

# Local Government and Spatial Planning

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- Introduction
- The National Planning Framework
- Environmental Challenges
- The ongoing need for reform of the Local Government System
- Conclusions and Recommendations

# Local Government in Ireland

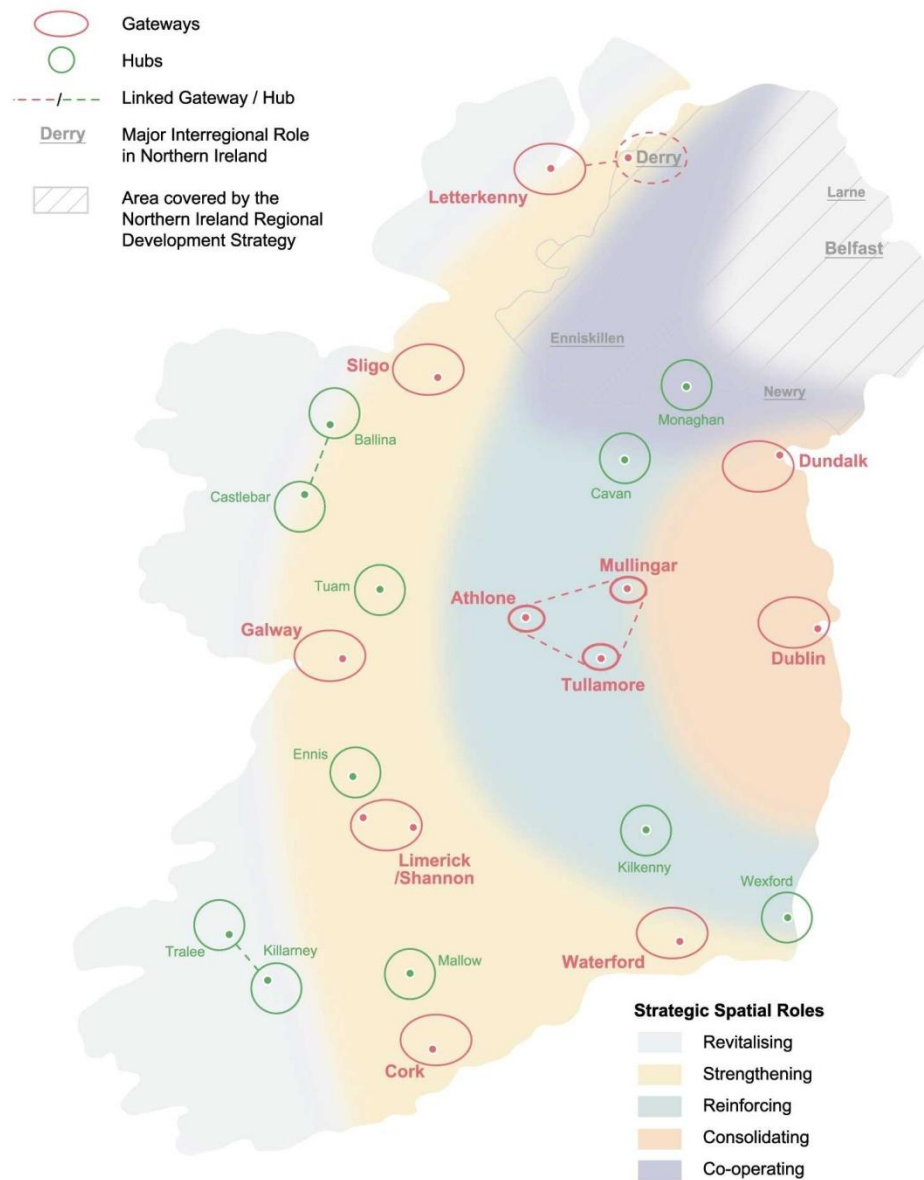
- Limited mandate
- Existing local government reforms
- Perception of a limited democratic role
- Levels of trust and civic engagement an on-going challenge
- Need for improved local to national policy process and framework
- ...but still very important because...

# Local Government in Ireland

- Underpinning local identity
- Provides the only local democratic platform
- Delivers local and national services
- Leads local economic and community development
- Raises local taxes
- ...and critically...provides for the long-term planning of our communities...

# Spatial planning in Ireland

- The National Spatial Strategy
- ...some successes but...
- Limited embedding into national policy perspective
  - Timing of the Strategy
  - Challenge of national development plan/exchequer finance process integration
  - Limited cohesion with the local government reform process
- ...but still an over riding need for long-term spatial perspective in Ireland...due to renewed growth



# Spatial planning in Scotland

- National driven infrastructure
- Focus on the City Region
- Low Carbon World Leader ambitions
- Integration with marine spatial perspective
- Linkages into institutional change and supporting policy development



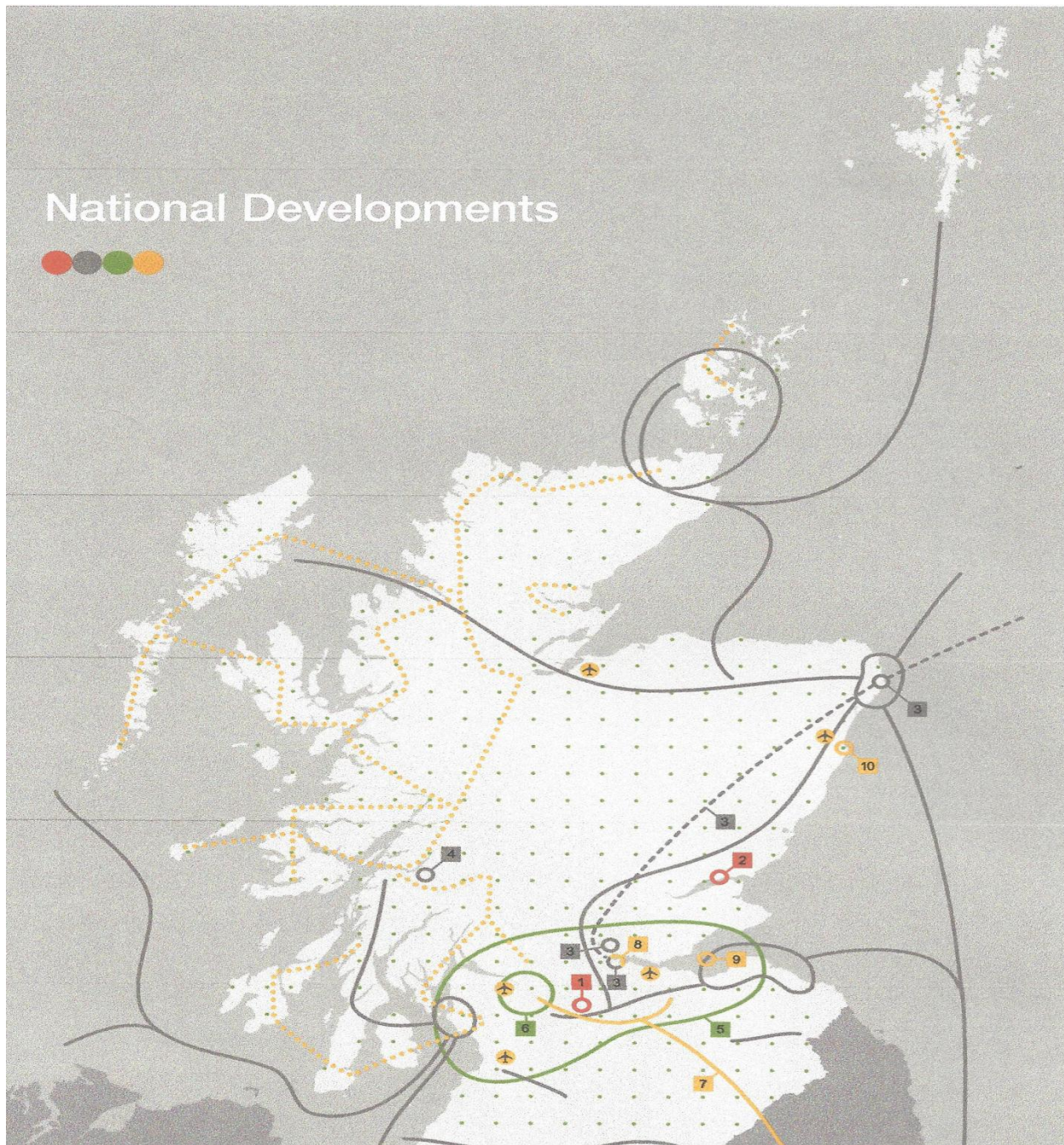
# National Developments



## Detail key

### National Developments

- 1 Ravenscraig
- 2 Dundee Waterfront
- 3 Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Network and Thermal Generation
- A High Voltage Energy Transmission Network
- 4 Pumped storage
- 5 Central Scotland Green Network
- 6 Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership
- A National Long Distance Cycling and Walking Network
- 7 High Speed Rail
- A Strategic Airport Enhancements
- 8 Grangemouth Investment Zone
- 9 Freight on the Forth
- 10 Aberdeen Harbour
- A Digital Fibre Network





# The Environmental Challenges for Ireland

- Civic engagement and participation
- Adequate/uneven evidence base
- Understanding intangible features of identity into a rigorous policy framework
- Integration of spatial planning with the management of the environment in a growing economy
- Competing demands of an urbanised state and rural development
- Need for tools to allow for proper policy development

# Local government reform

- Is the current system fit for purpose?
- Need to have rural and urban competences underpinned by 21<sup>st</sup> century structures?
- Need for separate Gateway institutional settings?
- Lack of an informed debate to date
- Citizen centred service delivery
- Performance and management
- Leadership and transition

# Local government reform

- Change the only constant...
- Internal competences and skills
- Oversight and scrutiny
- Balancing efficiency and effectiveness with local democracy
- Localisation versus national direction

# Conclusions and key messages

- A robust and substantive debate about what Ireland is to look like in 2035 is now required
- What role for local government?
- Cities to become more effective drivers of regional economies
- Rural development focused on rural communities
- Gateway cities also need more financial autonomy
- Start a full and frank debate on how the local government system is to be re-configured