

## DUBLIN REGIONAL AUTHORITY

### Press release

### **DUBLIN'S SUBMISSION TO THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2007-2013**

The Dublin Regional Authority issued its submission to the National Development Plan 2007-2013 (NDP) on behalf of the Dublin Region. The submission set out the strategic vision of the Dublin City-Region and **makes the case that 50% of the total resources** in the National Development Plan (2007-2013) should be allocated to this Region.

Within its submission the Authority builds on the fact that Ireland's economic growth has been an "urban-led phenomenon", with the Dublin Region providing the main engine of growth for the country as a whole, and whilst supporting the aims of the National Spatial Strategy to ensure more balanced regional development, the Dublin Regional Authority believes that it is essential that the performance of the **Capital City Region** is protected and built upon so that its competitiveness and national role are sustained into the future. This is vitally important not only for the success of the Region, but for the success of the country as a whole.

The Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area are already in place and provide much of the context for the submission together with several Government strategies, Transport 21 for example, and the multi-annual capital envelopes provide policy direction and budgetary resources (for the first part of the NDP at least).

There are some basic fundamentals which support the case that the Dublin Region needs a significant financial allocation under the NDP. If the economy continues to grow in line with ESRI and other forecasts, and if the population surge which is predicted happens, then the investment levels required to address the current deficits in economic and social infrastructure will be considerable.

The Dublin Region is not at all complacent about its competitive position. The cost of doing business in the Region is too high and as a consequence the NDP as a priority must focus on measures which improve the Region's competitive position.

Social exclusion is still a major issue in the Dublin Region. Therefore the submission makes the strongest case possible for Government to adequately resource an integrated, and better targeted series of measures to address the marginalised and disadvantaged in a City-Region of considerable wealth.

Much of the output of the national economy is predicated on the Dublin Region having adequate infrastructure, for example in relation to public transport, education and health. Therefore the national economy benefits directly from investment in the Dublin Region. Hence the submission recommends that the Dublin Region should get an allocation under the NDP slightly more than its contribution to national output.

The Dublin Region needs a coherent strategy which reflects the Region's unique position in and contribution to the Irish economy. The Dublin Regional Authority's submission therefore has the double purpose of seeking to influence the forthcoming NDP, but as importantly to define the

Dublin Region's overall strategy as a whole and the priority public investments which are needed to sustain the Region as -

A Knowledge City and Region  
A Region that Works  
A Great European City and Region  
A Highly Competitive Region

Copies of the submission are available from the Dublin Regional Authority, 11 Parnell Square, Dublin 1, tel; 01-8745018 or email [info@dra.ie](mailto:info@dra.ie). Views on the submission are welcomed as it is important that we debate the key issues which will define the future of this great City-Region.

*Dermot Lacey*

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