

Raising the ambition via Blue Green Infrastructure and potential for all Local Authority areas

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Southern Regional Assembly



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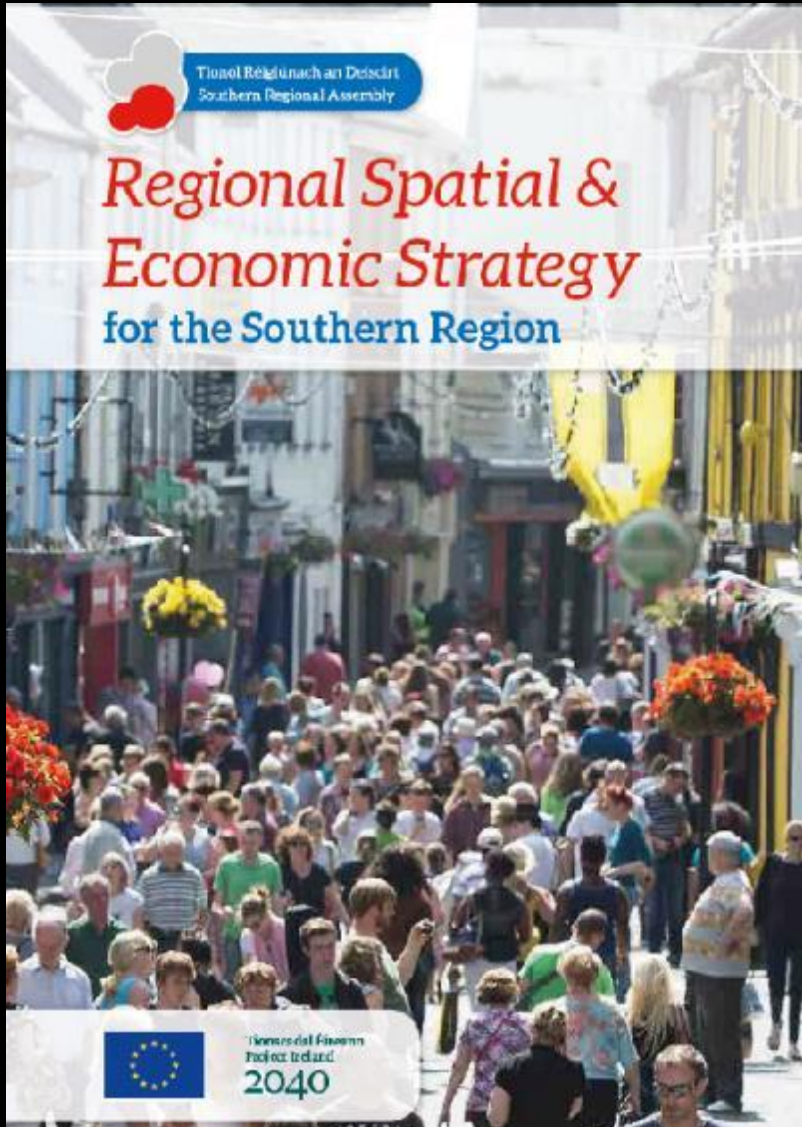
Structure

Policy context

Shared challenge

Making progress

Raising the ambition

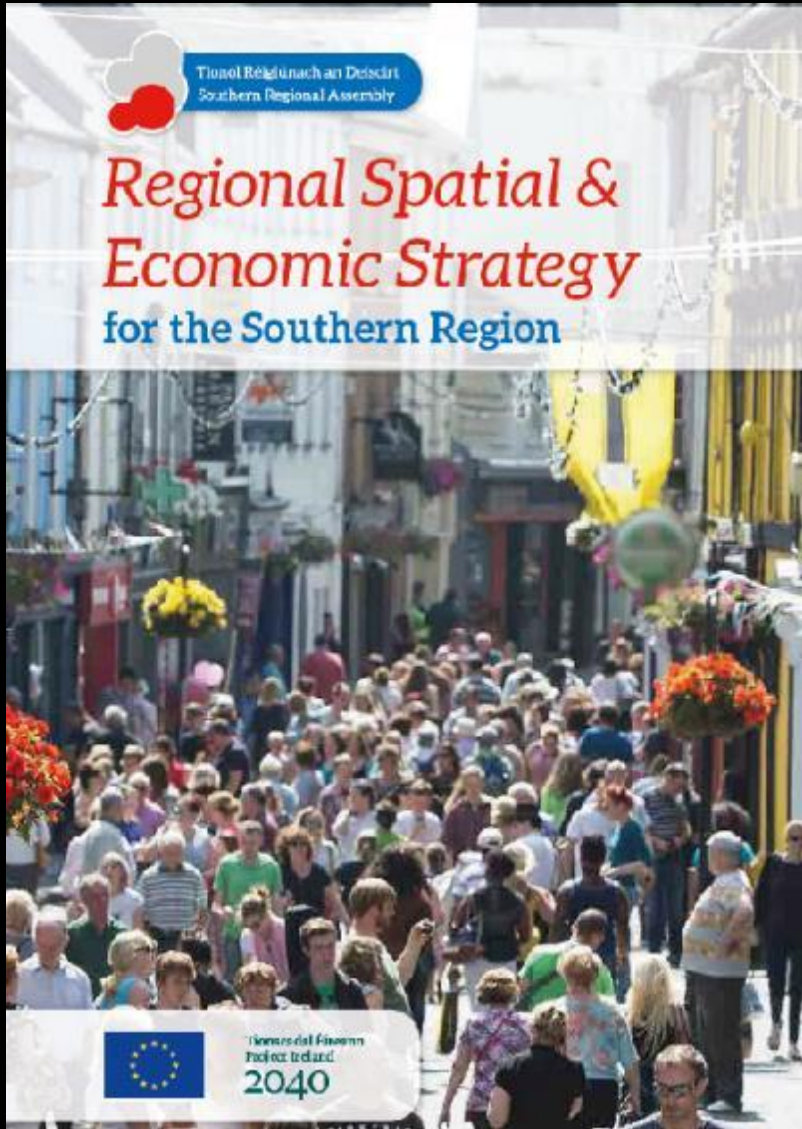


12-year strategic planning and economic development framework

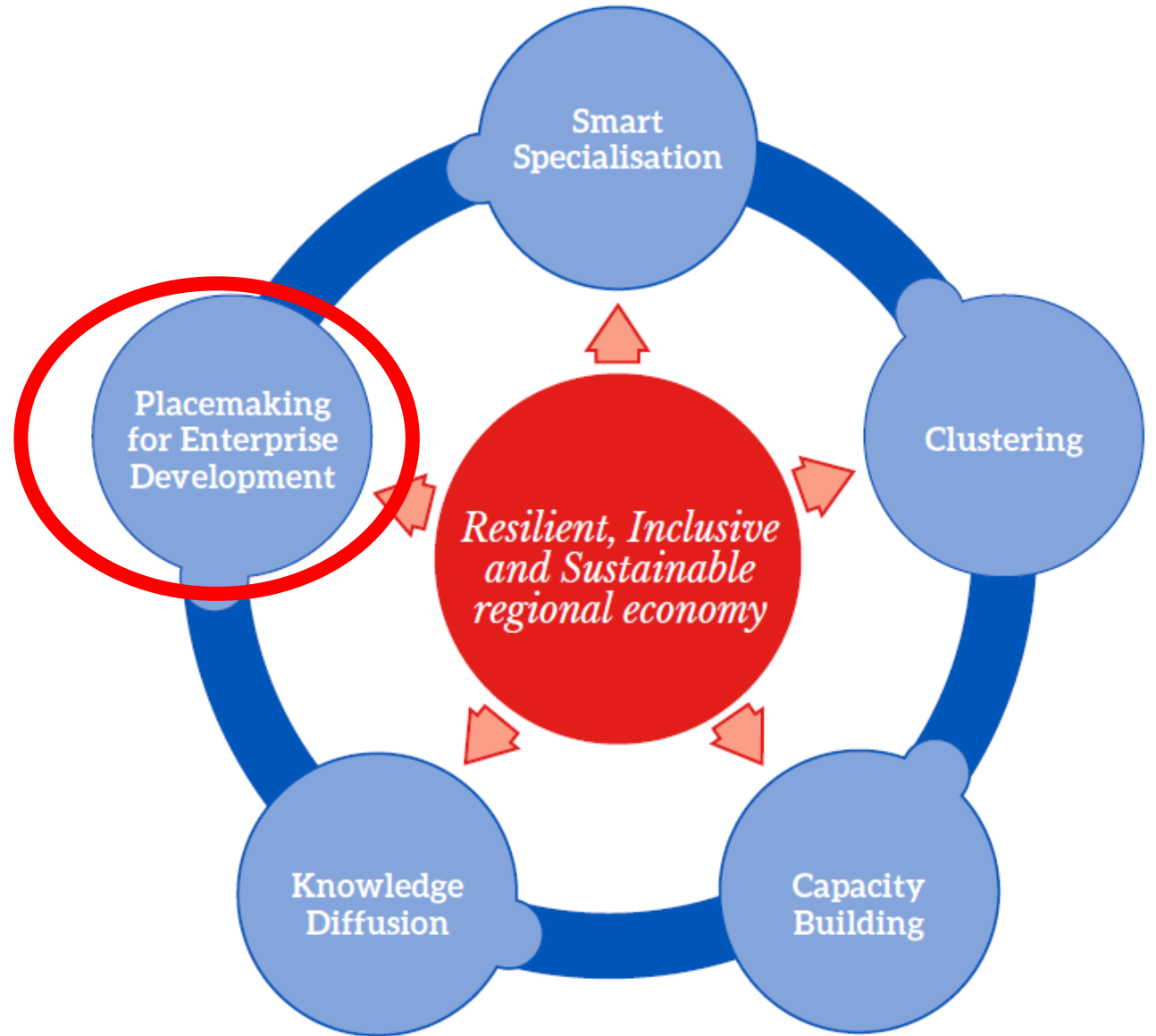
2040 Population Projections

- almost 2 million in Southern Region
- Population growth of 50% to 60% in cities
- compact growth focused on urban areas

High-quality green and blue spaces are important not just for nature but health and wellbeing, particularly in the context of an increasingly urban society and increasing settlement densities



Economic Strategy



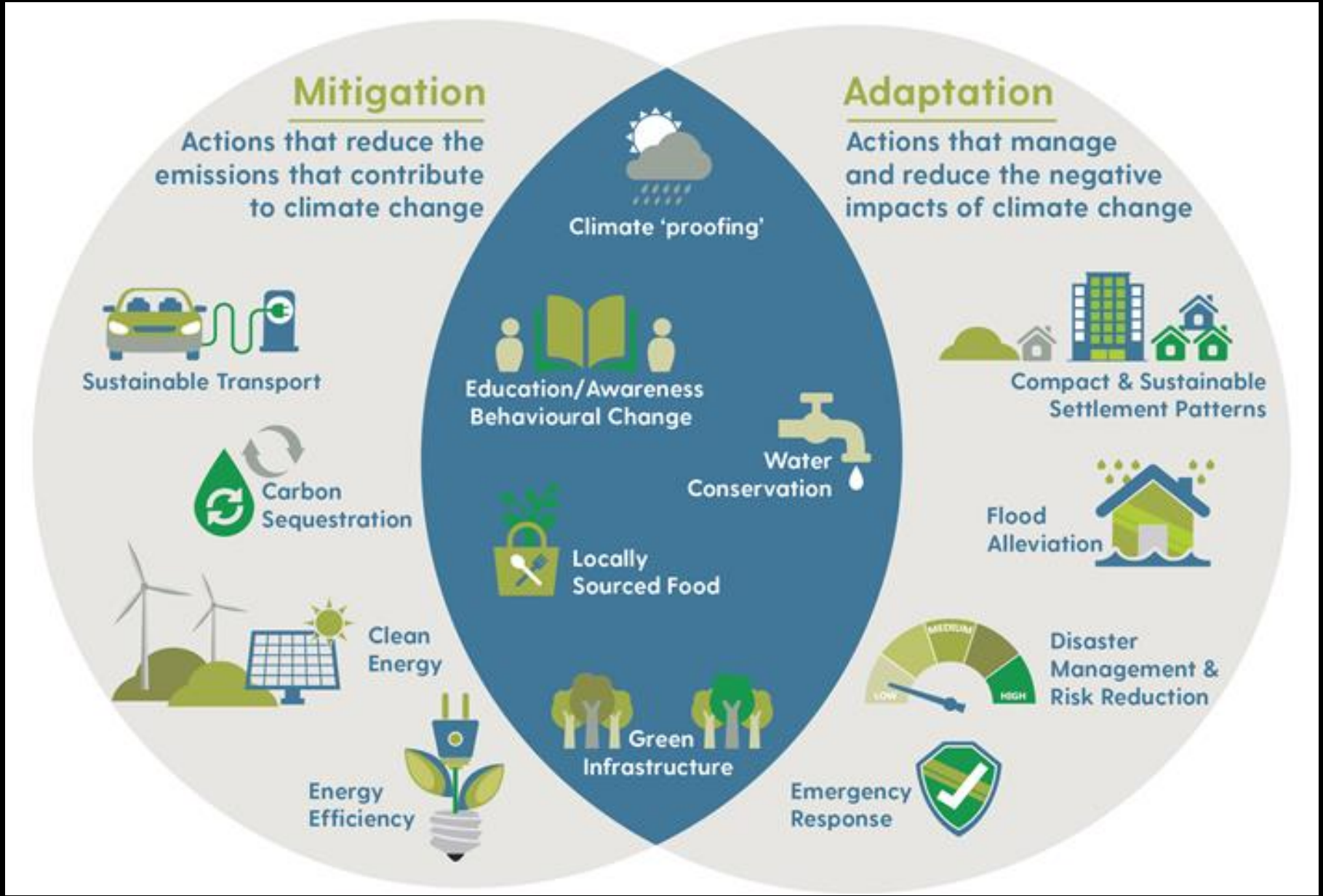
Climate Change and Spatial Planning

- Climate Change is changing the context of planning, - shaping its priorities
- Strengthened environmental dimension – new rationale for priorities
- Catalyst for refocusing priorities





**Tackle
the
cause**



**Build
Resilience**

Policy Support for SuDS

“Spatial planning can play a significant role in ensuring that the design of developments prevent and reduces diffuse pollution, including the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), blue green infrastructure and nature based solutions.” Southern RSES

National Policy Objective 57

Enhance water quality and resource management by:

- o Ensuring flood risk management informs place-making by avoiding inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding in accordance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities.
- o Ensuring that River Basin Management Plan objectives are fully considered throughout the physical planning process.
- o Integrating sustainable water management solutions, such as Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDS), non-porous surfacing and green roofs, to create safe places.

RPO 122

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

It is an objective to:

- a. Promote the integration of sustainable water management solutions such as the use of SuDs. Future development and Local Area Plans in the Region should include objectives and actions to encourage the integration of sustainable water management solutions such as the use of SuDS;
- b. Promote the diversion of surface water from combined sewers where possible.

RPO 218

Sustainable Urban Drainage and Rainwater Harvesting

It is an objective to support the incorporation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs) in all public and private development in urban areas. The local authorities shall include objectives requiring the incorporation of SUDs in local authority development plans and Local Area Plans, promote greater rainwater harvesting by households and businesses for the diversion of storm water from combined sewers (where possible), so that within developments and in the wider public realm, opportunities for SUDs and rainwater harvesting maximise capacity to cater for infill, brownfield and new development in sewer networks and treatment plants.

Developing Blue Green Infrastructure (BGI) and Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) in the Southern Region

Opportunity

....to investigate the **shared challenges** that pertain to the implementation of BGI and NBS in our Region

Purpose

- develop better BGI and NBS solutions
- enhance **collaboration** across a range of agencies



Shared Challenge

PRACTICAL INCORPORATION AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF BGI AND NBS
AT PROJECT LEVEL

A Pilot Approach

Lets look at a pilot of local authority projects.

Flood Relief & Public
Realm Scheme

Peatland Rewetting
in a Public Park

Greenway Improvement
Scheme

City Centre Open Space
and Recreation Space

Wetland Enhancement


A Pilot Approach

- Bring in expertise to identify co-benefits and added value to each project
- Public sector collaboration
- Design options
- Work through issues raised

What is progress?

- ✓ Better multi-agency collaboration
- ✓ Process of learning
- ✓ Innovative approaches
- ✓ Co-benefits and added value

5 exemplary project examples of incorporating Blue Green Infrastructure and Nature Based Solutions



Växjö, Sweden

Blue Green
City
Interreg Europe



Raising the Ambition

- Target project design stage
- Multi-agency coordination
- Identifying & Communicating tangible benefits (e.g. cost benefit)
- An even more ambitious policy approach
- Bidding capacity – EU Green Deal opportunities

Nature based SuDS needs to be consistently applied across all types of development

Thank You!

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