

Appendices

Appendix A. **Key policy documents**

National context

National Development Plan 2000–2006

The *National Development Plan* (NDP) was formulated to aid the balanced development of infrastructure, enterprise development, agricultural and rural development, social inclusion and child-care. The main objectives of the NDP are to:

- strengthen and improve Ireland’s international competitiveness so as to support continued, but more balanced, economic and social development;
- continue sustainable national economic and employment growth;
- foster balanced regional development;
- promote social inclusion;

The *National Development Plan* expands on the role of the Border-Midland-West (BMW) region and County Sligo has benefited from the implementation of the NDP in the form of:

- funding for the Rural Transport Initiative;
- funding for childcare development;
- funding for non-national roads within the county (10.5 million euro);
- funding of agricultural programmes;
- funding of coastal protection schemes and other projects.

National Spatial Strategy for Ireland 2002–2020

The *National Spatial Strategy* (NSS) for Ireland is a twenty-year planning framework designed to achieve a better balance of growth between regions with regard to social, economic, physical development and population growth. The Strategy introduced the concept of *gateway cities* - nationally significant centres (with populations of the order of 100,000 and above), whose location and scale support the achievement of the type of critical mass necessary to sustain strong levels of job growth in the regions. These gateways would have the capacity to support a stronger urban–rural structure needed to further development in their respective regions. With this in mind, Sligo has been identified as one of a limited number of gateways.

The role of villages and rural areas will be instrumental in achieving the County’s goal of social, economic and physical cohesion within the nation. Within this framework, the towns of Collooney and Tobercurry have been identified as presenting an *urban strengthening opportunity*. This is due to their existing services and their location along national transport corridors between Sligo and Dublin (N4) and Sligo and Galway (N17), respectively.

National guidelines, policies and strategies

There are numerous national guidelines, strategies and policy documents that have been published by government departments and national organisations that relate to planning. The *Planning and Development Act, 2000* specifically requires planning authorities to have regard to ministerial guidelines from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. A list of these publications is outlined overleaf.

Guidelines for planning authorities

- *Guidelines on the Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)*
- *Sustainable Rural Housing: Guidelines*
- *Development Contribution Scheme for Planning Authorities:*
- *Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines*
- *Guidelines on Architectural Heritage Protection for Places of Public Worship*
- *Quarries and Ancillary Activities Guidelines*
- *Residential Density Guidelines:*
- *Wind Farm Development Guidelines*
- *Draft Guidelines on Wind Energy Development:*
- *Retail Planning Guidelines:*
- *Childcare Facilities Guidelines:*
- *Draft Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Landscape and Landscape Assessment*
- *Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures*
- *Implementing Regional Planning Guidelines – Best Practice Guidance*

Regional context

The Western Development Commission (WDC)

The Government approved the establishment of the Western Development Commission (WDC) on 14 May 1996. On 1st February 1999, the WDC was established as a statutory agency, with its board members appointed at the discretion of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development.

The functions of the WDC include:

- developing a strategy for achieving economic and social development and setting out priorities to be pursued;
- collaborating with statutory and community based agencies and business organisations to create the necessary conditions for private investment;
- policy analysis and development;
- encouraging local, community and indigenous enterprise and job creation; and
- promoting and managing the Western Investment Fund (WIF).

The WDC publishes policy documents on development matters such as infrastructure, employment, agri-food production, tourism and telecommunications, which have significant relevance to the preparation of the Sligo County Development Plan. A list of these publications is provided below.

WDC publications

- *Seminar on the Strategic Rail Review 2003*
- *Jobs for Towns*
- *Update on Telecommunications in the Western Region*
- *The State of the West – Recent Trends and Future Prospects*

- *Blueprint for Organic Agri-Food Production*
- *Blueprint for Tourism Development in the West*
- *Blueprint for Investing in the West: Promoting Foreign Direct Investment in the West*
- *Enterprise and Employment in the Western Region – Issues, Challenges and Recommendations*
- *To Catch the Wind – The Potential for Community Ownership of Wind Farms in Ireland*
- *Walking in the West – A Step-by-Step Guide*

Border Regional Authority (BRA)

The Border Regional Authority (BRA) is one of eight such authorities established as statutory bodies in 1994, with a mandate to promote co-ordination of local authority business at a regional level and to monitor and advise on the implementation of EU funding in the regions. The geographical area of the BRA includes counties Sligo, Donegal, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan and Louth. The functions of the BRA include a review of the development plans of the local authorities in the region, with particular regard to the consistency of such plans with one another and the development requirements of the region. As part of this remit, in 2005 the BRA has adopted *Regional Planning Guidelines for the Border Region*.

County context

Sligo Sub-Regional Development Strategy 2001–2021

This background document to the Sligo County Development Plan 2005–2011 acknowledges the importance of a city-regional approach to planning and the important inter-relationship between the City and its hinterland. This strategy establishes a framework to manage the growth of the Sligo Sub-Region, an area that is generally under pressure for urban-generated housing, which is largely dependent on its proximity to Sligo City and Environs, including villages and settlements that are providing a satellite or dormitory role. The key provisions of the strategy are outlined in Section 3.4 of this Plan.

County Sligo Integrated Strategy 2002–2012

County Sligo Integrated Strategy 2002–2012 was prepared by Sligo County Development Board (CDB), which is a partnership bringing together key players at local level, in order to outline a ten-year integrated Strategy for the development of the County. The Strategy provides a statutory framework for the planning of public policy within each county. The *County Sligo Integrated Strategy* is working towards the achievement of three main themes, notably:

- balanced spatial development,
- promotion of social inclusion, and
- enhancement of the living culture.

This Development Plan takes account of the principles, policies and sectoral plans laid out in the *County Sligo Integrated Strategy 2002–2012*.

Sligo and Environs Development Plan 2004–2010

This development plan, which came into effect on 5 January 2004, establishes a development and policy framework with specific objectives to facilitate the growth of Sligo into a nationally prominent gateway city, as espoused in the National Spatial Strategy.

