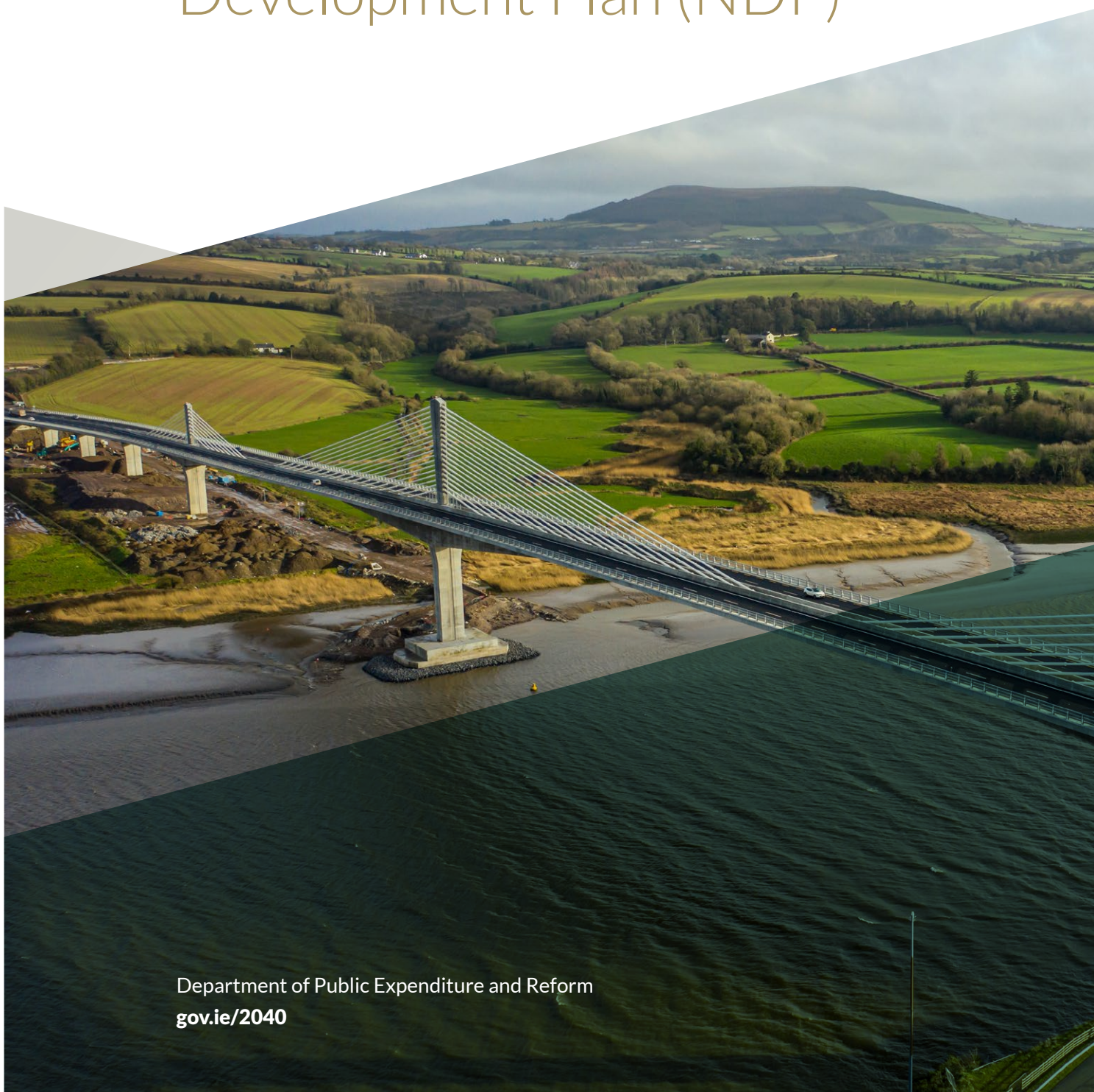




Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

# Review to Renew

## Review of National Development Plan (NDP)



Department of Public Expenditure and Reform  
[gov.ie/2040](https://www.gov.ie/2040)



# Public Consultation

**The Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Michael McGrath TD, invites submissions to Review to Renew - the public consultation on Ireland's National Development Plan (the NDP).**

This is your opportunity to contribute your views, experiences and expertise into Review to Renew so that the updated NDP can support economic, social, environmental and cultural development all across the country.

You will see two boxes underneath each question. Please insert your written response in the first and include any related evidence or research in the second. Please keep your responses to no more than 400 words per box.

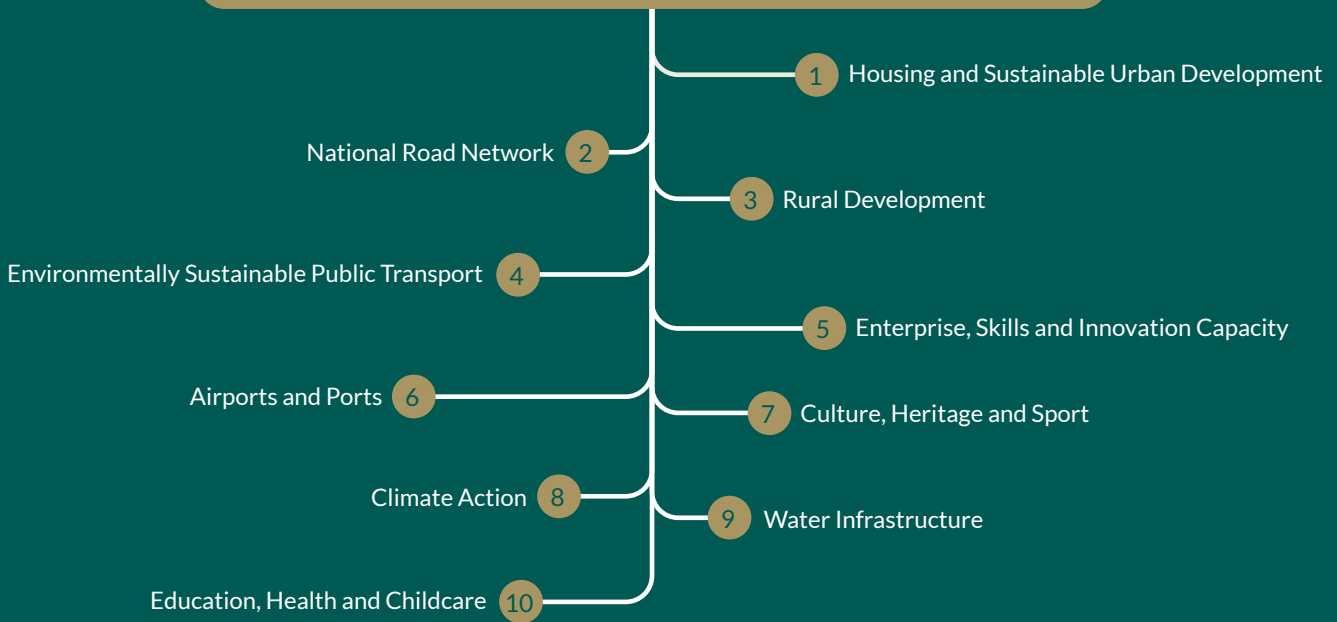
Please note that all submissions and comments submitted to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform as part of this public consultation process may be subject to release under the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 to 2003. After the consultation has closed, a summary of proposals will be compiled and published on the Department's website.

# Project Ireland 2040 and the NDP

## The National Development Plan and the National Planning Framework combine to form Project Ireland 2040.

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets the vision and strategy for the development of our country, balanced across all of our regions, towns and cities, out to the year 2040. The National Development Plan (NDP) provides enabling investment to implement the strategy and promote balanced growth. The aim of [Project Ireland 2040](#) is to make Ireland a better country for all of us and for the coming generations. By 2040 there will be roughly an extra one million people living here. This population growth will require hundreds of thousands of new jobs, new homes, more cultural and social amenities, better regional connectivity and improved environmental sustainability. The NDP is a blueprint, setting out a strategic framework for public capital investment from 2018 to 2027 with a particular focus on the following Strategic Investment Priorities.

## Strategic Investment Priorities



In June 2020, a new Government took office in Ireland and it committed to bringing forward a review of the NDP to take account of the changed environment that Ireland is now facing, including the unprecedented impact of Covid-19, and to better reflect the major priorities set out in the new Programme for Government.<sup>1</sup> These priorities are aimed at tackling the most important challenges facing us as a nation including climate action, housing, balanced regional development, healthcare, social welfare policy, transport, education, development of our arts, culture and heritage, and the associated resourcing requirements. The renewed NDP will set out a capital investment framework until 2030.

<sup>1</sup> A Programme for Government (PfG) is a document that lays out all of the things the Government aims to achieve over its time in office.



# Review to Renew

**The Government is committed to capital investment, providing additional public investment and delivering the July stimulus package which included a significant increase in public investment for capital works projects specifically designed to boost economic activity and provide necessary supports for various sectors.**

Throughout the process of the NDP Review, the infrastructure projects which are already underway will continue to be developed and delivered. Public investment will continue to support the economic recovery and provide confidence and certainty to the Irish construction sector.

The primary aims of **Review to Renew** are to:

- ensure that the overall level of capital investment planned for the future is set at the right level;
- test whether that the proposed allocations to Departments and sectors is correct; and
- sense-check what needs to change to deliver more quickly on meeting Ireland's challenges and to fulfil the priorities in the Programme for Government, including on housing, health, climate action and transport.

The review will not be considering the merit of individual projects or sectoral policy strategies as this is a matter for individual Departments and Agencies.<sup>2</sup> A number of Government Departments are, or shortly will be, conducting their own public consultations on the various strands of infrastructure which they are responsible for delivering. You can find more information [here](#)<sup>3</sup>.

Below are a series of questions which will help to inform the NDP review. It is planned to publish a renewed NDP document in mid-2021.

- <sup>2</sup> Individual projects are selected based on a detailed process which begins with Departments or Agencies setting their own sectoral strategy and goals, and then subsequently identifying specific needs or challenges to be addressed, whether that be through education, regulation, taxation or potentially expenditure on an infrastructure project
- <sup>3</sup> This consultations portal is in beta and not yet complete with all consultations.

# Submissions should be sent to [reviewtorenew@per.gov.ie](mailto:reviewtorenew@per.gov.ie)

1. Forename:
2. Surname:
3. Address:
4. Email Address:
5. Please indicate if you are submitting your proposal on behalf of:  
  
    an organisation   or        as an individual

Name of organisation:

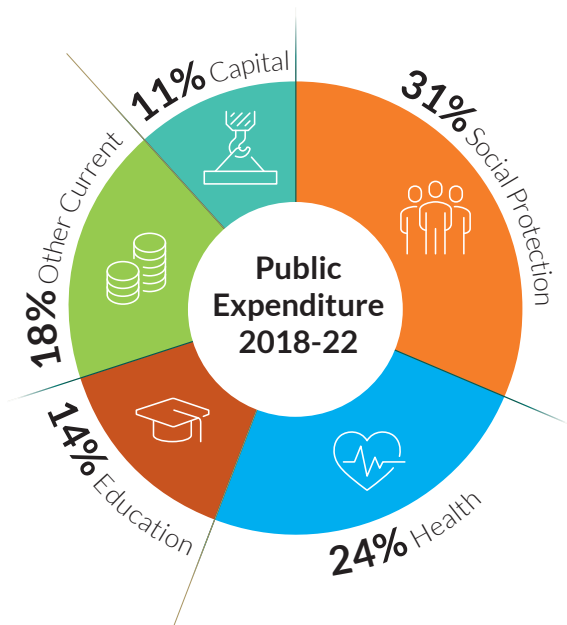
## **We need your views on:**

1. Is the overall level of public spending on capital investment correct?
2. What should the capital budget be spent on?
3. What types of capital investment should be prioritised?
4. How can the management and governance of public investment be improved?
5. How is the NDP affecting your region?
6. What is your feedback on Project Ireland 2040 communications?
7. Is there anything else you would like to add?

# 1. Is the overall level of public spending on capital investment correct?

Government funds are spent on delivering public goods and services. This can be divided into current and capital expenditure. Current expenditure covers day-to-day spending by Government Departments and bodies. Capital expenditure is spending on long term assets such as roads, bridges, hospital buildings and schools; and also on non-physical assets such as software and intellectual property. Current expenditure covers day-to-day spending by Government Departments and bodies. The website <https://whereyourmoneygoes.gov.ie/en/> details the Government’s expenditure data. The table below gives an overview of proposed allocations until 2022.

**ANSWER:**



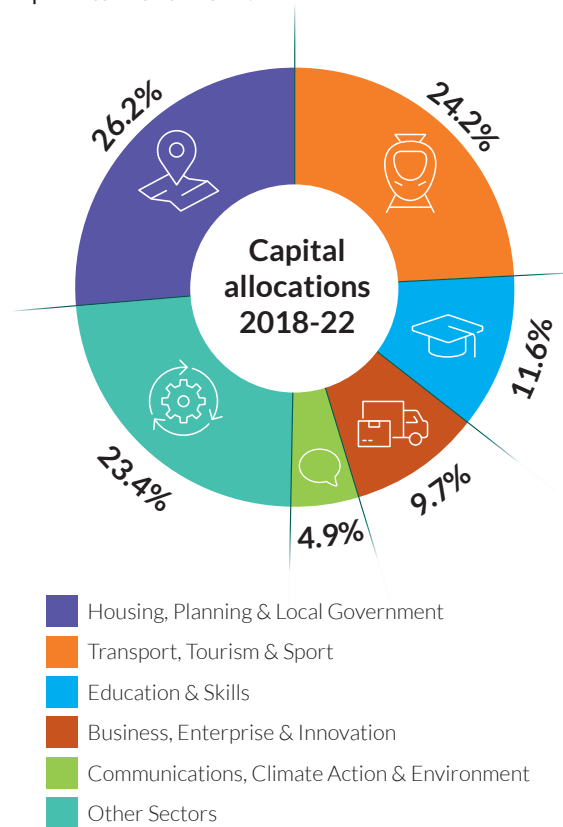
**RATIONALE:**

**What is your view on the level of capital expenditure versus current? Does the overall level of capital expenditure need to be increased or decreased? What is the appropriate level of public investment (e.g. as a share of national income) taking into consideration factors such as Covid-19; the climate challenge; the overall fiscal position; demand for infrastructure; construction sector capacity constraints; international comparisons etc.? If you think that the share should be increased, do you have a view on what areas of current spending should be scaled back?**

## 2. What should the capital budget be spent on?

In turn, capital expenditure is allocated across a number of different categories, as set out in the chart below which again gives an indication of planned expenditure until 2022.

**ANSWER:**



**RATIONALE:**

**What is your view of the breakdown of capital expenditure across these areas? Does the share need to be adjusted? If so, what do you think the appropriate share of allocation across Departments or sectors is in order to ensure alignment with Government priorities? Is there a sector whose share could be reduced to allow greater investment in another sector?**

## Top Eight Capital Expenditure Spending Areas 2005 to 2019

	Roads	Housing	Schools and PPP	Public Transport	Health Building and Equipment	Water Services	3rd Level	Health ICT	Total for eight areas	Total Spend
2005	1,264	1,145	523	421	462	418	91	49	4,373	<b>5,883</b>
2006	1,583	1,254	514	354	421	465	120	22	4,732	<b>6,661</b>
2007	1,713	1,372	678	641	529	497	147	24	5,600	<b>7,819</b>
2008	2,069	1,522	674	890	549	496	155	19	6,375	<b>9,011</b>
2009	1,769	1,168	567	674	412	512	200	15	5,317	<b>7,333</b>
2010	1,414	845	569	614	346	495	169	9	4,461	<b>6,385</b>
2011	1,017	503	510	377	315	429	77	16	3,244	<b>4,515</b>
2012	886	397	398	254	316	308	55	22	2,636	<b>3,809</b>
2013	594	295	413	265	293	275	69	39	2,242	<b>3,387</b>
2014	638	300	517	395	326	30	79	40	2,325	<b>3,597</b>
2015	612	348	572	339	320	20	53	53	2,317	<b>3,730</b>
2016	704	464	604	355	351	18	69	52	2,616	<b>4,207</b>
2017	680	760	603	367	382	19	63	55	2,929	<b>4,601</b>
2018	815	1,185	633	405	435	532	71	60	4,136	<b>6,007</b>
2019	957	1,336	790	479	564	685	138	85	5,034	<b>7,342</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,715</b>	<b>12,894</b>	<b>8,565</b>	<b>6,830</b>	<b>6,021</b>	<b>5,199</b>	<b>1,556</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>58,337</b>	<b>84,287</b>
<b>%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>100%</b>



### 3. What types of capital investment should be prioritised?

The current Strategic Investment Priorities set out in the NDP are:

#### **Housing and Sustainable Urban Development**

Public capital investment must, as a top priority, support the delivery and location of the homes that society will need over the next decade and beyond, while also ensuring that in the future the pattern of housing development underpins the development of more compact higher-density cities, towns and other areas.

#### **National Road Network**

Substantial progress has been made since the year 2000 in improving the road linkages between Dublin and most of the other urban areas and regions. Under the National Development Plan, the objective is to complete those linkages so that every region and all the major urban areas, particularly those in the North-West, which have been comparatively neglected until recently, are linked to Dublin by a high-quality road network.

#### **Rural Development**

Securing regional balance is a key strand of Project Ireland 2040 targeting a level of growth in the Northern and Western, and Southern regions combined, to match that projected in the Eastern and Midland Region. Public capital investment has a vital role to play to support the regions, including rural areas, in achieving their economic and social potential, and in particular to facilitate the jobs growth necessary to support future population growth.

#### **Environmentally Sustainable Public Transport**

Public investment in environmentally sustainable public transport systems in major urban areas and nationally is a primary enabler to the National Strategic Objectives under the NPF relating to Compact Growth in urban areas and is one of a number of most important priorities to achieve climate action objectives. The National Development Plan will deliver a public transport network that will provide high-quality passenger interchange points, which facilitate convenient transfer between efficient and integrated public transport services.

#### **Enterprise, Skills and Innovation Capacity**

The NPF sets the ambition of ensuring that jobs growth in the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly area is at least matched by that of the Northern and Western and Southern Regional Assembly areas combined, a total of 660,000 new jobs. This ambition for Ireland's regions will be achieved by investing, through the National Development Plan, in making places attractive for enterprise investment, developing deeply rooted sectoral clustering driven by effective collaborations and built around investments in Higher Education and Further Education and Training (FET).

#### **Airports and Ports**

Investments will strongly support the continued development and improvement in Ireland's ports and State airports by the relevant responsible commercial State Owned Enterprises (SOEs), consistent with sectoral priorities already defined through National Ports Policy and National Aviation Policy, in addition to continued Exchequer support for the small regional airports. Significant investment in Ireland's airports and ports will play a major role in safeguarding and enhancing Ireland's international connectivity which is fundamental to Ireland's international competitiveness, trading performance in both goods and services and enhancing its attractiveness to foreign direct investment.

The importance of this objective cannot be understated in the context of the UK's exit from the EU in 2019. Maritime services programmes will support aids to navigation, and Coast Guard search and rescue and pollution prevention activities.

#### **Culture, Heritage and Sport**

Investment in culture, heritage and sports, appropriately aligned with other NSOs included in the NPF, can play a very important role in improving amenities and the attractiveness and liveability of different areas, whether in cities, other urban areas, small towns and rural areas. This investment can complement and reinforce the impact of investment in sustainable public transport networks and in other amenities. Plans for investment in culture and heritage recognise that high quality infrastructure is critical for a vibrant heritage and culture sector and that investment in our cultural heritage underpins

social cohesion and supports strong, sustainable economic growth. In terms of regional objectives, specific priorities are to enhance arts and culture centres throughout the country, develop the sustainable tourism potential of our culture and heritage infrastructure and improve Ireland's outdoor recreation infrastructure and natural heritage. In recognition of the vital role of culture, heritage and sport in our national life, total funding allocated to strategic investment priorities in this area is in excess of €1 billion.

## Climate Action

The national objective of transitioning by 2050 to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy and society must influence public capital investment choices over the next ten years. On account of the inherently cross-sectoral and integrated nature of the decisions required in such areas as transport, energy, agriculture and the built environment, addressing climate change is a unique challenge for public policy. Investment choices across different sectors must, therefore be coherent and highly integrated with each other

requiring a strong co-ordinated approach between the relevant responsible State bodies and SOEs. They must also be closely aligned and mutually reinforcing in terms of the critical role of complementary taxation and regulatory measures, as well as private investment.

## Water Infrastructure

Investment in our country's water services is critical in meeting the needs of our growing economy across the regions, of our people and their health and the protection and enhancement of the quality of our environment and ensures public health.

## Education, Health and Childcare

Over the years ahead, the delivery of additional permanent school places to meet demographic demand will continue to be prioritised. The expectation is that an average of 20,000 permanent school places will be delivered annually over the medium term.

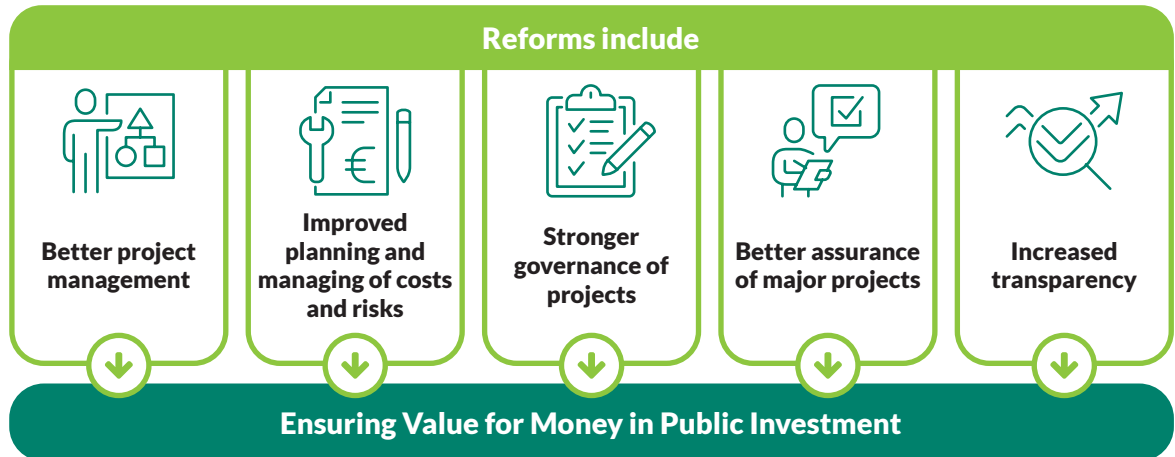
**In the context of the Programme for Government priorities which include the economy, climate action, housing, balanced regional development, universal healthcare, social welfare policy, transport and education, how would you rank the Strategic Investment Priorities? What is most important to you and why? What do you consider to be the greatest challenge? What would you add to this list?**

**ANSWER:**

**RATIONALE:**

# 4. How can the management and governance of public investment be improved?

## We are ensuring Value for Money



The structure and rules for the management and governance of public investment have been strengthened with the publication of the revised [Public Spending Code](#). The Public Spending Code (PSC), originally published in 2013, is the set of roles, procedures and guidance to ensure Value for Money in public expenditure across the Irish Public Service. The Code applies to all organisations that spend public money.

As part of the ongoing reform of Ireland’s public investment management system, the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform has reviewed and updated the PSC.

**ANSWER:**

Informed by leading international practice, the Department is also developing a new governance and assurance process for major projects with an estimated cost of over €100 million. It will involve an independent external review of major projects at key stages focusing on robustness of planned delivery, accuracy of cost forecasts and consideration of risk.

**Do the structures and rules for the management and governance of public investment need to be further improved? If so, how can these be improved?**

**RATIONALE:**

## 5. How is the NDP affecting your region?

Notwithstanding that DPER will not be considering the merit of individual projects or sectoral policy strategies as this is a primarily matter for individual Departments and Agencies; how, in your opinion is the NDP affecting your region? You can find Project Ireland 2040 Annual and Regional Reports [here](#).

**ANSWER:**

**RATIONALE:**

## 6. What is your feedback on Project Ireland 2040 communications?

The National Investment Office in DPER has developed a suite of online interactive tools including the [Project Ireland 2040 Tracker](#), [Project Ireland 2040 Interactive Map](#), and the [Project Ireland 2040 Annual and Regional Reports](#). Please give us your feedback on these.

**ANSWER:**

**RATIONALE:**

## 7. Is there anything else you would like to add?

**ANSWER:**

**RATIONALE:**

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