Waste Management Sub-Programme (€753 million); and
- Climate Change Sub-Programme (€270 million).

Water Services Programme: Investment of €4.7 billion. Secondary waste-water treatment for all population centres over 1,000 will be completed in the Plan period.

Waste Management: Recycling has improved from 9% in 1998 to 35% in 2005, and will continue to be a priority. In the move away from landfill, regional waste management plans emphasise thermal treatment with energy recovery. Waste to energy plants will be provided as private sector developments or as PPPs.

Climate Change: Establishment of a Carbon Fund of €270 million, managed by the National Treasury Management Agency, was announced in Budget 2007 and is based on a current estimate of €15 per allowance, and the eventual purchase of 18.035 million allowances between 2007-2013, as part of Ireland's commitment to meeting its Kyoto targets.

Communications and Broadband — Investment: €435 million

By end 2006, it was expected that the number of broadband subscribers in Ireland would be almost 500,000. A total investment of €435 million in the Communications and Broadband programme is envisaged and will be concentrated on the open access Metropolitan Area Networks. Government support will also be channelled to compensate for market failure in the private provision of broadband facilities.

Government Buildings — Investment: €1.4 billion

Investment in Government sites, offices and specialised buildings will total about €1.4 billion over the Plan period, including €580 million for sites and buildings; and €833 million for the decentralisation programme over the first four years of the Plan.

Summary of Chapter 8 — Enterprise, Science and Innovation

The challenge to create value-added high quality jobs and the need for intensive knowledge based R&D to sustain our economic performance into the future is reflected in the commitment of a €20 billion investment in enterprise, science and innovation programmes in this NDP. To boost our R&D, the number of PhD graduates will double during the Plan period. R&D capacity is also essential to reinvigorating Ireland's attractiveness for Foreign Direct Investment. The aim is that publicly funded research under this Plan will be taken forward to commercialisation and the intellectual property created will be maximised.

Enterprise, Science and Innovation Priority

Programme	All figures in € million current prices					
	Exchequer	PPP	Local Auth.	State Bodies	Other	Total
Science, Technology & Innovation	5,922	0	0	97	93	6,112
Enterprise Development	2,577	0	0	746	0	3,323
Tourism	620	180	0	0	0	800
Agriculture & Food Development	8,028	0	0	0	0	8,028
Rural Social & Economic Development	844	0	0	0	0	844
Gaeltacht & Islands Development	404	0	0	53	0	457
Marine and Coastal Communities	442	0	0	0	0	442
Enterprise, Science & Innovation Total	18,838	180	0	896	93	20,066

Highlights of Enterprise, Science and Innovation Investment

STI — Investment : €6.1 billion

The indicative State investment of €6.1 billion in STI will aim to bring Ireland into line with R&D performance in leading countries and will be spread across a number of programme areas:

• World Class Research STI	€3,462 million
• Enterprise STI	€1,292 million
• Agri-Food Research	€641 million
• Energy Research	€149 million
• Marine Research	€141 million
• Geoscience	€33 million
• Health research	€301 million
• Environment Research	€93 million

Substantial expenditure in R&D is also embedded in the allocations for Higher Education and the IDA. Taking account of these amounts, the NDP will invest some €8.2 billion in STI.

Enterprise Development — Investment: €3.3 billion

Indigenous Enterprise: Enterprise Ireland, supported at regional level by the County Enterprise Boards, will be responsible for investment of €1,691 million in indigenous Irish enterprises over the Plan period. Investment will focus on high-potential start up companies; increasing competitiveness and productivity of existing companies; developing world-class management standards, including marketing and services, equity and loan access and support for micro-enterprises.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI): Investment of €1,632 million in financial products, including capital, employment, R&D and innovation grants and in client services is envisaged. A key priority is the attraction of new high quality FDI that is in keeping with the competitive characteristics of the Irish economy.

Tourism — Investment: €800 million

Under the Plan, €335 million will be allocated to international marketing of Ireland as a tourist destination; €317 million for product development and infrastructure and €149 million for training and human resources. Targets to double overseas tourism revenue to €6 billion and to increase annual tourist numbers to 10 million by 2012 have already been set under the detailed strategic policy framework for the development of tourism in the “New Horizons” Report of the Tourism Policy Review Group.

Agriculture and Food Development — Investment: €8 billion

The Agri-Vision 2015 report sets out the strategy for creation of a competitive, consumer-focused agri-food sector, as reflected in the NDP investment programmes. The €8 billion investment comprises:

- Agriculture and Food Competitiveness: €1.7 billion to address structural weakness including to create opportunities for new young farmers to enter the industry;
- Enhancing the Countryside: €6 billion to support farming communities in disadvantaged areas, REPs, animal welfare and breeding, organic farming and afforestation. This programme attracts EU co-funding; and
- Investment in the food industry (capital infrastructure and marketing) of €289 million.

Rural Social and Economic Development — Investment: €844 million

Rural Social Schemes: Providing €214 million in income support to farmers and fishermen, and delivered by the LEADER companies and in the Gaeltacht areas by Údarás na Gaeltachta

CLÁR: Investing €141 million in rural regeneration schemes and infrastructure

Western Investment Fund: Investing €28 million in enterprise growth through the Western Development Commission

LEADER Programme: This programme (which will attract EU co-funding) will invest €461 million in rural enterprise, the Rural Development Fund, local infrastructure and services, village and town projects, conservation of natural heritage, training and farm relief services.

Rural Recreation: Following on from the recent Comhairle na Tuaithe report, countryside recreation will be developed, including the development of quality rural tourism products, through the LEADER groups, the Rural Social Scheme and the Community Services Programme.

Gaeltacht and Island Development — Investment: €457 million

Gaeltacht Programme: €98 million will be provided for capital investment in the Gaeltacht areas, mainly through the Gaeltacht Improvement Schemes which support infrastructural development and promote linguistic and cultural activities.

Údarás na Gaeltachta: €233 million will be invested by the authority in enterprise and related infrastructure.

Islands: €126 million will be invested in our offshore island communities to facilitate programmes of pier construction (including major improvements to the piers and harbours of the 3 Aran Islands), tourism facilities, ferry and air services and the promotion of small enterprises, renewable energy and social, health and educational facilities on the islands.

Marine and Coastal Communities — Investment: €442 million

Ireland's seafood industry is worth €700 million annually and employs 12,000 people. During the period of the last NDP, fishing communities have faced particular structural challenges through the requirement to conserve stocks arising from the Common Fisheries and related policies. Investment under this Plan will aim to realise the potential of this highly valuable natural resource so that the seafood industry and its suppliers can take full advantage of favourable market opportunities for quality seafood products.

€216 million will be invested in seafood development, a further €203 million in fisheries and coastal infrastructure and €23 million in coastal protection.

Summary of Chapter 9 — Human Capital

Investment under the Human Capital Priority is indicatively estimated at €25.8 billion. Investment in education, training and upskilling is broadly termed as human capital. Ireland has an excellent track record in this area which has been fundamental to our economic success. In the past, Ireland proved adept at harnessing European Social Funds. Human capital funding in this Plan will be derived from our own resources. There is a strong linkage between the availability and quality of human capital and regional competitiveness. The objective remains that of ensuring access to the highest possible standards of education for all and to meet the labour skills requirement of the future. This Priority will also fund the cost of the key third level sector over the period including infrastructure and resources to promote structural reform.

Human Capital Priority

Programme	All figures in € million current prices					
	Exchequer	PPP	Local Auth.	State Bodies	NTF*	Total
Training & Skills Development	4,785	0	0	104	2,829	7,718
Schools Modernisation & Development	4,521	540	0	0	0	5,061
Higher Education	12,422	595	0	0	0	13,017
Human Capital Total	21,727	1,135	0	104	2,829	25,796

*National Training Fund

Highlights of Human Capital Investment

Training and Skills Development Programme — Investment: €7.7 billion

- Some €2.8 billion will be invested in training for people in employment, new skills for those affected by industrial restructuring, expansion and enlargement of the apprenticeship system and school leavers.
- Almost €4.9 billion will be provided for employment and training services to promote opportunities for a wide range of groups — the unemployed, people with disabilities, lone parents, Travellers, ex-offenders and women. Incentives will be created for older workers who wish to remain within the workforce after age 65 and the scope for increasing the number of part-time workers will be explored.
- Migrants are making a very significant contribution to the economy and the challenge will be to ensure that the labour force migration policy continues to be one which makes a positive contribution. There is a new framework for this area through the enactment of the Employment Permits Act that provides a framework within which there is the flexibility to adapt and use different migration policy instruments to respond to changes in both the economy and the labour market as they arise.

Schools Modernisation and Development — Investment: €5 billion

- Over €5 billion, of which €540 million will be PPPs, will be invested in first and second level school infrastructure during the Plan period. It is expected that, at primary level, the school population will increase by 100,000 over the next seven years and a key priority will be the provision of new schools in rapidly developing areas
- The Plan provides for a €318 million investment in curriculum reform and professional development of teachers
- €252 million will be invested in ICT for schools

Higher Education — Investment: €13 billion

The rate of third level participation has now grown to 55% and is expected to significantly increase in the years ahead. The success and strength of the higher education system will make a vital contribution to Ireland's future economic growth and competitiveness. State investment in third level infrastructure will amount to almost €1.4 billion coupled with an additional €595 million in PPP investment over the life of the Plan.

Current expenditure for the Higher Education Sector, including pay, will amount to €10.5 billion over the life of the Plan, of which €1.5 billion will complement existing commitments under the STI initiative.

The Strategic Innovation Fund, announced in the 2006 Budget will invest €510 million in innovation and restructuring of third level over the period of the Plan. The impact of the Fund will be reviewed in 2010 and the remaining investment of €225 million for the period 2011-2013 will depend on the outcome of the review.

Summary of Chapter 10 — Social Infrastructure Priority

Programme	All figures in current prices € million					
	Exchequer	PPP	Local Auth.	State Bodies	Other	Total
Housing	15,455	255	858	4,507	140	21,214
Health Infrastructure	4,555	415	0	0	0	4,970
Justice	1,551	795	0	0	0	2,346
Sports, Culture, Heritage & Community Infrastructure	3,312	288	31	0	0	3,631
Unallocated Capital Reserve	636	814	0	0	0	1,450
Social Infrastructure Total	25,509	2,567	889	4,507	140	33,612

Social infrastructure helps to counter social exclusion and the marginalisation of individuals and groups within our society. As well as investing in economic development and infrastructure, this NDP is equally committed to the principle of fair and equitable distribution of the fruits of economic success among all sections of our community, as reflected in the proposed €33.6 billion investment in social infrastructure and services over the period of the Plan.

This targeted investment will provide:

- For the housing needs of some 140,000 new households
- Upgraded and new hospital infrastructure, including non-acute hospitals;
- Expansion of primary, community and continuing care facilities, particularly for older people;
- A modernised prison infrastructure;
- Enhanced courts infrastructure;
- New Garda infrastructure and supports; and
- New facilities for sport, culture and community activities as well as protecting our natural, architectural and archaeological heritage.

Highlights of Social Infrastructure Investment

Housing — Investment: €21.2 billion

Demand for housing in all regions will be driven by population growth, expected to rise by 30% in the life of this Plan and to in excess of five million by 2020. The market alone cannot address the housing needs of all sections of the population.

Social Housing: Some €17 billion (including a provision for rent supplement) will be invested in social housing, with the aim of delivering a greater quantity of social housing options and improving the overall quality of the tenure. This will involve increasing the level of provision and delivering high quality development in mixed community settings to ensure that developments do not contribute to, or reinforce, social segregation. Some 27,000 new homes for people in need of social housing will be commenced or acquired over the period 2007-2009 and it is estimated that over 60,000 new social units will be provided over the full period of the Plan.

Affordable Housing: The Affordable Homes Partnership, established in 2005 for the Greater Dublin Area, will build on its growing experience to assist in the rollout nationally of certain initiatives. Investment of €4 billion under the Plan will provide support for people seeking accommodation in the owner occupied sector through the provision of affordable housing. It will also assist in the upgrading of the physical conditions of certain categories of private housing with particular emphasis on those who are most in need including

people with disabilities and older people. Some 17,000 new affordable units will be delivered over the period 2007-2009. The financial framework reflected in the Plan will allow for broadly similar levels of output beyond 2009, resulting in some 40,000 households benefiting from affordable housing over the period of the Plan.

Progress in delivering both social and affordable housing will be reviewed following the first three years of activity under the Plan and will feed into the overall 2010 mid-term review. This will inform the proposed delivery under the multi-annual local authority housing action plans, taking account of housing needs, market developments and capacity.

Provision is also included for Exchequer funded private rental assistance under the new Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) and the Rent Supplements under the Supplementary Welfare Allowances Scheme.

Health Infrastructure — Investment: €5 billion

The capital investment of €5 billion under this Plan will be directed to providing the best possible service in terms of effectiveness, safety and quality of care.

Acute Hospitals: €2.4 billion investment in hospital infrastructure, including A&E units; acute hospital bed capacity; infection control standards of care and efficiency; location of private hospital facilities on public hospital sites to free up to 1,000 additional public hospital beds and maximise the potential use of public hospital sites. Major projects will also include the new National Children's Hospital in Dublin.

Primary, Community and Continuing Care: €2.1 billion will be invested in capital infrastructure in this area. The creation of 500 primary care teams by 2011 and extension of community care services to enable older people to live independently in their own homes for as long as possible will also be priorities.

Information and Communications: Capital funding of €490 million is being provided for ICT development in the health sector.

Justice — Investment: €2.3 billion

The €2.3 billion capital programme for Justice includes the development of the new prison complex at Thornton in north County Dublin, and the provision of a new complex in Munster to replace existing facilities will be progressed.

The new criminal courts complex at the Four Courts in Dublin will be developed as a PPP. Under the Plan, provision is made for refurbishment of Garda stations and construction of new facilities as well as a new Forensic State Laboratory.

Sports, Culture, Heritage and Community Infrastructure — Investment: €3.6 billion

Sports: €991 million is being invested in sports infrastructure over the Plan period. Key developments will include a campus of sports facilities at Abbotstown; investment of €191 million in the new stadium at Lansdowne Road; regional sport and recreational facilities and a new Local Authority Swimming Pool Programme in 2007; and support for the horse and greyhound industries.

Culture: Ireland's cultural infrastructure will receive investment totaling €1.13 billion under the Plan. The facilities of our National Cultural Institutions to display national collections will be enhanced. Funding will also be made available for a new National Concert Hall, National Theatre and facilities for safeguarding and conservation of national collections. A new ACCESS Programme will aid arts and culture facilities throughout the country. Attention will also be focused on the NSS Gateways. Proactive exhibitions and outreach programmes and enhanced cooperation with Northern Ireland will be facilitated as will the commencement of a digitisation programme for the national collections.

Irish Language: A 20-year strategy to support the Irish language will be developed.

Built Heritage: An investment of €373 million will be provided to protect our architectural and archaeological heritage under the current system of grant aid for projects. Work will continue on the Archaeological Survey of Ireland and the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage. A programme of capital works will be undertaken on heritage properties throughout the country which will benefit local communities by supporting tourism, enhancing quality of life and promoting more balanced regional development.

Natural Heritage: €167 million will be expended on national parks over the Plan period, including acquisitions for the national parks and nature reserves, purchase of designated raised bog and their restoration; visitor facilities for national parks and nature reserves.

Waterways: €75 million will be invested on our waterways including projects with an all-island dimension.

Community Infrastructure: An investment of €895 million in community infrastructure will focus on urban and village renewal projects, such as streetscapes, public buildings, squares and green spaces in all our cities and towns. A programme of infrastructure improvement to public libraries is also included.

Summary of Chapter 11 — Social Inclusion

Over the Plan period, investment of about €50 billion, all funded by the Exchequer, will address issues of social exclusion. The social programme in this Priority complements the infrastructure improvements under the Social Infrastructure Priority to address social exclusion of defined groups within our society. Implementation of these social inclusion measures requires actions to be taken at both national and local level and to be focused on the most disadvantaged areas.

The past decade has seen the introduction of the minimum wage, reform of the tax system and flexibility in social welfare provision to support people into employment. Economic success has also produced the resources needed to significantly tackle social problems. The Government in 2002 set a target to reduce the numbers of those who are consistently poor to 2% and, if possible, to eliminate consistent poverty as then defined. A major discontinuity between the Living in Ireland Survey 2001, previously used for monitoring progress, and the introduction of the EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) in 2003 means that it is not possible to compare trends in consistent poverty in that period. However, the low levels of unemployment and the substantial resources devoted to Social Welfare and other social services strongly support the view that the downward trend continued since 1997.

The national social partnership agreement, *Towards 2016*, proposes a 'lifecycle' approach to tackling poverty and social exclusion across key lifecycle stages: children, people of working age, older people and people with disabilities. The investment programmes set out in the Social Inclusion Chapter are based on the lifecycle approach and include local community development initiatives.

Social Inclusion Priority

Programme	All figures in € million current prices					
	Exchequer	PPP	Local Auth.	State Bodies	Other	Total
Children Programme	12,290	0	0	0	0	12,290
Working Age — Education	4,201	0	0	0	0	4,201
Working Age — Social & Econ. Particip.	1,160	0	0	0	0	1,160
Working age — Justice	300	0	0	0	0	300
Older People	9,725	0	0	0	0	9,725
People with Disabilities	19,250	0	0	0	0	19,250
Local & Community Dev.	1,862	0	0	0	0	1,862
Horizontal Prog.	848	0	0	0	0	848
Social Inclusion Total	49,636	0	0	0	0	49,636

Investment will be directed to:

- Creation of an additional 50,000 childcare places;
- Protection and care of children at risk;
- Support for recreational facilities for children;
- Helping children with special needs reach their full potential;
- Equity of access to higher education;
- Reintegration and rehabilitation of prisoners and offenders;
- Assistance to older persons to live independently in their own homes and communities for as long as possible and provision of quality residential care for older persons who are no longer able to live at home;
- Quality services and opportunities for people with disabilities;
- Assistance to disadvantaged communities; and
- Development of a more inclusive, multicultural society in Ireland

Highlights of Social Inclusion Investment

Children Programme — Investment: €12.3 billion

National Childcare: €1,336 million will be invested to create 50,000 new childcare places by 2010, of which 22,000 will be in the private sector and 28,000 in the community and voluntary sector. The level of future provision will be considered in the context of the mid-term review of the Plan. Projects funded will address gaps in childcare services for pre-school and school age children.

National Children's Strategy: €60 million will be invested to further support implementation of this policy.

Child Welfare and Protection: €3.4 billion to support accelerated implementation of the Children Act, 2001 and related health, education and justice priorities.

Equality of Opportunity and Early Education: Some €360 million will support the DEIS action plan to address the educational needs of children and young people from disadvantaged communities from pre-school to completion of upper second-level education (3-18 yrs). The Centre for Early Childhood Development and Education will develop and coordinate early childhood education. This DEIS provision is in addition to existing annual educational disadvantage funding for primary and post primary of some €140m. It is also additional to some €40m per annum included for primary and post primary education for Travellers which is provided for in the separate Traveller Education Sub-Programme.

Special Needs: Some €5.4 billion will support services for persons with special educational needs to create an environment where every child with special needs has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Traveller Education: Some €510 million to continue programmes and improve outcomes for Travellers on training and education courses.

Youthreach: €574 million to continue programmes for training and education for young persons alienated from the formal education system.

Youth Justice: €224 million to strengthen youth justice implementation in policy initiatives informed by the Children Act, 2001. The number of Youth Diversion Projects will be increased to in the region of 130 nationally.

Youth Sector: Some €424 million will be available for a range of programmes including the continued rollout of the Youth Work Act 2001, Youth Work Sector grant schemes and equality, cultural, social and citizenship initiatives across all multi-ethnic lines.

Working Age — Education — Investment: €4.2 billion

The Working Age Education Programme will comprise a Further Education Sub-Programme (€2.2 billion) and Student Support and Third Level Access Sub-Programme (€2 billion). The Further Education Sub-Programme aims to meet the needs of early school leavers; provide second chance education for adults in various settings and contexts and provide vocational preparation and training for adult labour market entrants and re-entrants. The third level access programme will provide direct financial assistance through the Student Support, Student Assistance and the Millennium Partnership Funds.

Working Age — Social and Economic Participation — Investment: €1.2 billion

In line with the commitments agreed in *Towards 2016*, investment in this area will be channelled through an Activation Programme (€50 million) directed at all persons of working age through the Department of Social and Family Affairs; €591 million for Back to Work programmes; and €519 million for Back to Education schemes.

Working Age — Justice — Investment: €300 million

The programme is aimed at rehabilitation of offenders through an integrated sentence management programme while in custody, and reintegration into the mainstream of a normal life on release from prison.

Older People — Investment: €9.7 billion

Over the Plan period major investment will be directed towards the development of living at home programmes (€4.7 billion) and improvements in residential care (€5 billion) for older people. Living at home, home-care packages will deliver a wide range of services based on existing pilot schemes, including nursing services, home care attendants, home helps and therapists, including physiotherapists and occupational therapists. Respite/day care services will be extended to evenings and weekends. When it is no longer possible for an older person to live at home in dignity and independence they may need to be cared for in a long-stay residential centre. Priorities in this regard involve provision of high standard, quality residential care on an equitable basis.

People with Disabilities — Investment: €19.2 billion

The NDP will support the continuing roll-out of the National Disability Strategy, launched in September 2004, and complementary legislation enacted since that date, to an investment value of €18.8 billion. In addition, €260 million will be invested in education support for students with a disability over the Plan period and €164 million will be invested in the Disability Friendly Environment Programme.

Local & Community Development — Investment: €1.9 billion

This programme will set in place measures to support increasingly diverse communities, especially those subject to disadvantage. Investment will be concentrated in five main areas:

- Community Development and Services (€861 million);
- RAPID (€67 million);
- Local Development Social Inclusion (€417 million);
- Volunteers and Volunteering Supports (€197 million); and
- National Drugs Strategy (€319 million);

Horizontal Social Inclusion — Investment: €848 million

Equality of opportunity, social inclusion and respect for diversity are fundamental to the successful development of a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural society. Investment in the promotion of these principles in this NDP will be spread across the following programme areas:

- Immigrant Integration (€36 million);
- Language Support, including the appointment of 550 language-support teachers by 2009 (€637 million);
- National Action Plan against Racism and the Programme for Social and Economic Advancement of Members of the Traveller Community (€27 million); and
- Equality, building on measures supported in the previous NDP, to combat gender inequality in Ireland (€148 million).

Summary of Chapter 12 — Value for Money

The bulk of capital projects are now delivered on or below budget and, in certain instances, ahead of schedule. Assessment and management of Value for Money for all expenditure under this Plan will build on this recent experience.

Achieving Value for Money — General Framework

All NDP projects will be subject to Department of Finance Guidelines to ensure Value for Money criteria are strictly observed.

Key elements of the Value for Money Framework include:

- Project appraisal to ensure NDP programme objectives and Value for Money are being achieved;
- Full cost benefit analysis of all capital projects over €30 million;
- Project manager appointed to monitor progress on all major projects;
- Regular progress reports to the Management Committees of Departments and Agencies;
- Annual project spot checks by Departments and Agencies to ensure Value for Money compliance, with reports submitted to the Department of Finance;
- Annual Output Statements, detailing targets and outputs achieved, incorporated in Annual Department Estimates presentations to Oireachtas Committees; and
- A comprehensive mid-term evaluation of the full Plan will be undertaken in 2010.

Role of Central Expenditure Evaluation Unit

The recently established Department of Finance Central Expenditure Evaluation Unit will have specific responsibility for:

- Oversight of implementation of the Value for Money Framework;
- Coordination of monitoring of Departmental Value for Money Policy Reviews; and
- NDP Programme evaluation, including Mid-Term Review of the NDP.

Construction Procurement

A suite of new public works contracts and new standardised conditions of engagement for construction consultants, including fixed fees, are designed to deliver greater cost certainty, better value for money and more cost effective delivery of NDP projects.

Public Private Partnerships & National Development Finance Agency (NDFA)

PPPs will be considered for appropriate projects of the right scale, risk and operational profile. The new Centre of Expertise within the NDFA will generally be responsible for the procurement to delivery stage of PPP projects funded by unitary payments from Departmental/Agency Votes, other than those to be procured by the specialised agencies in the transport area or local authorities. In addition, the NDFA provides financial and risk advice to State Authorities on all large public investment projects, including PPPs.

Planning Approvals

The Strategic Infrastructure Act 2006 provides for the establishment of a Strategic Infrastructure Division within An Bord Pleanála, which will be the sole planning consent vehicle for all major infrastructure development.

Summary of Chapter 13 — Monitoring and Implementation

Role of Department of Finance/Central Monitoring Committee

Delivery of NDP Projects and Programmes will in general be the responsibility of the relevant Departments and Implementing Agencies. However, overall co-ordination of monitoring and implementation of the NDP will be the responsibility of the Sectoral Policy Division of the Department of Finance.

A Central Monitoring Committee will be established. The Monitoring Committee members will include representatives from Government Departments and public bodies involved in the implementation of NDP programmes. The Committee will also include representatives from the two Regional Assemblies, the eight Regional Authorities and the four Social Partner pillars. Either a relevant Government Department or appropriate statutory body will supply a representative for equal opportunity and for environmental interests. The Department of Finance Central Expenditure Evaluation Unit will have observer status and other bodies will be invited to attend the Monitoring Committee as necessary.

The Monitoring Committee will meet twice yearly, with the initial meeting scheduled for the second half of 2007. A detailed reporting template for consideration of the Monitoring Committee of NDP progress will be drafted with a particular focus on financial inputs, physical outputs and longer term impacts.

Key functions of the Monitoring Committee will also include monitoring the impact of the NDP investments on regional development including:

- The impact of projects and programmes, above a specified threshold, in the eight Regional Authority areas;
- The projected impact of projects and programmes, planned and underway; and
- Socio-economic indicators for each Regional Authority area.

Annual Report/Oireachtas Scrutiny

Implementation of the NDP will be reviewed regularly by relevant Cabinet Committees and their corresponding support structures. An Annual Report on Plan Implementation, co-ordinated by the Department of Finance, will be submitted to Government and laid before the Oireachtas where it shall be subject to debate.

A comprehensive and efficient monitoring and reporting process, streamlined across national strategies including the NDP, *Towards 2016* and the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion will be put in place. This will involve an annual social inclusion report prepared by the Office for Social Inclusion.

Summary of Chapter 14 — Achievements under the National Development Plan (NDP)/Community Support Framework (CSF) 2000-2006

The National Development Plan/Community Support Framework 2000-2006 provided for investment of some €57 billion of Public, Private and EU funds over the programme period, which under EU Rules continues to 2008. It has involved significant investment in infrastructure — such as roads, public transport, water and waste services — in health services, social housing, education, industry and rural development.

Available expenditure information indicates that of the €57 billion target, €54 billion had been spent by end 2006. The information also indicates that the overall outturn is expected to be close to the original forecast by the end of the programming period. At programme level, some over performance and under performance of expenditure will take place within and between the Operational Programmes that support the NDP. The final Exchequer commitment is expected to be well ahead of the original target and this will cover a lower than expected take-up from the private sector.

Under the key Economic and Social Infrastructure Operational Programme, Exchequer expenditure will be some €5.5 billion ahead of target at end 2006. The Exchequer has invested over €10.2 billion in the transport area (roads and public transport) under the NDP/CSF 2000-2006.

Specific Achievements

The following are some of the key features from the investment to date under the NDP/CSF 2000-2006 which have made a real difference to the economic welfare and quality of life of citizens.

Transport

- Over €11.5 billion has been invested by end 2006 in Roads and Public Transport which includes €10.2 billion of Exchequer investment;
- Approximately 526 kilometres of new roads including 173 kilometres of motorway from a base of almost zero, 137 kilometres of dual carriageway and 215 kilometres of high quality single carriageway;
- Major projects completed to date include the completion of the Dublin Port Tunnel, M1 from Dublin to Dundalk, M7 Monasterevin Bypass, M4 Kinnegad/Enfield, N4 Sligo Inner Relief Road, N11 Glen of the Downs, M50 South Eastern Motorway, the second M50 Bridge, the M7 Kildare Bypass, N8 Watergrasshill Bypass, N11 Ashford/Rathnew Bypass, the N2 Carrickmacross Bypass, the N26 Ballina/Bohola road, the N5 Strokestown/Longford road, the N4 Boyle/Carrick-on-Shannon road, the N15 Ballyshannon/Bundoran and the N4 Edgeworthstown Bypass;

- Under public transport, major projects have included:
 - The Luas light rail in Dublin which has carried more than 50 million passengers since it commenced operation;
 - The doubling of peak capacity on the DART line; and
 - Major investment in making the National Rail Network safe complemented by significant investment in new railway stock leading to an overall improvement in service and capacity.

Non National Roads

- Spend of €3.1 billion has led to the improvement/restoration of over 51,000 kilometres of non national roads.

Housing

- Over €10.4 billion has been invested in the Housing area since 2000 and this has delivered an additional 31,000 Local Authority Housing units and around 9,000 Voluntary and 12,400 Affordable Housing Units.

Water and Waste-Water Infrastructure

- Over €3.2 billion has been invested in environmental infrastructure projects including the completion of 334 water service projects comprising waste-water, water supply and infrastructure management and rehabilitation. This includes major projects in Dublin, Cork and Limerick. Apart from the significant environmental benefits, this has facilitated massive residential (over 430,000 new houses built since 2000) and commercial development.

Rural Water

- Total national spend of over €500 million upgrading the water supply for some 537,000 people in rural households.

Research and Development

- An investment of over €1.7 billion in Research, Development and Innovation with a particular focus on Industry R&D.

Childcare

- The NDP 2000-2006 has invested €320 million creating over 31,000 extra childcare places and establishing or upgrading nearly 1,900 childcare facilities to date.

Health

- NDP 2000-2006 provided in the region of €3.3 billion for new, improved or expanded services which included the provision of over 1,300 inpatient and day treatment places; major projects completed in the acute hospital sector; major projects completed for the non-acute sector; additional places and improvements for people with intellectual disability and autism, people with physical and sensory disability and for older people; a major reduction in in-patient stays in mental hospitals which is

accompanied with the provision of additional acute units in general hospitals; and the development of 13 third level educational centres nationally to underpin the new nursing degree programme.

Review of NDP/CSF

The ESRI carried out a mid-term evaluation of the NDP/CSF 2000-2006. The key findings were that the *“NDP has made significant progress towards its objectives of continuing sustainable national economic and employment growth and of consolidating and improving Ireland’s economic competitiveness”* and that the NDP *“will have a sustainable positive effect on competitiveness and the productive capacity of the economy in the long-term.* The ESRI, in its ex-ante assessment of investment priorities for NDP 2007-2013, concluded that *“The current NDP has greatly enhanced the economic and social infrastructure of the State with major benefits to economic development throughout all regions”*.

APPENDIX 1

NDP 2007-2013 — Investment by Priority, Programme and Sub-Programme

Table 1 — Priority and Programme Level

	2007-2013 Total
	€m (Current Prices)
Programmes under the Economic Infrastructure Priority	
Transport	32,914
Energy	8,526
Environmental Services	5,772
Communications and Broadband	435
Govt. Infrastructure Programme	1,413
Development Contributions*	2,100
Unallocated capital reserve**	3,500
Total for the Economic Infrastructure Priority	54,660
Programmes under the Enterprise, Science and Innovation Priority	
Science, Technology & Innovation	6,112
Enterprise Development	3,323
Tourism Development	800
Agriculture & Food	8,028
Rural Social & Economic Development	844
Gaeltacht & Islands Development	457
Marine and Coastal Communities	442
Total for the Enterprise, Science and Innovation Priority	20,006
Programmes under the Human Capital Priority	
Training & Skills Development	7,718
Schools Modernisation and Development	5,061
Higher Education	13,017
Total for the Human Capital Priority	25,796
Programmes under the Social Infrastructure Priority	
Housing	21,214
Health infrastructure	4,970
Justice	2,346
Sports, Culture, Heritage and Community Infrastructure	3,631
Unallocated capital reserve	1,450
Total for Social Infrastructure Priority	33,612
Programmes under the Social Inclusion Priority	
Children Programme	12,290
Working Age — Education	4,201
Working Age — Social & Economic Participation	1,160
Working Age — Justice	300
Older People	9,725
People with Disabilities	19,250
Local & Community Development	1,862
Horizontal Programme	848
Total for the Social Inclusion Priority	49,636
Total for NDP 2007-2013	183,709

*Contributions levied under Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 which will mostly be invested in this Priority.

**Gateways Innovation Fund (€300 million) to be funded from Exchequer element of this.

Table 2 — Sub-Programmes under the Economic Infrastructure Priority

Programme	Sub-Programmes	2007-2013 Total
		€m (Current Prices)
Transport	Roads Public Transport Airports Ports	17,615 12,951 1,868 481
Total		32,914
Energy	Strategic Energy Sustainable Energy State Energy Companies	1,240 276 7,010
Total		8,526
Environmental Services	Water Services Waste Management Climate Change	4,748 753 270
Total		5,772
Communications and Broadband	Broadband	435
Total		435
Government Infrastructure	Decentralisation Government Sites & Buildings	833 580
Total		1,413
Development Contributions*		2,100
Unallocated Reserve**		3,500
Economic Infrastructure Priority Total		54,660

*Contributions levied under Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 which will mostly be invested in this Priority.

**Gateways Innovation Fund (€300 million) to be funded from Exchequer element of this.

Table 3 — Sub-Programmes under the Enterprise, Science and Innovation Priority

Programme	Sub-Programmes	2007-2013 Total
Science, Technology & Innovation*	World Class Research STI	3,462
	Enterprise STI	1,292
	Agri-Food Research	641
	Energy Research	149
	Marine Research	141
	Geoscience	33
	Health Research	301
	Environment Research	93
Total		6,112
Enterprise Development	Indigenous Industry	1,691
	Foreign Direct Investment	1,632
Total		3,323
Tourism Development	International Marketing	335
	Product and Infrastructure Development	317
	Training and Human Resources	149
Total		800
Agriculture & Food	Competitiveness of Agriculture & Food	1,711
	Enhancement of Environment and Countryside	6,028
	Food Industry	289
Total		8,028
Rural Social and Economic Development	Rural Social Schemes	214
	Clár	141
	Western Investment Fund	28
	Leader/Rural Economy	461
Total		844
Gaeltacht & Islands Development	Gaeltacht	98
	Udaras na Gaeltachta	233
	Islands	126
Total		457
Marine and Coastal Communities	Seafood Development	216
	Fisheries and Coastal Infrastructure	203
	Coastal Protection	23
Total		442
Enterprise, Science & Innovation Priority Total		20,006

*Some €1.5 billion of the SSTI investment is included under the Higher Education programme of the Human Capital Priority

Table 4 — Sub-Programmes under the Human Capital Priority

Programme	Sub-Programmes	2007-2013 Total
Training & Skills Development	Improving Workforce Adaptability	€m (Current Prices) 2,829
	Activation and Participation of Groups outside the Workforce	4,890
Total		7,718
Schools Modernisation and Development	Schools Infrastructure	4,490
	Schools Development	318
	ICT in Schools	252
Total		5,061
Higher Education	Higher Education Infrastructure	1,975
	Higher Education Development*	10,531
	Strategic Innovation Fund	510
Total		13,017
Human Capital Priority Total		25,796

*Includes some €1.5 billion in respect of SSTI

Table 5 — Sub-Programmes under the Social Infrastructure Priority

Programme	Sub-Programmes	2007-2013 Total
Housing	Social Housing Provision and Renewal	€m (Current Prices) 17,057
	Affordable Housing and Targeted Private Housing	4,157
Total		21,214
Health Infrastructure	Acute Hospital Care	2,413
	Primary, Community and Continuing Care	2,068
	Health Information and Communications	490
Total		4,970
Justice	Justice Infrastructure	2,346
Total		2,346
Sports, Culture, Heritage and Community Infrastructure	Sports	991
	Culture	1,130
	Built Heritage	373
	Natural Heritage	167
	Waterways	75
	Community Infrastructure	895
Total		3,631
Unallocated capital reserve		1,450
Social Infrastructure Priority Total		33,612

Table 6 — Sub-Programmes under the Social Inclusion Priority

Programme	Sub-Programmes	2007-2013 Total
		€m (Current Prices)
Children Programme	National Childcare Investment National Children's Strategy Child Welfare and Protection DEIS and Early Education Special Needs Traveller Education Youthreach Youth Justice Youth Sector	1,336 60 3,444 361 5,356 511 574 224 424
Total		12,290
Working Age — Education	Further Education Student Support	2,225 1,977
Total		4,201
Working Age — Social & Economic Participation	Activation Back to Work Back to Education	50 591 519
Total		1,160
Working age — Justice		300
Total		300
Older People	Living at Home Residential Care	4,722 5,003
Total		9,725
People with Disabilities	Health Services Disabilities Education Disabilities Support Disability Friendly Environment	18,826 260 164
Total		19,250
Local & Community Development	Community Development and Services RAPID Local Development Social Inclusion Volunteers and Volunteering National Drugs Strategy	861 67 417 197 319
Total		1,862
Horizontal Programme	Immigrants Integration Language Support Traveller Programme and National Action Plan against Racism Equality	36 637 27 148
Total		848
Social Inclusion Priority Total		49,636

APPENDIX 2 — Multi-Annual Capital Investment Framework 2007 to 2013

	2007 € Million			2008 € Million			2009 € Million			2010 € Million			2011 € Million			2012 € Million			2013 € Million			Total € Million 2007 – 2013
	Direct Exchequer Capital Funding	PPP/NDFA Capital Investment	Total Capital Investment	Direct Exchequer Capital Funding	PPP/NDFA Capital Investment	Total Capital Investment	Direct Exchequer Capital Funding	PPP/NDFA Capital Investment	Total Capital Investment	Direct Exchequer Capital Funding	PPP/NDFA Capital Investment	Total Capital Investment	Direct Exchequer Capital Funding	PPP/NDFA Capital Investment	Total Capital Investment	Direct Exchequer Capital Funding	PPP/NDFA Capital Investment	Total Capital Investment	Direct Exchequer Capital Funding	PPP/NDFA Capital Investment	Total Capital Investment	
Ministerial Vote Group																						
Agriculture and Food	279		279	296		296	336		336	280		280	300		300	320		320	340		340	2,151
Arts Sport & Tourism	283	53	336	285	120	385	205	195	400	200	75	275	195	25	220	200		200	201		201	2,017
Communications, Marine & Natural Resources	173		173	198		198	214		214	211		211	216		216	225		225	240		240	1,476
Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs	149		149	165		165	190		190	178		178	177		177	177		177	178		178	1,214
Defence	30		30	35		35	40		40	45		45	50		50	50		50	55		55	306
Education	703	40	743	715	195	910	915	180	1,095	930	160	1,090	950	175	1,125	990	185	1,175	1,025	200	1,225	7,363
Enterprise, Trade & Employment	470		470	500	20	520	555	20	575	560	20	600	615		615	645		645	675		675	4,100
Environment & Local Government	2,023	25	2,048	2,120	30	2,150	2,320	40	2,360	2,365	40	2,405	2,475	40	2,515	2,635	40	2,675	2,805	40	2,845	16,998
Kyoto Protocol (Purchase of carbon credits)*				45		45	45		45	45		45	45		45	45		45	45		45	270
Finance [Less OPW]	22		22	20		20	20		20	20		20	25		25	25		25	25		25	157
Foreign Affairs	26		26	20		20	20		20	20		20	20		20	25		25	25		25	157
Health & Children	657		657	705		705	740	15	755	775	65	840	800	140	940	850	195	1,045	900		900	5,841
Justice	156	115	271	160	210	370	175	185	360	255	110	365	185	40	225	195	65	260	205	70	275	2,125
OPW	184		184	200		200	238		238	240		240	260		260	270		270	290		290	1,682
OPW Decentralisation	170		170	275	70	345	107	30	137	20		20	20		20	25		25	25		25	774
Social & Family Affairs	20		20	15		15	15		15	15		15	20		20	20		20	20		20	125
Transport	2,279		2,279	2,620	25	2,645	2,610	950	3,560	2,585	1,165	3,750	2,495	1,380	3,874	3,545	1,350	4,895	3,185	300	3,485	24,488
Unallocated Reserve				230	50	280	280	250	530	360	400	760	400	490	890	400	525	925	500	1,065	1,565	4,950
Total	7,623	264	7,887	8,583	720	9,303	9,025	1,865	10,890	9,123	2,035	11,158	9,249	2,290	11,538	10,643	2,360	13,003	10,738	1,675	12,413	76,193
Additional capital outside of the envelope PPP funded by user charges																						
Total Investment 2007 to 2013			8,427			9,838			11,410			11,428			11,538			13,003			12,413	78,058

*These amounts and profile are indicative.
Note: a small element (e.g. Defence) of this Framework is not included in the NDP.

APPENDIX 3

Submissions received by the NDP Secretariat on NDP 2007-2013

1. A&L Goodbody
2. Age Action Ireland
3. American Chamber of Commerce Ireland
4. Aontas (National Association of Adult Education)
5. Audiovisual Federation
6. Ballina Chamber
7. Barnardos
8. Border Regional Authority
9. BMW Regional Assembly
10. Cavan County Council
11. Chambers Ireland
12. Claregalway By-Pass (Submission made by Councillor Fidelma Healy Eames)
13. Combat Poverty Agency
14. Comhar
15. Construction Industry Federation
16. CORI (Conference of Religious of Ireland)
17. Council for the West
18. Council of Directors of the Institutes of Technology
19. County and City Managers Association (CCMA) Community, Social and Economic Committee
20. Cork Chamber
21. Donegal County Council
22. Disability Federation of Ireland
23. Dublin Chamber of Commerce
24. Dublin Docklands Development Authority
25. Dublin Regional Authority
26. EAPN (European Anti-Poverty Network)
27. EAPN/Community Workers Co-op
28. Eircom: Broadband in Ireland
29. Engineers Ireland
30. Fingal County Council
31. Galway Airport
32. Galway Chamber
33. Galway City Council
34. Galway City Development Board
35. Galway Outer Bypass Group
36. GRIAN (Greenhouse Ireland Action Network)
37. Heritage Council

38. Homeless Agency
39. Irish Business & Employers Confederation (IBEC)
40. Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU)
41. Irish Council for Social Housing
42. Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association
43. Irish Exporters Association
44. Irish Farmers Association
45. Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed
46. Irish Rural Link
47. Irish Thoroughbred Breeders' Association
48. Irish Tourist Industry Confederation (ITIC)
49. Kerry County Council
50. Kerry County Development Board
51. Limerick Chamber
52. Lónra (Regional Higher Education Network)
53. Louth Local Authorities
54. Macra Na Feirme
55. Mid-East Regional Authority
56. Mid-West Regional Authority
57. Midland Regional Authority
58. National Adult Literacy Agency
59. National Competitiveness Council
60. National Disability Authority
61. Neurosurgical Unit for UCHG, Galway (Submission made by Councillor Fidelma Healy Eames)
62. S&E (Southern & Eastern) Regional Assembly
63. Schull Community Harbour Development Company Ltd.
64. SDLP
65. Sligo Chamber
66. Small Firms Association
67. Society of St.Vincent de Paul
68. South Tipperary County Development Board
69. South-West Regional Authority
70. South-East Regional Authority
71. Thurles Chamber
72. Tourism Ireland
73. Tourism Strategy Implementation Group
74. West Regional Authority
75. West Regional Authority: Atlantic Gateways Initiative
76. Western Development Commission
77. Wexford County Development Board

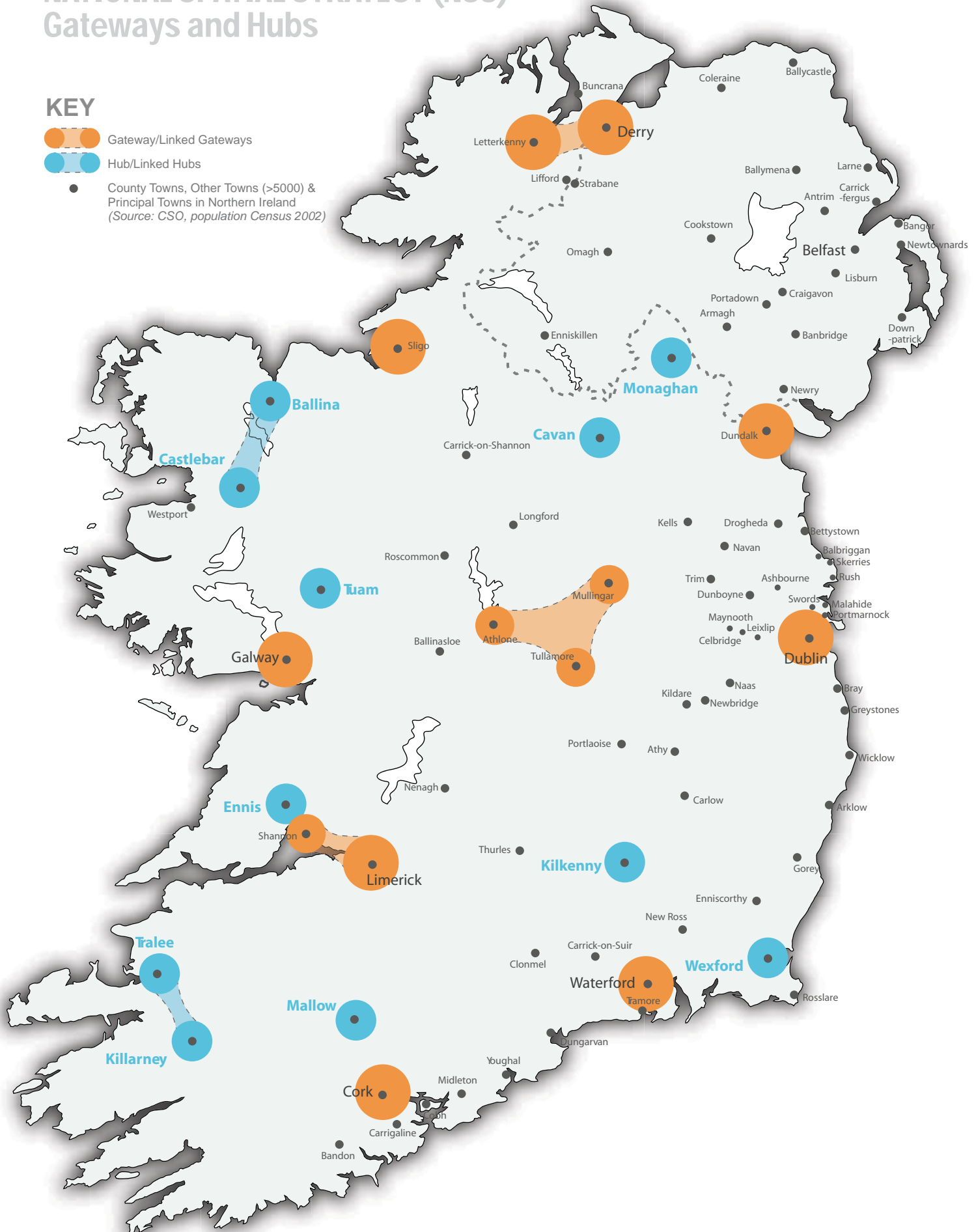
NATIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY (NSS) Gateways and Hubs

KEY

 Gateway/Linked Gateways




 Hub/Linked Hubs

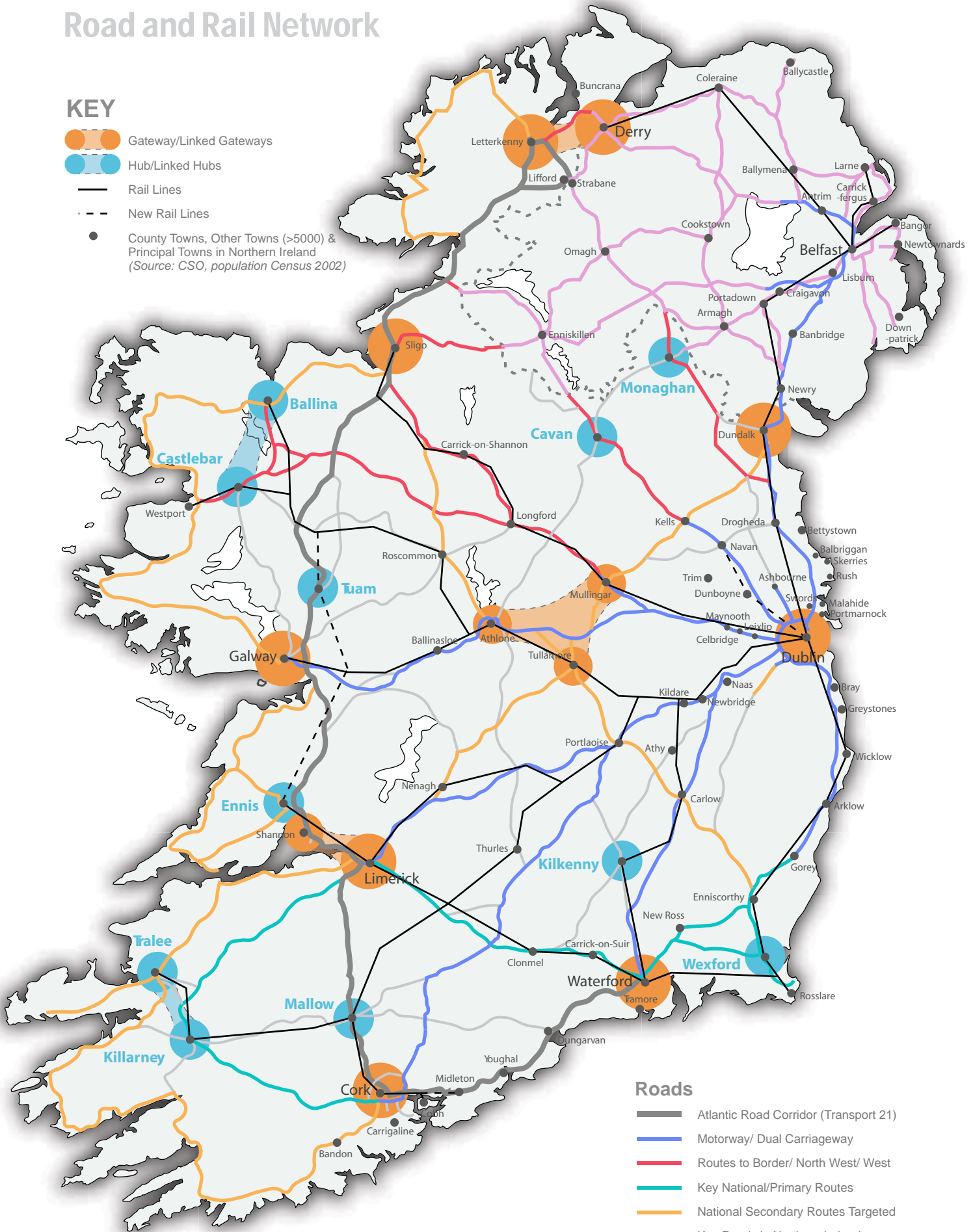
● County Towns, Other Towns (>5000) & Principal Towns in Northern Ireland
(Source: CSO, population Census 2002)









Road and Rail Network

KEY

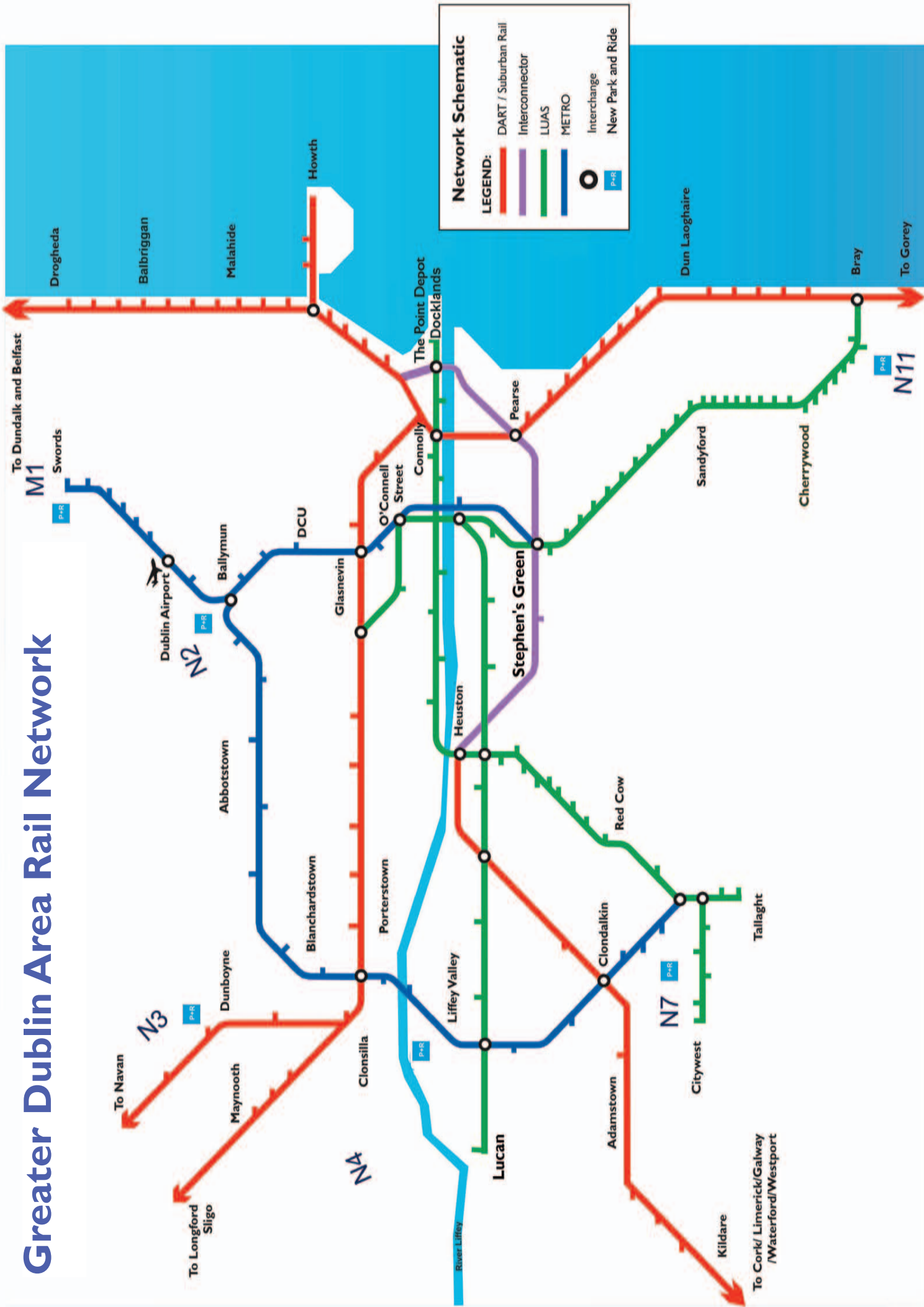
-  Gateway/Linked Gateways
-  Hub/Linked Hubs
-  Rail Lines
-  New Rail Lines
-  County Towns, Other Towns (>5000) & Principal Towns in Northern Ireland
(Source: CSO, population Census 2002)



Roads




-  Atlantic Road Corridor (Transport 21)
-  Motorway/ Dual Carriageway
-  Routes to Border/ North West/ West
-  Key National/Primary Routes
-  National Secondary Routes Targeted
-  Key Roads in Northern Ireland

Greater Dublin Area Rail Network



Airports and Ports

KEY

-  Gateway/Linked Gateways
-  Hub/Linked Hubs
-  Airport
-  Transit Port
-  County Towns, Other Towns (>5000) & Principal Towns in Northern Ireland
(Source: CSO, population Census 2002)

