

2nd July 2018



Ms Lorraine O' Donoghue
Chairperson
Local Government Funding (Baseline) Review Group
Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government
Government Buildings
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90

RE: Local Government Funding (Baseline) Review Group

Dear Lorraine

Thank you for your Email and letter dated the 6th June 2018 in regards to the Local Government Funding Baseline Review which the Secretariat of Co Wicklow PPN discussed at their meeting on 15th June 2018. Co Wicklow PPN welcomes the opportunity for more clarity and transparency in relation to local government funding and appreciates the invitation to participate in the consultation.

In regards to possible indicators for funding allocations the Secretariat agreed that the following should be considered:

- Population to include population change and social measures such as older people, children & young people, people with disabilities and minority groups (including Travellers and refugees)
- Physical characteristics to include size/area, the physical environment, and the rural -urban divide. This is a huge challenge in Wicklow due to the separation of East & West, Rural and Urban by the Wicklow Mountains. According to our consultations in February this year, people living in West Wicklow feel disenfranchised from the East of the county and resources are needed for outreach work/services to combat this.
- Socio – economic indicators including deprivation & unemployment figures. These should be looked at using the Pobal maps and on the understanding that some “affluent” areas can contain pockets of deprivation
- Housing waiting lists and the availability of housing within the local authority area
- Commuter rates including distances travelled and time spent for work/education travel
- Income generating capacity of the local authority.
- The governance and fiscal management record of the local authority including their ability to meet targets set out in various plans and strategies including the Local Economic and Community Plan; Digital (Broadband) Strategies; Creative Ireland & Heritage Strategies and Healthy Ireland Strategies.
- The local authority's commitment and record in working towards targets set out in the Sustainable Development Goals.

Co Wicklow PPN hopes that these suggestions are considered carefully and looks forward to learning the outcomes of this consultation.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Howes, Resource Worker
On behalf of the Secretariat
Co Wicklow PPN

c/o CEART, Crinion Park, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow.

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