

Fact sheet for planning levels

Planning level	Type of plan					
Regional	spatial and economic strategy					
Planning system of Ireland						
Planning level	Planning instrument	Content of plan	Legal basis	Policy maker	Legal impact	Scale
National	Project Ireland 2040 1. National Planning Framework 2018 2. National Development Plan 2018-2027	National spatial & economic framework - public capital investment plans to guide development and investment	Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) Part II, Chapter I(A)	Houses of the Parliament (the Oireachtas) Department of Housing, Local Government and Metropolitan Planning	Binding on lower order plans through the RSEs and the core strategies of the county and city development plans	National
Regional	Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) EMRA (2019-2031) NSRA (2020-2032) SRA (2020-2032)	Regional spatial & economic development framework including Metropolitan Area Strategy Plans (MASTP)	Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) Part II, Chapter II	Regional Assemblies	Binding on the core 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 II, Chapter I	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 II, Chapter II	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 II	Local Authority or dedicated development agency	Provisions binding on development proposals for permission	Site-based planning at district level



Facts: Metropolitan Area Strategy Plan (MASP) for Dublin, part of the Eastern Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)

Legal basis

- Planning and Development Act 2000, (Part II, Chapter III - Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy) (as amended by Local Government Reform 2014 (chapter substituted 1.06.2014)) [Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) (updated 15 January 2021) (<https://revisedacts.lawreform.ie/eli/2000/act/30/revised/en/pdf>)] AND
- Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended by the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2018 (substituted 22.10.2018), Section 28 Ministerial Guidance: Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government [DHPLG] (July 2018), Project Ireland 2040: Implementation Roadmap for the National Planning Framework, 3(b) (Metropolitan Areas) (<https://npf.ie/wp-content/uploads/NPF-Implementation-Roadmap.pdf>)

Competences

- The Eastern Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy (RSES) (2019–2031) contains the Metropolitan Area Strategy Plan (MASP) for the Dublin Metropolitan Area (DMA) (EMRA RSES Chapter 5). The Implementation Roadmap for the National Planning Framework (July 2018) mandated the preparation of Metropolitan Area Strategy Plans (MASPs) for Dublin and the four regional cities and for their inclusion within the relevant RSES.
- The MASP (as part of the EMRA RSES) must be consistent with the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area (2016–2035) (P&D 2000 (as amended, Section 23(7)(c)). The RSES is prepared by the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) to support the implementation of Project Ireland 2040 (the combination of the National Planning Framework (NPF) & National Development Plan 2018–2027 (NDP)). The RSES is guided by the policies and objectives of the NPF, with which it must be consistent. It is prepared in accordance with the Ministerial Guidelines issued under Section 28 (P&D, 2000 (as amended)) together with EU requirements regarding the Strategic and Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA).

Binding force

- The strategic guidance provided by the RSES and MASP is mandated to be incorporated within the county development plans of the constituent local authorities (and the Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs)). The Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area (or its revision) must be consistent with the spatial planning policies and objectives of the RSES including the MASP.

Tasks and contents

- The MASP supports and will guide development to accommodate a target population of 1.65 million people, which represents an additional 250,000 people in the Dublin Metropolitan Area (DMA) by 2031. It identifies a number of strategic development corridors, which comprise the city core and radial linear public transport corridors that extend from the city core through the suburbs and into the metropolitan hinterland.

Process, duration, participation

- The MASP forms part of the RSES participative and inclusive plan-making process.
 - The drafting of metropolitan strategy as part of the RSES had to comply with the plan-making process provided for in the legislation, including the preparation of a draft strategy and the provision of a public display period in which written submissions were invited.
 - The MASP preparation included comprehensive stakeholder consultation including all of the relevant land use managers in the metropolitan area and the National Transportation Authority (NTA)
 - The MASP was adopted as part of the RSES by the members of the regional assembly following the completion of the plan-making process on 29 June 2019.

Duration of validity

- The MASP provides a 12-year strategic planning and investment framework for Dublin City and its metropolitan area to 2031.

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Details of the plan



Characteristics

Location of the area

Dublin is the capital city of the Republic of Ireland. The Dublin Metropolitan Area (DMA) comprises the continuous built-up area of Dublin city and suburbs and a number of highly urbanised surrounding settlements in a polycentric metropolitan area, which is the largest urban agglomeration on the island of Ireland.

Initial situation

The DMA had a population of 1.4 million in 2016 (CSO). It is the economic engine of the Irish state and the principal centralised location for administration, education, commerce and industry. However, it did not have a dedicated spatial plan to coordinate and guide its future development. Instead there was a multiplicity of spatial plans addressing the specific requirements of individual local authorities overlapping with a multiplicity of sectoral plans.

Particularities of the procedure and/or contents

The RSES process brings together for the first time spatial planning and economic policy. It marks a significant achievement for the regional tier of administration in Ireland, which was rationalised in 2014 and became operational in 2015. The RSES provides a long-term guide for both public and private sector sectoral policy and investment in the region. The Dublin MASP provides the first holistic spatial plan for Dublin city and its surrounding built-up area. In this regard alone it is a significant milestone in spatial planning in Ireland.

Hints and links

Source: Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) – Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (2019–2031), <https://emra.ie/final-rses/>
https://emra.ie/dubh/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/EMRA_RSES_1.4.5web.pdf