

## Fact sheet for planning levels

Planning level	Type of plan						
National	national framework plan						
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Planning system of Ireland</b></p>							
	Planning level	Planning	Content of plan	Legal basis	Policy maker	Legal impact	Scale
National	1. <b>Coastal Ireland 2020</b> 2. <b>National Planning Framework 2018</b> 3. <b>National Development Plan 2018-2027</b>	National spatial & economic framework public capital investment plans to guide development and investment	Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) Part 8, Chapter 8A	Houses of the Parliament (the Oireachtas)  Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)	Binding on lower order plans through the RSE(S) and the core strategies of the county and city development plans		National
Regional	Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)  EMRA (2019-2031) NWRA (2020-2032) SRA (2020-2032)	Regional spatial and economic development framework including Metropolitan Area Strategy Plans (MASP)	Development Act 2000 (as amended), Part 8, Chapter 8B	Regional Authorities	Strategies of the county and city development plans and on local area plans		Regional
Local	County and city Development Plans	Policy framework with land use zoning maps and legend	Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) Part 8, Chapter 8C	County Councils, City Councils and County Councils	Core strategies of the county and city development plans binding on local area plans		County, city
Local	Local Area Plans (LAPs)	Policy framework with land use zoning maps and legend	Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) Part 8, Chapter 8D	County Councils, City Councils, City & County Councils and Municipal Districts	Development proposals assessed against the policies and objectives including land use zoning		All towns with population of 5,000 people or greater; discretion at lower population level
Other	Strategic Development Zone (SDZ)	Planning Scheme (urban design master plan)	Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) Part 8E	Local Authority or dedicated development agency	Provisions binding on development proposals for permission		Area-based planning at district level



**Facts: National Planning Framework (Government of Ireland, DHLGH, 2018), nfp.ie****Legal basis**

- Planning and Development Act 2000, (Part II, Chapter II A - National Planning Framework) (as amended by Planning and Development (Amendment Act) 2018 (inserted 22.10.2018)) [See Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) (updated 15 January 2021) (<https://revisedacts.lawreform.ie/eli/2000/act/30/revised/en/pdf>)]

**Competences**

- The Irish government gave approval for the preparation of the National Planning Framework (NPF) (2018–2040) to commence in October 2014, which was adopted by the government in February 2018 (P&D Act 2000 (as amended), Section 20C (8)).
- The NPF was prepared by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government on behalf of the government in accordance with EU requirements regarding the Strategic and Environmental Assessment (SEA), Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA).
- Project Ireland 2040 is the long-term spatial vision of Irish government policy. It combines the NPF (2018–2040) with the National Development Plan (NDP) public investment programme (2018–2027).

**Binding force**

- The NPF is binding on the lower order regional spatial and economic strategies (RSEs) and the local level land use plans (county development plans and local area plans), which must be consistent with the NPF (P&D Act 2000 (as amended), Section 23(1), Section 12(18) & Section 20(5)).

**Tasks and contents**

- The NPF objectives are (P&D Act (2000 as amended), Section 20B):
  - Establish a broad national framework in regard to the strategic planning and sustainable development of urban and rural areas;
  - Secure balanced regional development by promoting the international role of Dublin and by maximising the potential of the regions;
  - Secure the coordination of regional spatial and economic strategies and the alignment of county and city development plans and local area plans.
- The NPF identifies a set of goals expressed as National Strategic Outcomes (NSOs), which underpin the overarching national vision aligned with the UN sustainable development goals.
- The primary objective is regional parity in the projected population growth of an additional one million people by 2040 between the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) area and the other two Irish regions combined comprising the Northern and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA) area and the Southern Regional Assembly area.

**Process, duration, participation**

- The government of Ireland approved the commencement of the preparation of a national planning framework in October 2014. The publication of the NPF in 2018 followed a detailed public and stakeholder consultation comprising a national campaign of engagement on plan preparation, commencing with preliminary stakeholder consultation in December 2015. The final stage of consultation for the Draft National Plan Framework (Ireland 2040 Our Plan) was published in September 2017. The National Planning Framework (NPF) was adopted and published by the government on 16 February 2018 and the decision was reaffirmed by the government on 29 May 2018 in the context of its consideration of issues in relation to the implementation of the National Planning Framework.

**Duration of validity**

- The time frame of the NPF is 2018–2040. The implementation of the NPF must be reviewed (review in 2021) and revised six years after publication (P&D Act 2000 (as amended), Section 20C (4–5)).

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## Details of the plan



## Characteristics

### Location of the area

The NPF is a national spatial strategy comprising the area of the island of Ireland within the jurisdiction of the government of Ireland. Therefore, the plan area includes the majority of the island of Ireland but excludes Northern Ireland.

### Initial situation

The National Planning Framework (NPF) replaces the National Spatial Strategy (NSS), published in 2002. The review of the NSS in the preparation of the NPF identified the failure of the NSS spatial objectives of economic growth and population concentration in urban 'gateways' and 'hubs'. The policies and objectives of the NSS were not legally binding on the lower order city and county development plans and local area plans. The government initiated planning reforms between 2015–2020 to ensure the alignment of the integrated hierarchy of national, regional and local plans.

### Particularities of the procedure and/or contents

The NPF references cross border cooperation with the adjoining jurisdiction in Northern Ireland. It acknowledges that the cross-jurisdiction of the Dublin-Belfast corridor is the largest agglomeration on the island of Ireland and supports its future development.

One of the observed failures of the NSS, the predecessor of the NPF, was that government investment did not follow the strategy (NPF 2018). The government has now combined the NPF with the National Development Plan NDP (2018–2027) in Project Ireland 2040 to ensure a common purpose.

## Hints and links

<https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/09022006-project-ireland-2040/>

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