

How to Plan across Boundaries

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Collaboration in Planning

The Regional Development Strategy

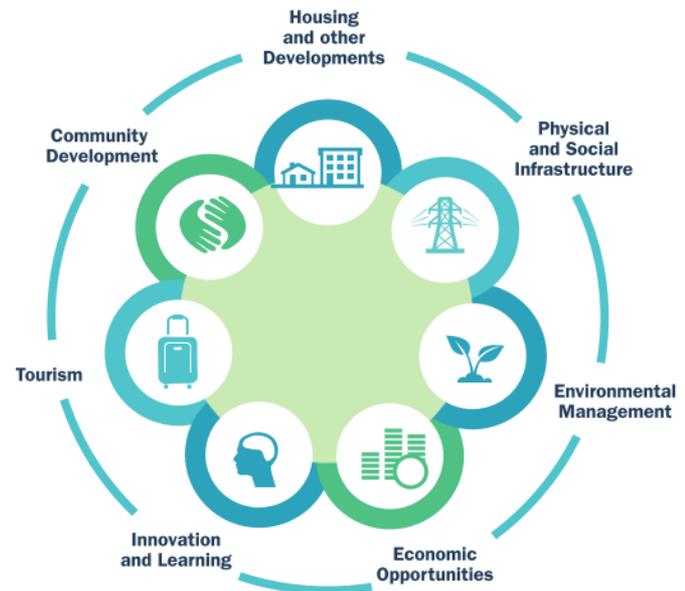
- (i) Does it lead by example – How does it
- (ii) Does it give sufficient Guidance?



National Planning Framework 2040

- Chapter 8 – Working with Our Neighbours
- “Managing our growth strategically for long term benefit in terms of economic and social development and environmental quality”
- “Working together for mutual advantage in areas such as economic development and promotion, co-ordination of social and physical infrastructure provision and environmental management”
- Sets out three key categories of practical co-operation between relevant Departments and local authorities in Ireland and Northern Ireland that will both support and be supported by the implementation of the NPF:
 1. Working Together for Economic Advantage
 2. Co-ordination of Investment in Infrastructure
 3. Managing our Shared Environment Responsibly

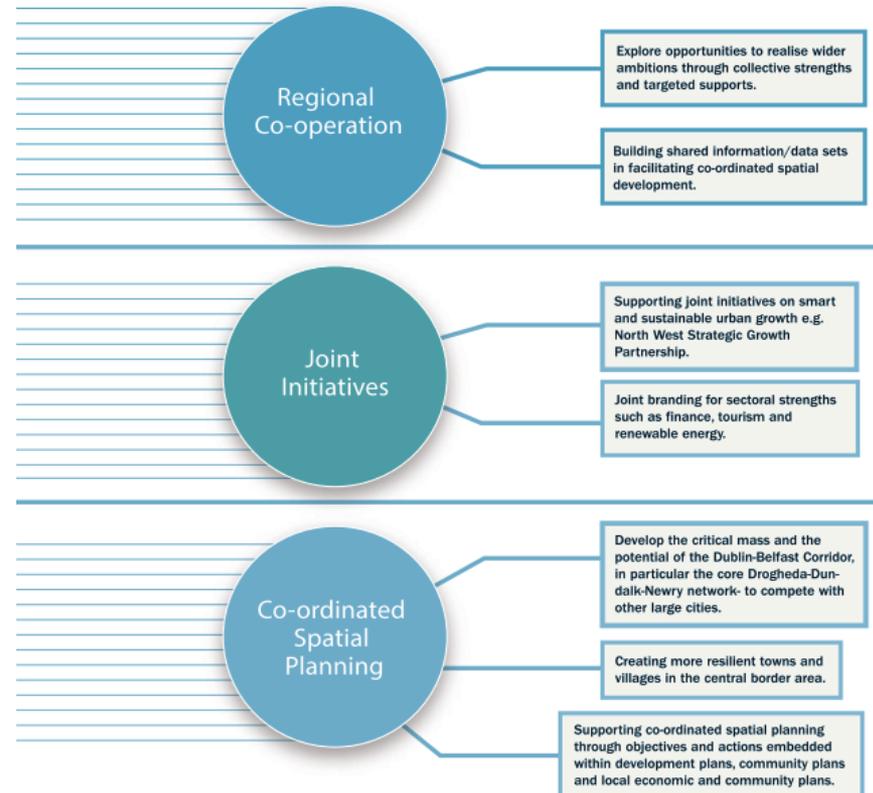
Figure 8.1 | Shared Planning Challenges in Ireland and Northern Ireland



National Planning Framework 2040

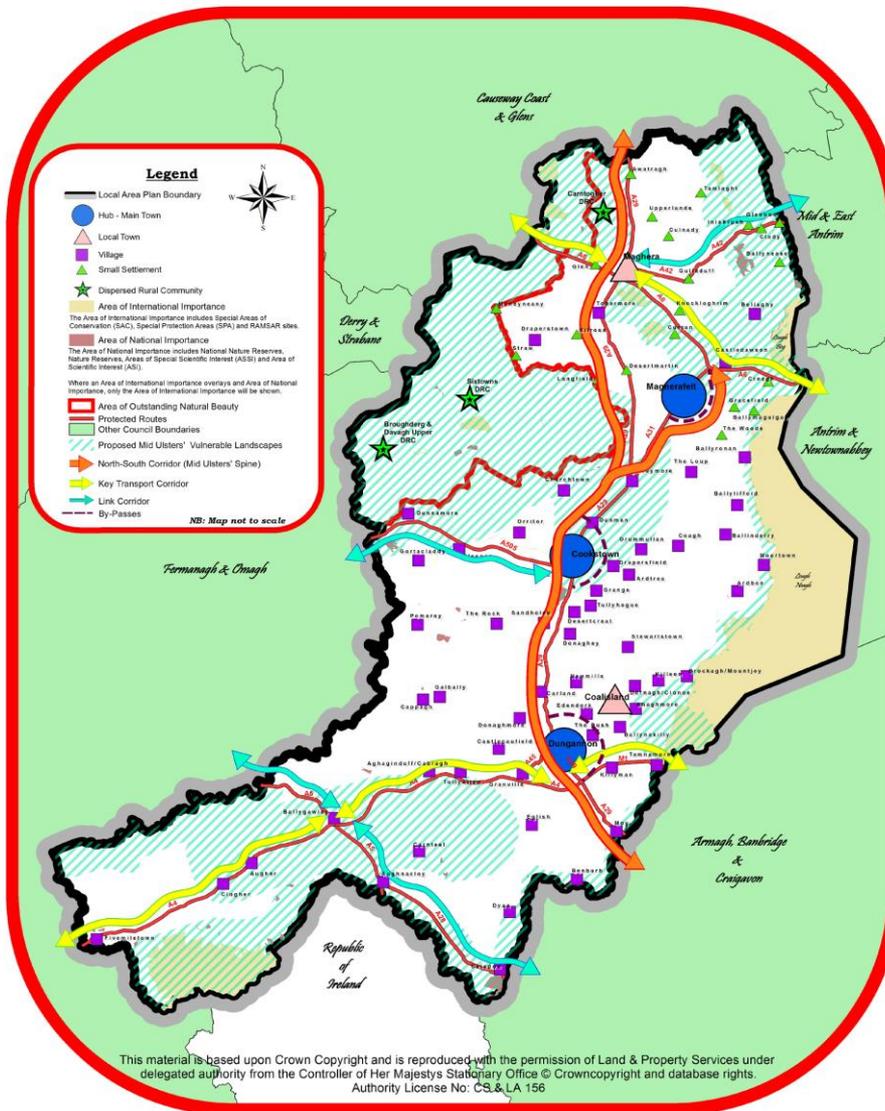
- “The NPF supports further growth and investment in the county towns in the central border counties and strengthening accessibility from and to the central border area”
- “Building up the economic, infrastructural and developmental ties will be supported through local leadership and co-operation arrangements such as the co-ordination of statutory planning functions and corresponding infrastructural investment”
- Specific reference to Central Border Area
- Sets out three key areas of focus include:
 1. Regional co-operation arrangements
 2. Joint initiatives
 3. Co-ordinated spatial planning

Figure 8.2 | Areas for Cross-Border Local Co-ordination



Following the RDS Example:

- (i) A strategy based on hubs, settlements, transport corridors and environmental and economic designation.
- (ii) But where do the strategic plan designations end – At the District Borders ?

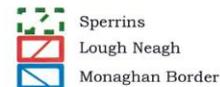
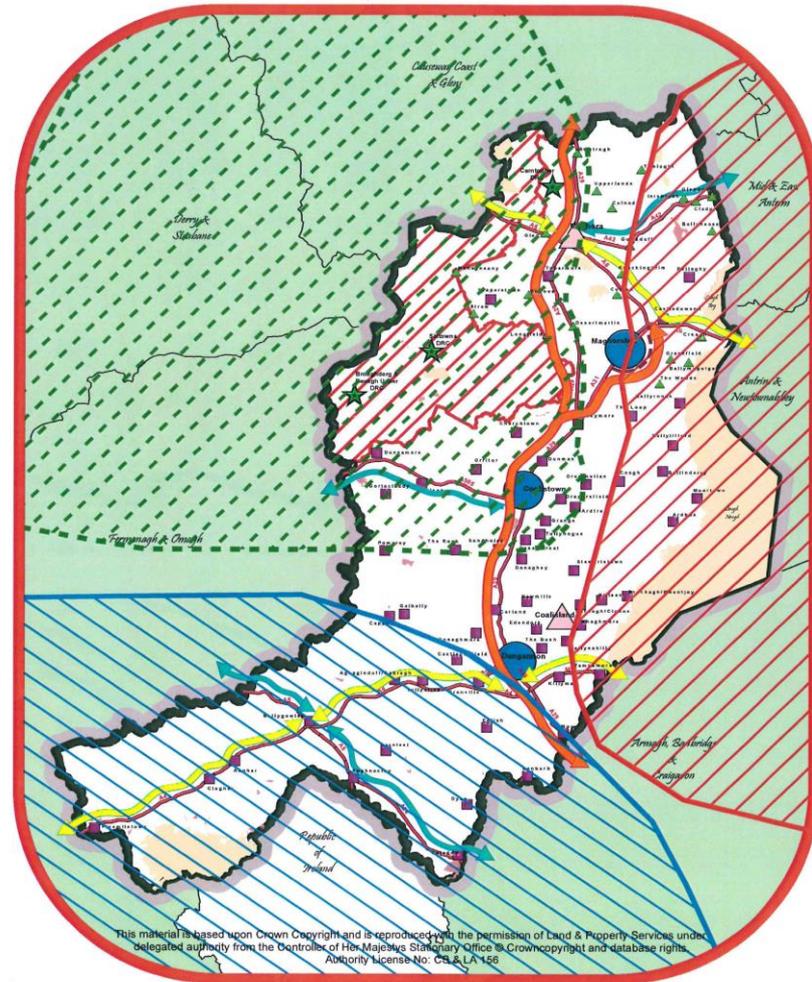


Three key areas for collaboration

Sperrin Mountains

Lough Neagh and Lough Beg

Monaghan Borders



The Sperrins Forum

Key Issues

How to Give Appropriate protection to the Sperrins Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty whilst promoting the area for tourism and recreation and providing a sustainable living for residents.

- Special Countryside Areas
- Areas of Constraint for minerals and high structures
- Areas of Special Archaeological Interest
- Sustainable Tourism



The Lough and Lough Beg Neagh Forum

Key Issues –

How to balance the nature conservation interests of the loughs with minerals, fishing, tourism and the needs of locals.

- Slieve Beg and Lough Neagh– an international site of conservation importance
- protecting the shoreline from buildings ?
- wind turbines in or along the lough shore?
- promotion of sustainable tourism and leisure?
- accommodating the fishing industry



Lough Neagh Future
search
Mid Ulster
Mid and East Antrim
Antrim and Newtonabbey
Armagh Banbridge and
Craigavon
Lisburn and Castlereagh

The Monaghan Borders

Key Issues

How to promote development in an underinvested area across an international border whilst protecting its environmental assets

- Lack of investment in infrastructure
- Remoteness to major services
- Internationally important Conservation Interests
- Important river valleys and catchments



ICBAN and the Border
Strategy
Participants
Mid Ulster
Monaghan
Fermanagh and Omagh
Armagh Banbridge and
Craigavaon

Monaghan located within Northern & Western Region but greater focus on and interaction with East and N. Ireland



- 108 miles of Border with N. Ireland – longest of all counties
- County bounds three RoI Local Authorities – Cavan, Meath and Louth
- County bounds four NI Local Authorities – Fermanagh & Omagh, Mid Ulster, Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon and Newry, Mourne & Down
- Constrained Formal North South Communication Route between Dept for Housing, Planning & Local Government (RoI) and Dept for Infrastructure (NI)
- Different cross border landscape characterisations but common aims to protect environmental assets
- Shared Cross Border European Natura 2000 sites – Sliabh Beagh SPA/SAC and Kilroosky Lough System SAC
- Need for development plan policy consistency across boundaries where no common overarching high level planning policy applies
- Need for co-operation in policy objectives to achieve common goals – Reopening of Ulster Canal, N2/A5 Road
- Need to ensure planning policies are not mutually exclusive - Addressing flood risk across shared catchments, provision of broadband in border areas
- Need to work together to achieve common obligations – EU Directives on Water Quality, etc.
- Common issues arising that need co-ordinated approach

Statements of Common Ground

The Monaghan Borders Example

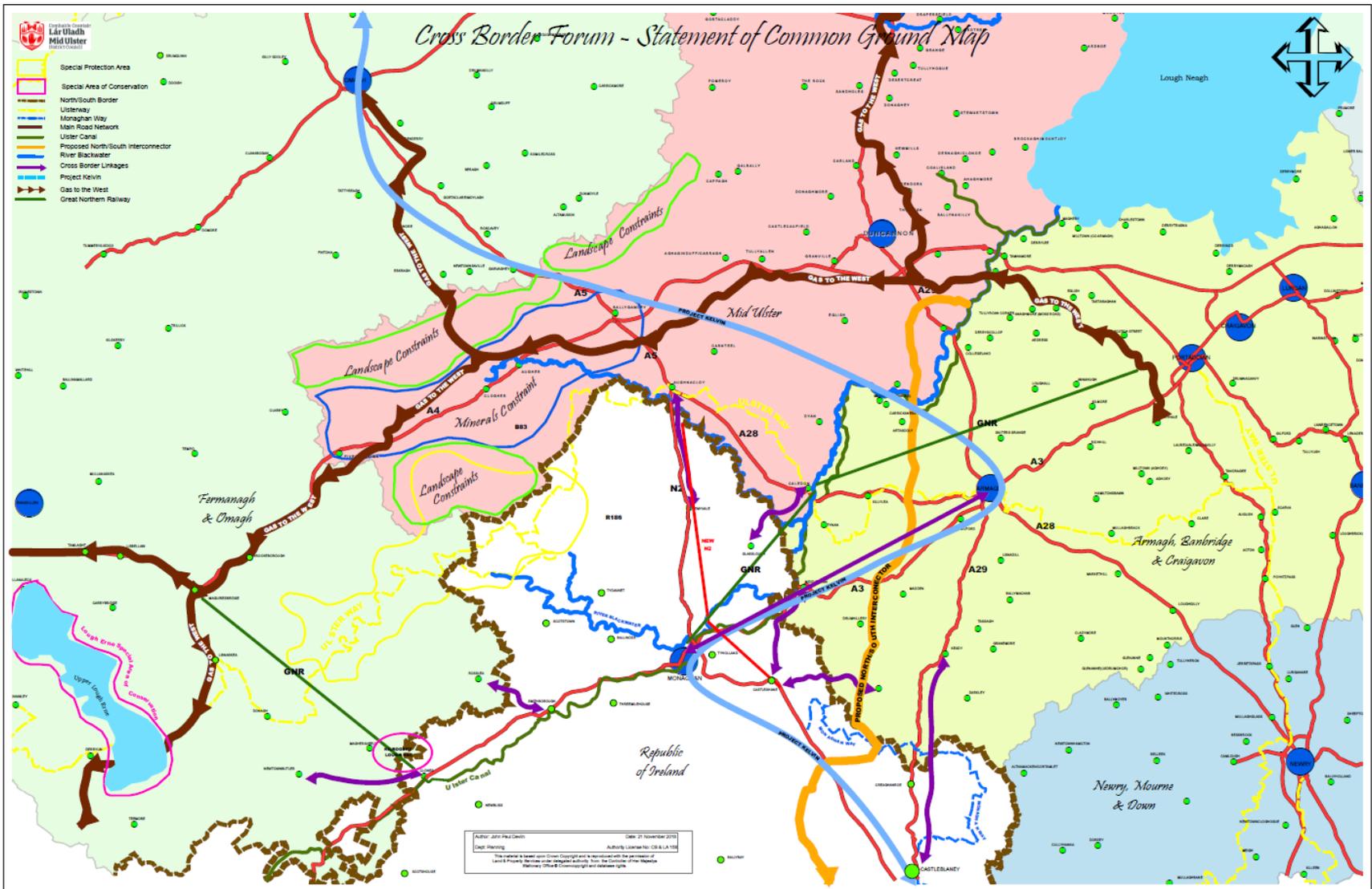


Common Issues

- Protection of landscapes through appropriate environmental designations;
- Protection of River Corridors from inappropriate development and safeguarding the Ulster Canal;
- Management of Minerals Development and the use of Areas of Constraint on Mineral Development;
- Improvement of road linkages and infrastructure;
- Improve energy infrastructure and provision;
- Improve broadband provision;
- Protection of water quality;
- Protection of sites of environmental/heritage/biodiversity importance.

Cross Border Forum Statement of Common Ground

- 1. Provide appropriate policies to facilitate **improvements to the transport infrastructure** to enable faster and safer travel across the central border region;*
- 2. Encourage the delivery of enhanced **cross border connectivity** to include cycling and walking routes, as well as blueways and greenways.*
- 3. Promote the **growth of the region's main towns** as the key hubs for housing, services and employment, complemented by a network of small towns and villages;*
- 4. Provide appropriate policies **to resist major retail development outside of the towns**;*
- 5. Support the delivery of a stable power network through a '**North-South Interconnector**' scheme and also the accompanying distribution and transmission networks to enhance the security of electricity supply in the region;*
- 6. Support the delivery of stable and secure digital communications infrastructure, including fibre optic technology, to **improve broad band provision** across the region;*
- 7. Provide appropriate policies to encourage **renewable energy schemes**, in order to support a reduced carbon footprint for the central border region;*
- 8. Provide appropriate policies and/or designations to **protect our most sensitive landscapes** from inappropriate development;*
- 9. Provide appropriate policies to **protect our most sensitive areas from mineral development**;*
- 10. Provide appropriate policies to afford **protection to our existing peat resources** from commercial extraction.*



Problems

- Peripheral areas tend to get forgotten
- Different time frames for plan production
- **Different legislative context**
- Different political agendas
- Changing goal posts
- Time consuming

Benefits

- Promoting a common understanding and agenda
- Networking with different groups
- A Joined up approach to plan making designations
- Ensuring plans are sound

A Worthwhile Exercise?



**Will it work – Watch this
space**

Mid Ulster Plan Strategy



RTPI Training
Royal Town Planning Institute