

# Implementing a Framework for Collaborative Action Spatial Strategies on the Island of Ireland

**Plenary Session: Implementing a Collaborative Framework –  
Recommendations & Agenda for Action**

## **Proposed Frameworks for Action**

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Government (Dublin) & Mike Thompson, Department for Regional  
Development (Belfast)

Canal Court Hotel, Newry, 9 November 2006






# IMPLEMENTING SPATIAL STRATEGIES ON THE ISLAND OF IRELAND



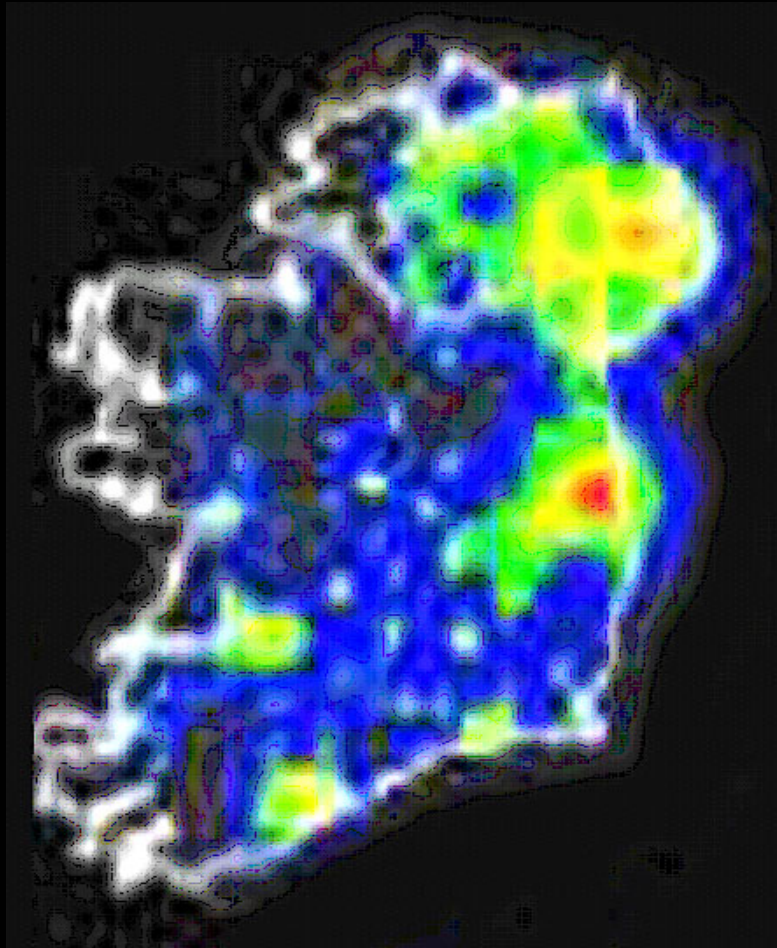
# PROGRESS - PROSPECTS

# Some Basic Facts....

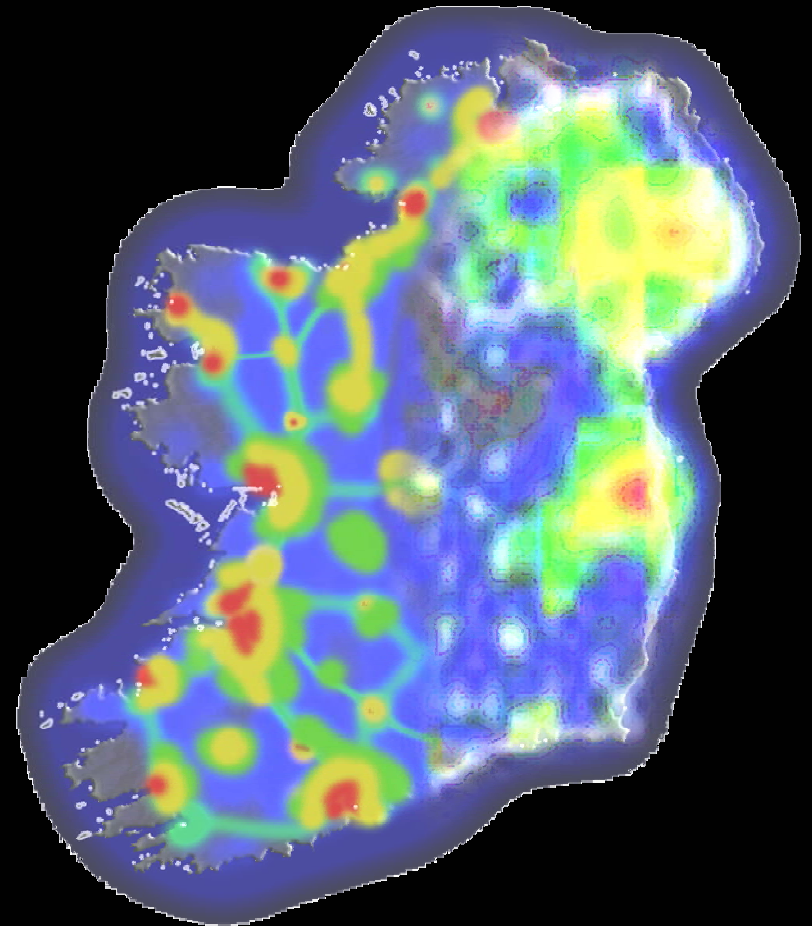
- “Island of Ireland” population 2002: 5.7m(approx)
  - Republic: approx 4 million
  - NI: approx 1.7 million
  - “Island of Ireland population 2021: circa 7 million
  - Republic: approx 5 million (+)
  - NI: 1.8 million
  - Biggest population growth/economic progress on E coast...
  - 1990’s – 2000: N+S - Political consensus about need for spatial/regional development policy...
- 
- The map of Ireland shows population density and development trends. A legend on the left side of the map includes the following categories:
- Hub
  - County Town
  - 1,500 - 5,000 Town
  - Urban Centres (over 1,000)
  - Centres in Weak Urban Structure Areas
  - National Transport Corridor
  - Airport
  - Transit Port
  - Access to Peripheral Areas
  - Rural Areas with Strong Potential for Diversification
  - Urban Strengthening Opportunities
  - Village Strengthening and Rural Area Opportunities
  - Strategic Rural Assets within a Metropolitan Hinterland
- Key locations marked on the map include Sligo, Carrickmacross, Drogheda, and Dundalk. A north arrow is located in the top right corner. The text 'Approx. Scale' is visible in the bottom right corner of the map area.

# Effect of Regional Policy/improved Regional Competitiveness?

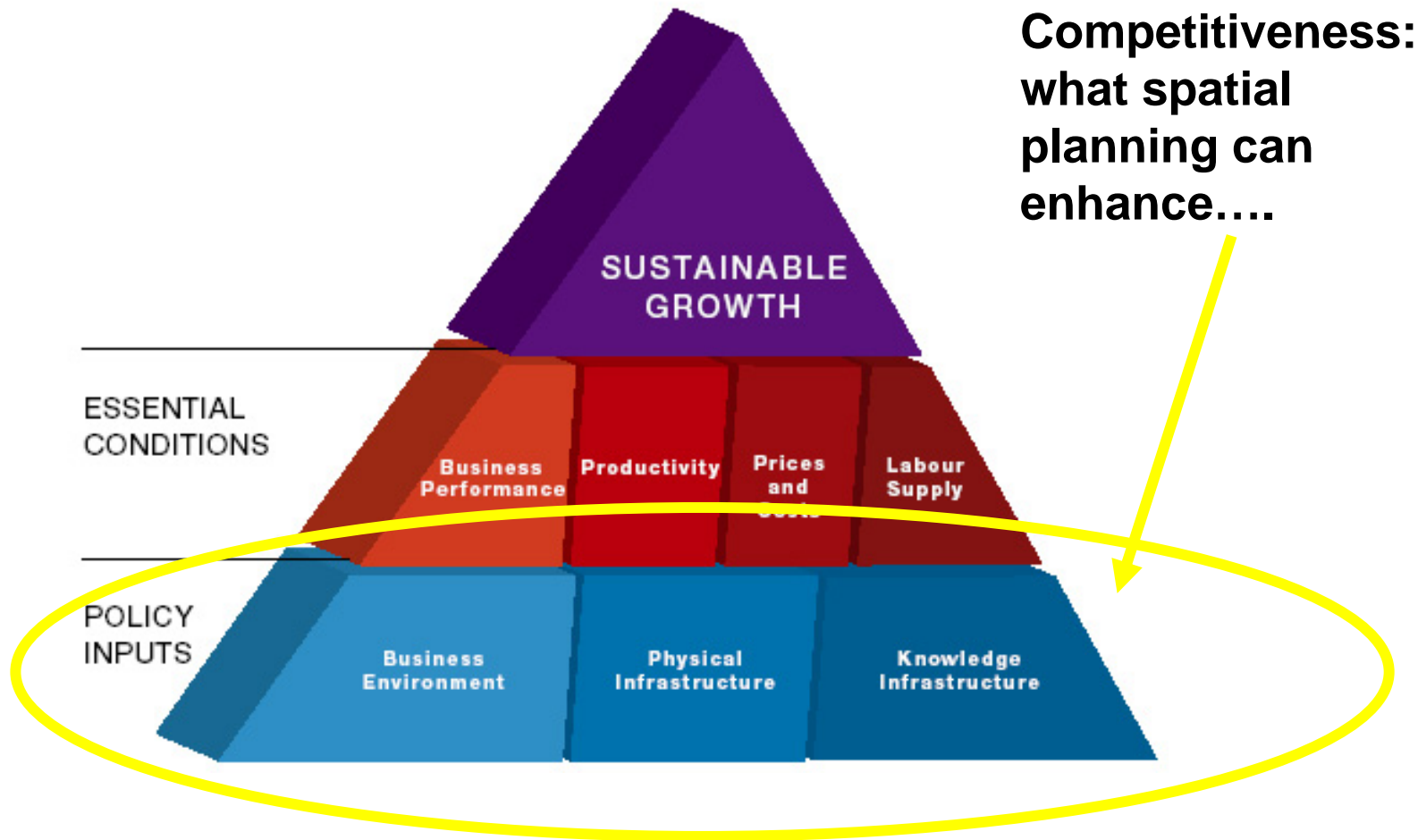
## Present Night Sky



## Future Night Sky



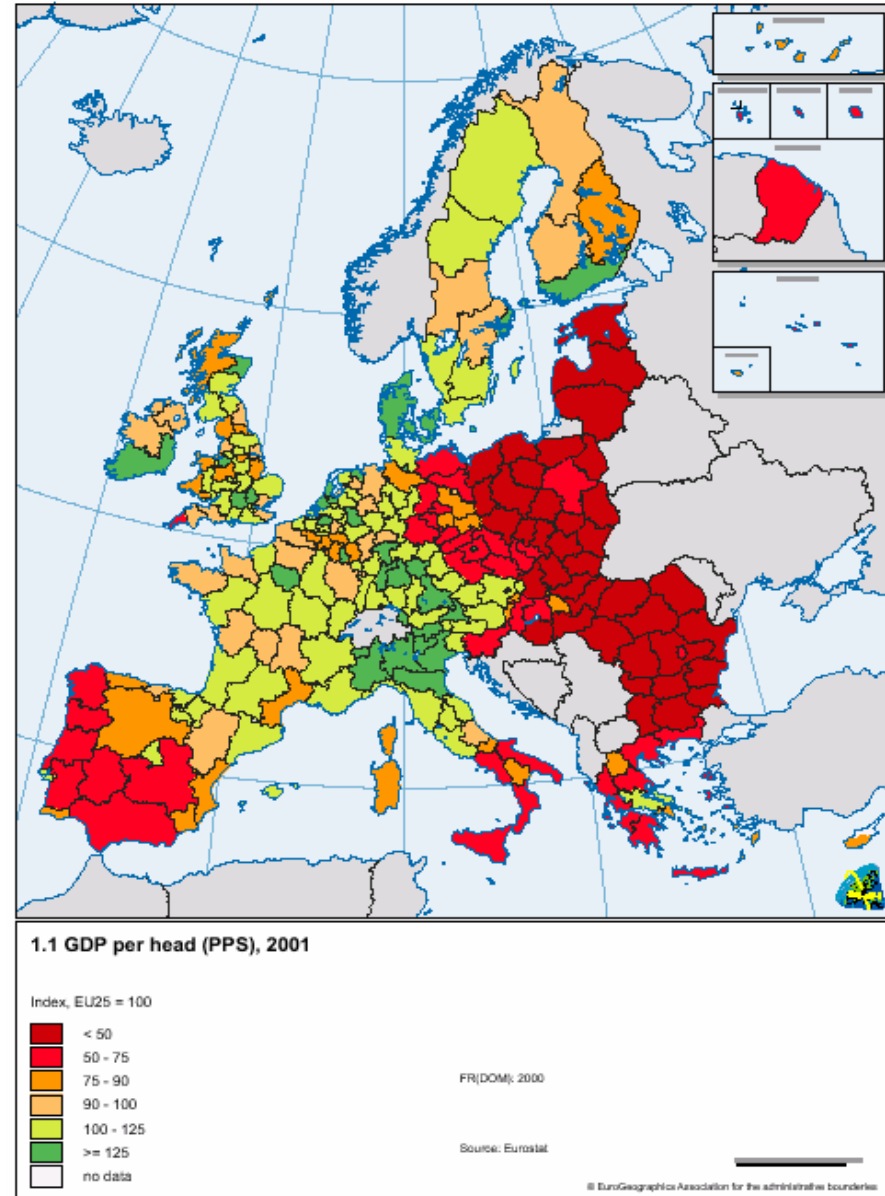
# The Competitiveness Pyramid



# Regional Competitiveness

## EU Comparisons

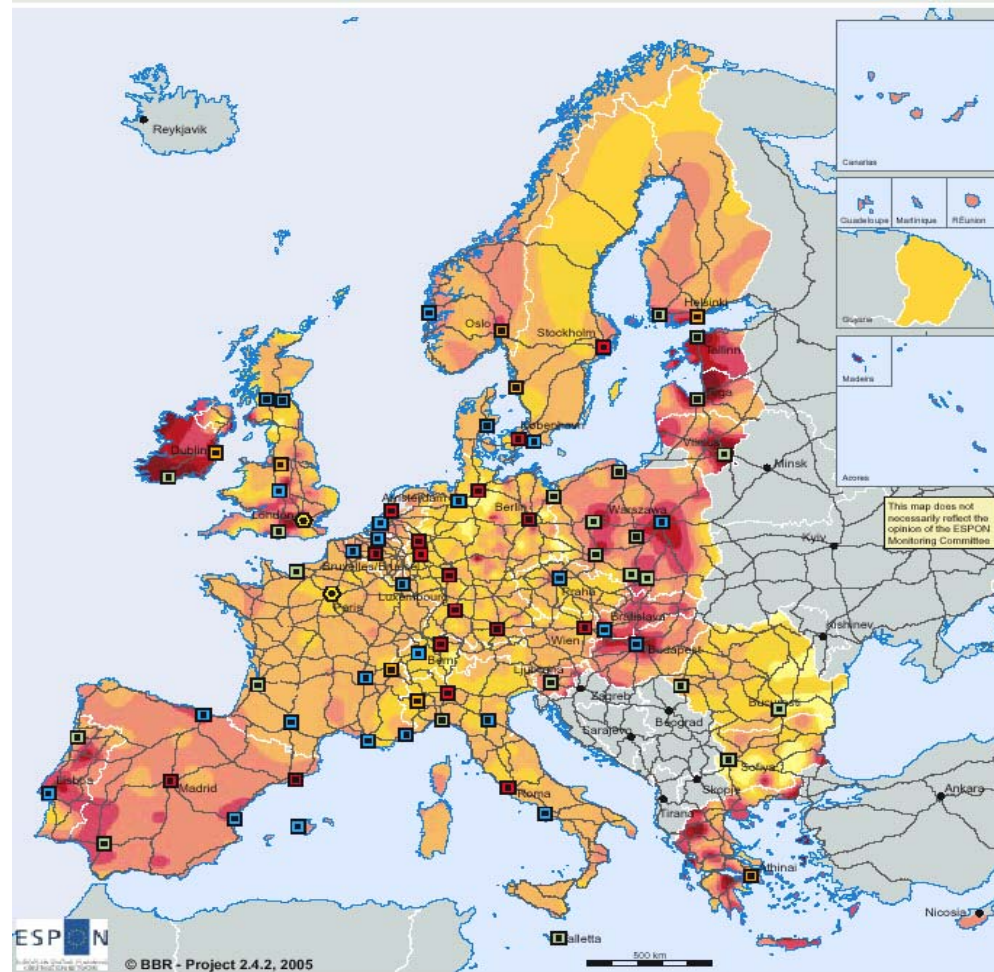
(1)...island of Ireland one of the more affluent parts of the EU...



**Regional Competitiveness**

**EU Comparisons (2)...but island is remoter and lacks lots of big cities...essential in driving regional competitiveness....**

**Main economic structures of the European territory**



ESPON  
European Spatial Policy Observation Network

© BBR - Project 2.4.2, 2005

Average yearly development of GDP per capita in Purchasing Power Standards 1995-2002 in percent\*



\*Switzerland, Norway and Bulgaria 1995 to 2001; Romania 1998 to 2001

Metropolitan Growth Areas



— Highways of European level

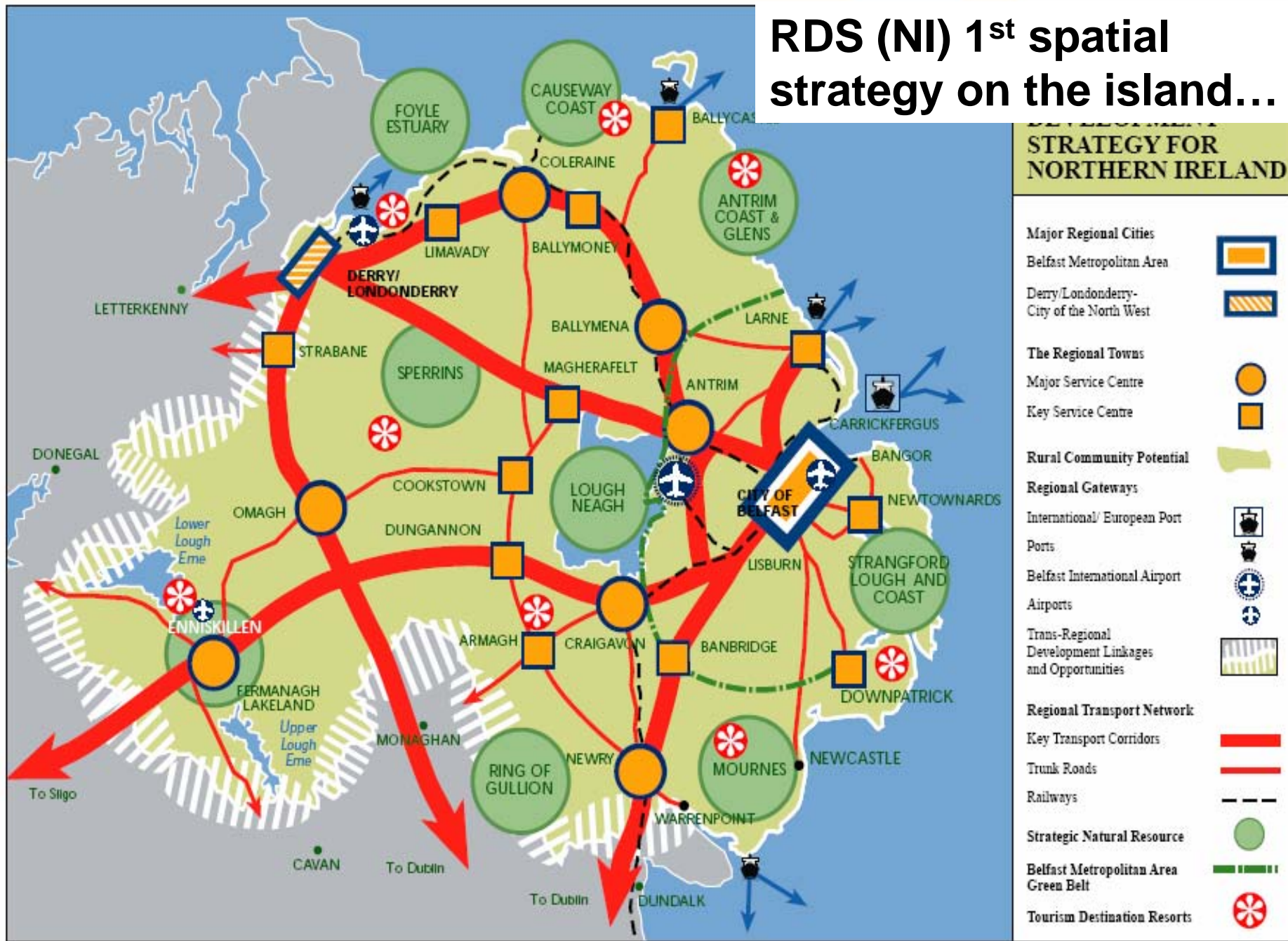
© EuroGeographics Association for administrative boundaries

Regional level: NUTS 3

Origin of data: GDP-Eurostat, MEGA: ESPON 1.1.1 Nordregio

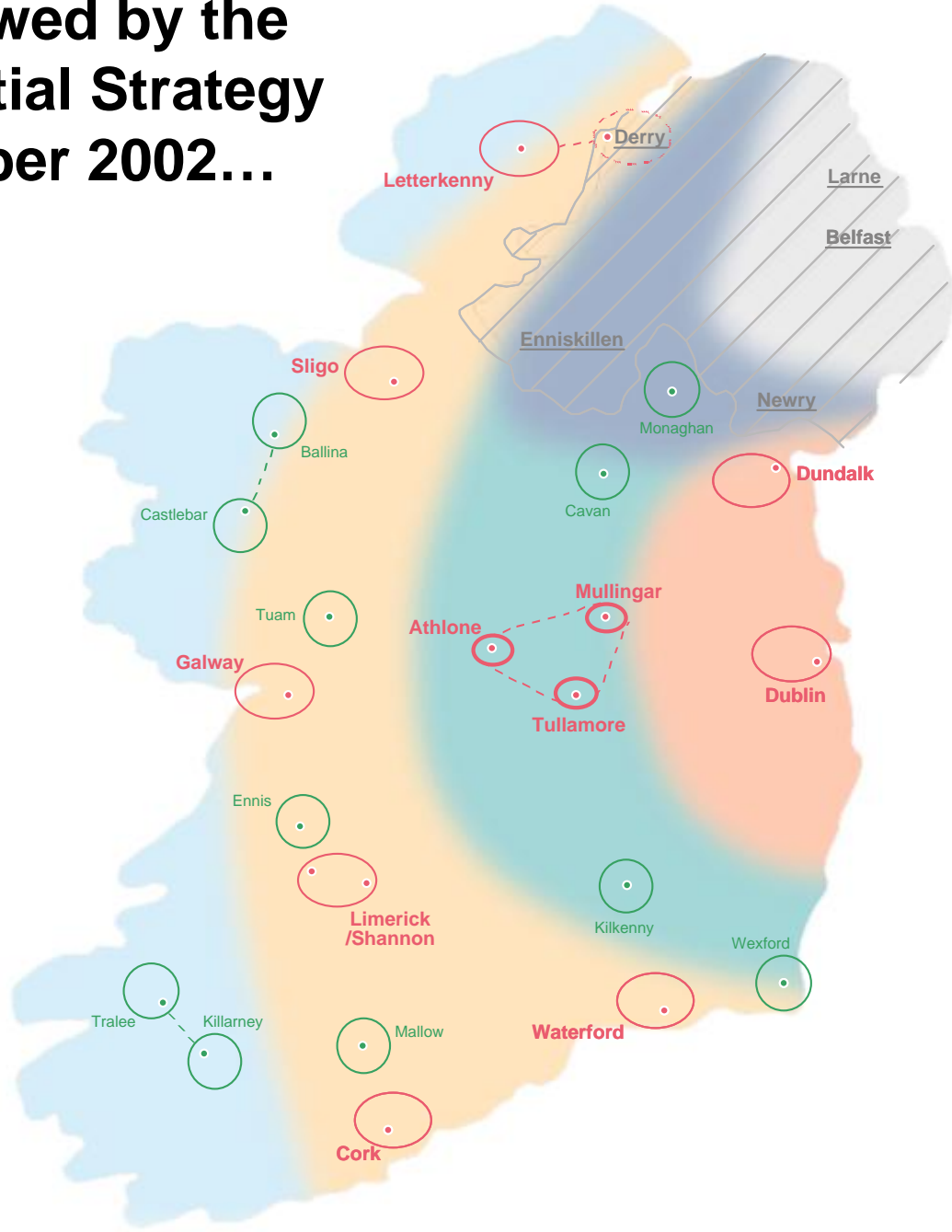
Source: ESPON database














# RDS (NI) 1<sup>st</sup> spatial strategy on the island...



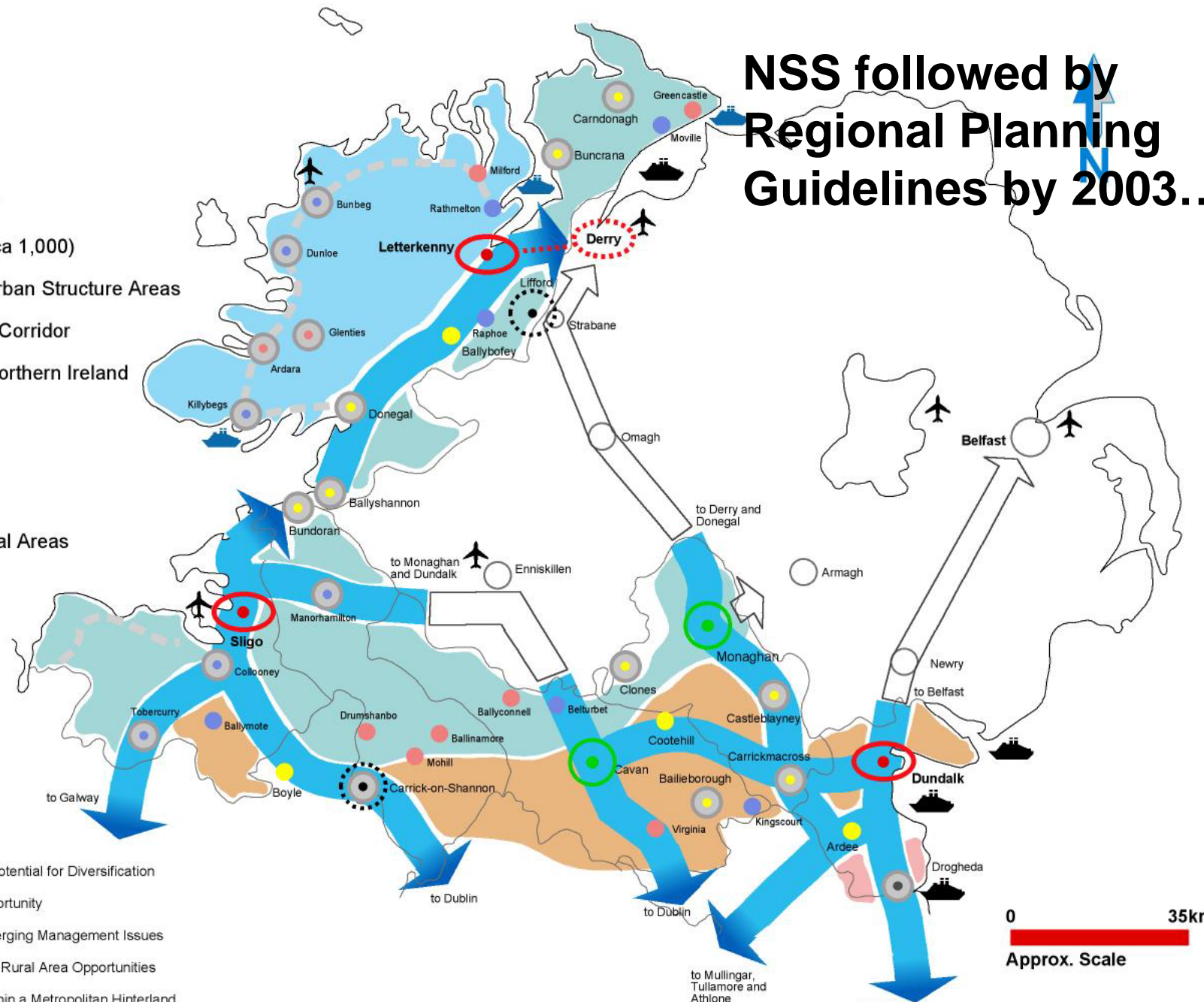


# Quickly followed by the National Spatial Strategy (RoI) November 2002...



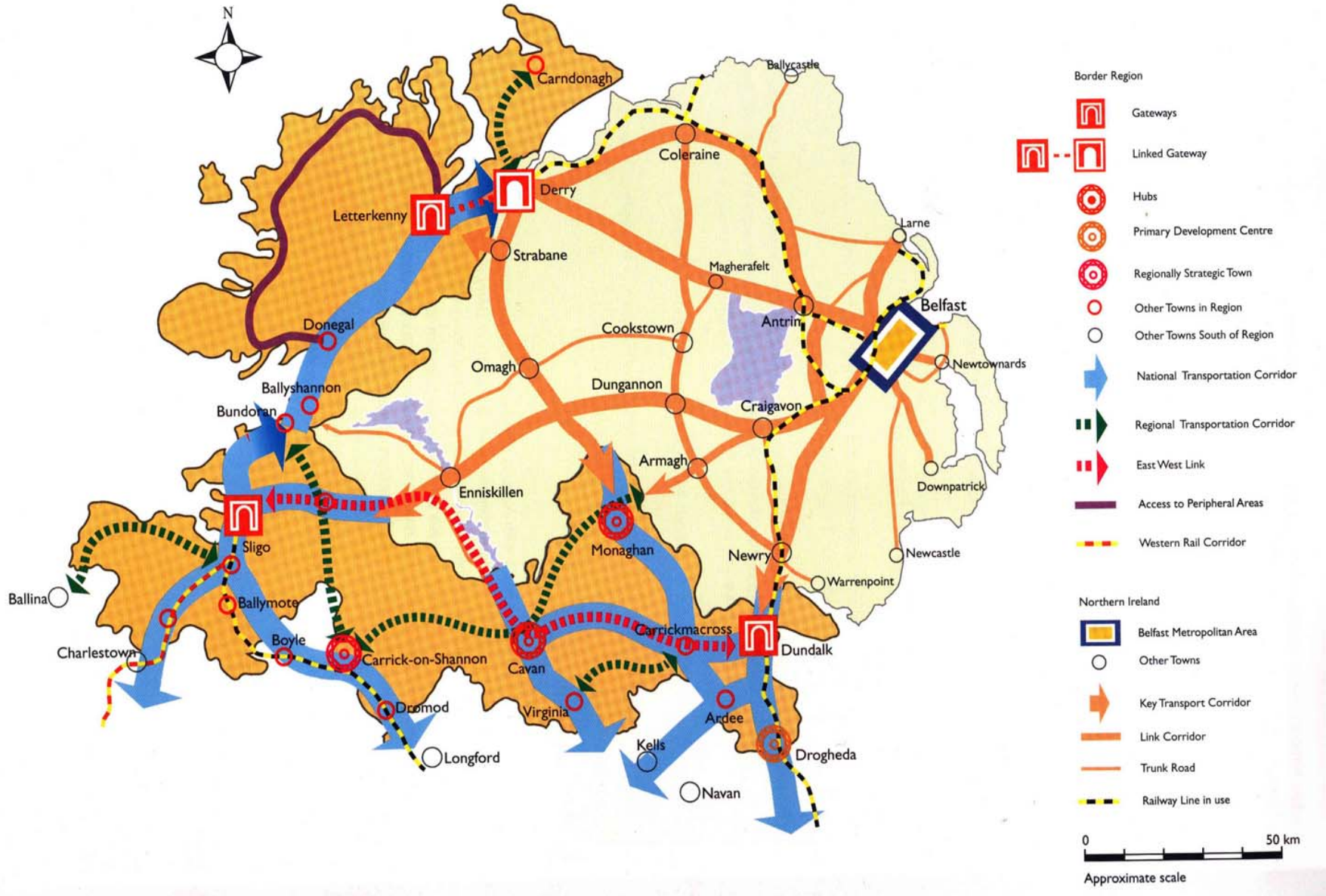
-  Gateway
-  Hub
-  County Town
-  <5,000 Town
-  1,500 - 5,000 Town
-  Urban Centres (circa 1,000)
-  Centres in Weak Urban Structure Areas
-  National Transport Corridor
-  Key Corridor into Northern Ireland
-  Airport
-  Transit Port
-  Major Fishing Port
-  Access to Peripheral Areas

**NSS followed by  
Regional Planning  
Guidelines by 2003..**



-  Rural Areas with Strong Potential for Diversification
-  Urban Strengthening Opportunity
-  Diversifying Areas — Emerging Management Issues
-  Village Strengthening and Rural Area Opportunities
-  Strategic Rural Assets within a Metropolitan Hinterland

# But: spatial strategies for RoI and NI do add up...



THE SPATIAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGY FOR  
THE NORTH WEST

# Spatial Strategies: key Interdependencencies

- The international potential of the Dublin – Belfast corridor (including intermediate areas (Newry-Dundalk))...
- Complementary potential of the Northwest Gateway...
- Need for an Island of Ireland approach to key infrastructure...
- Need for better linkages between spatial planning and the infrastructure investment agenda...
- Development of further collaborative planning exercises...
- Partnership in conserving key environmental assets and diversification of the rural economy...
- Enhancing the range and depth of key datasets...

Major Regional Cities:	
Belfast Metropolitan Area	
Derry/Londonderry - City of the North West	
The Regional Towns	
Major Service Centre	
Rural Community Potential	
Regional Gateways:	
International/ European Port	
Ports	
Belfast International Airport	
Airports	
Trans-Regional Development Linkages Opportunities	
Regional Transport Network	
Key Transport Corridors	
Roads	
Railways	
Strategic Natural Resources	
Belfast Metropolitan Area Green Belt	
Tourism Destination Resorts	

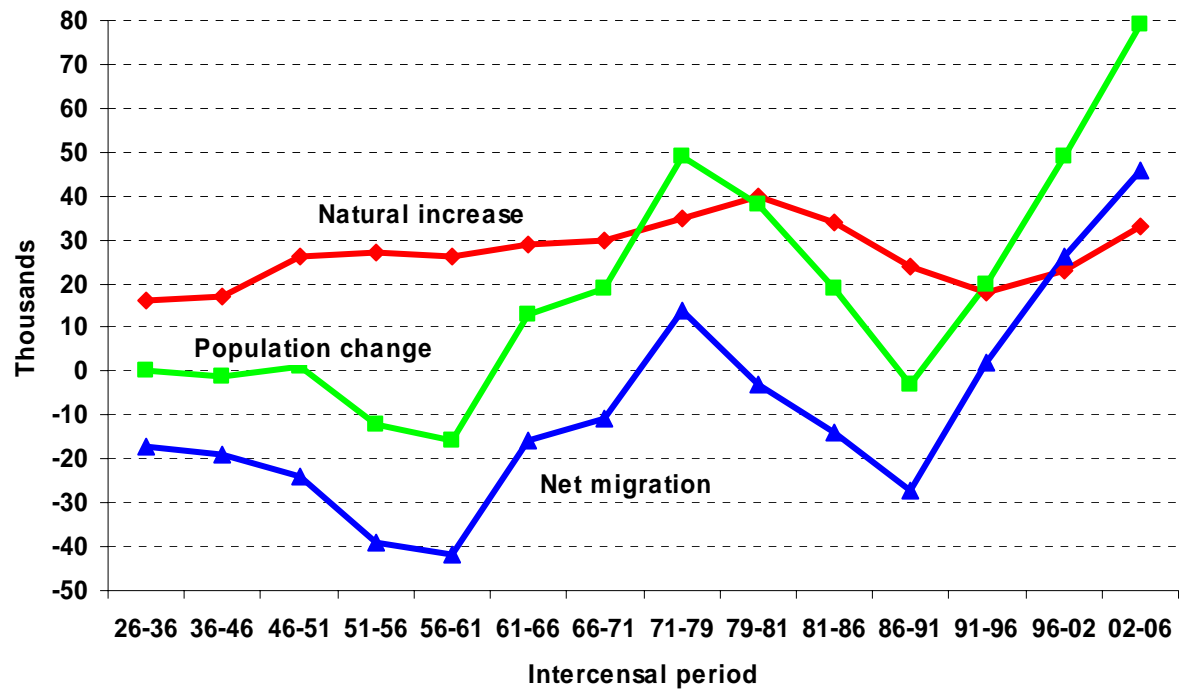


# Implementing Spatial Strategies on the island...

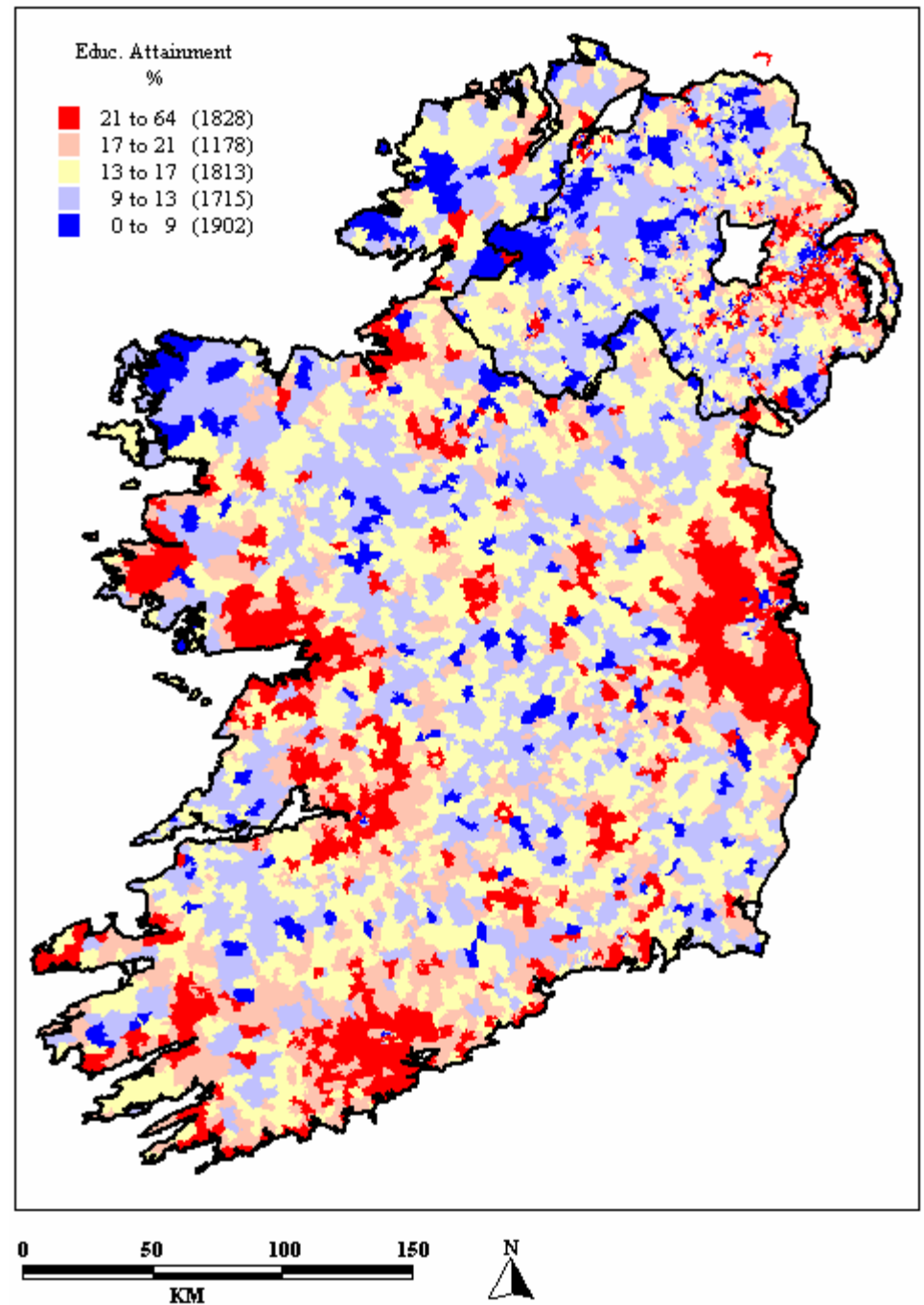
## what are the issues?



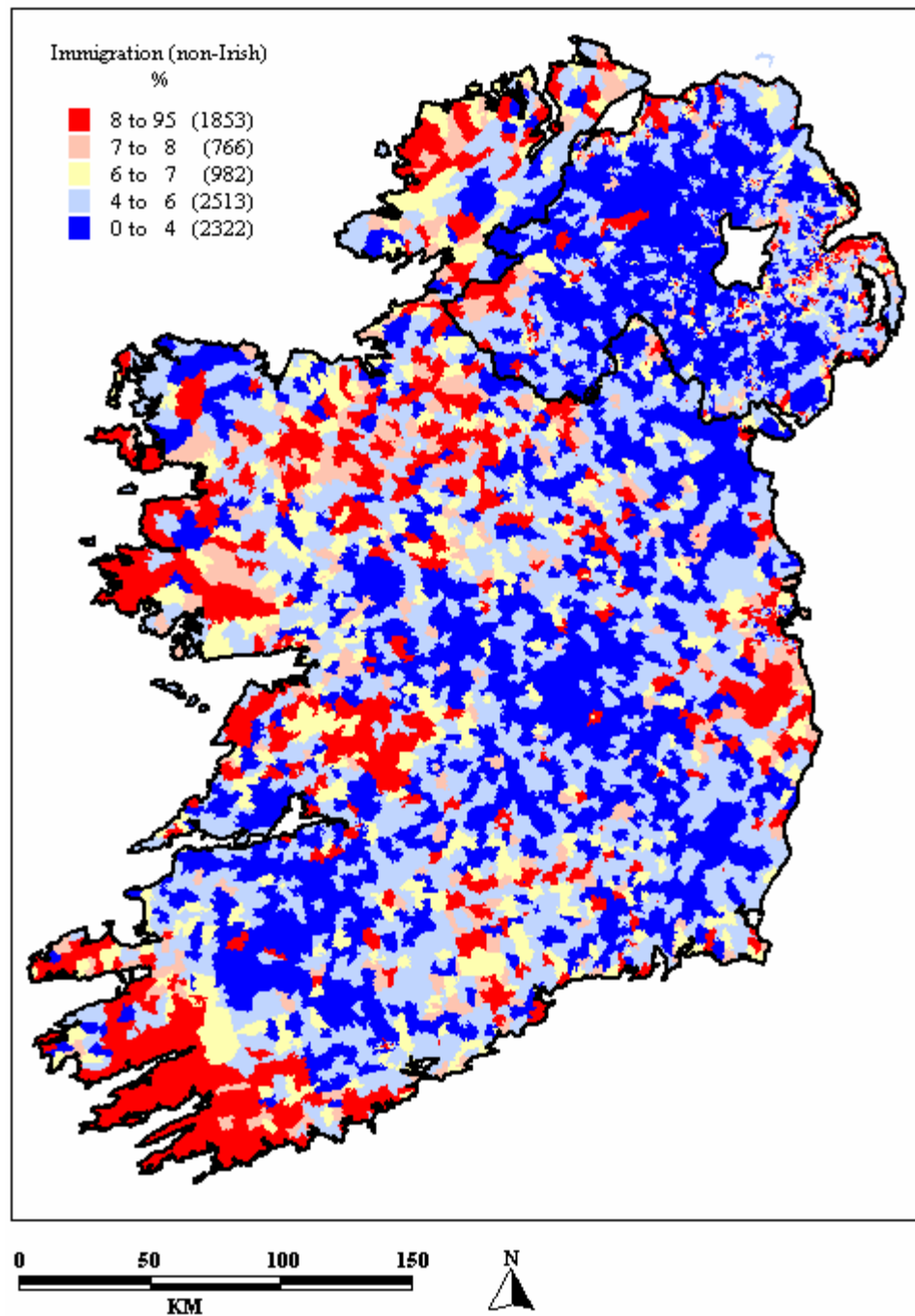
**We have a fast growing population N + S increasingly being driven by in-migration...recent trends in RoI...**



# Concentration of people with skills...(2002 data)...



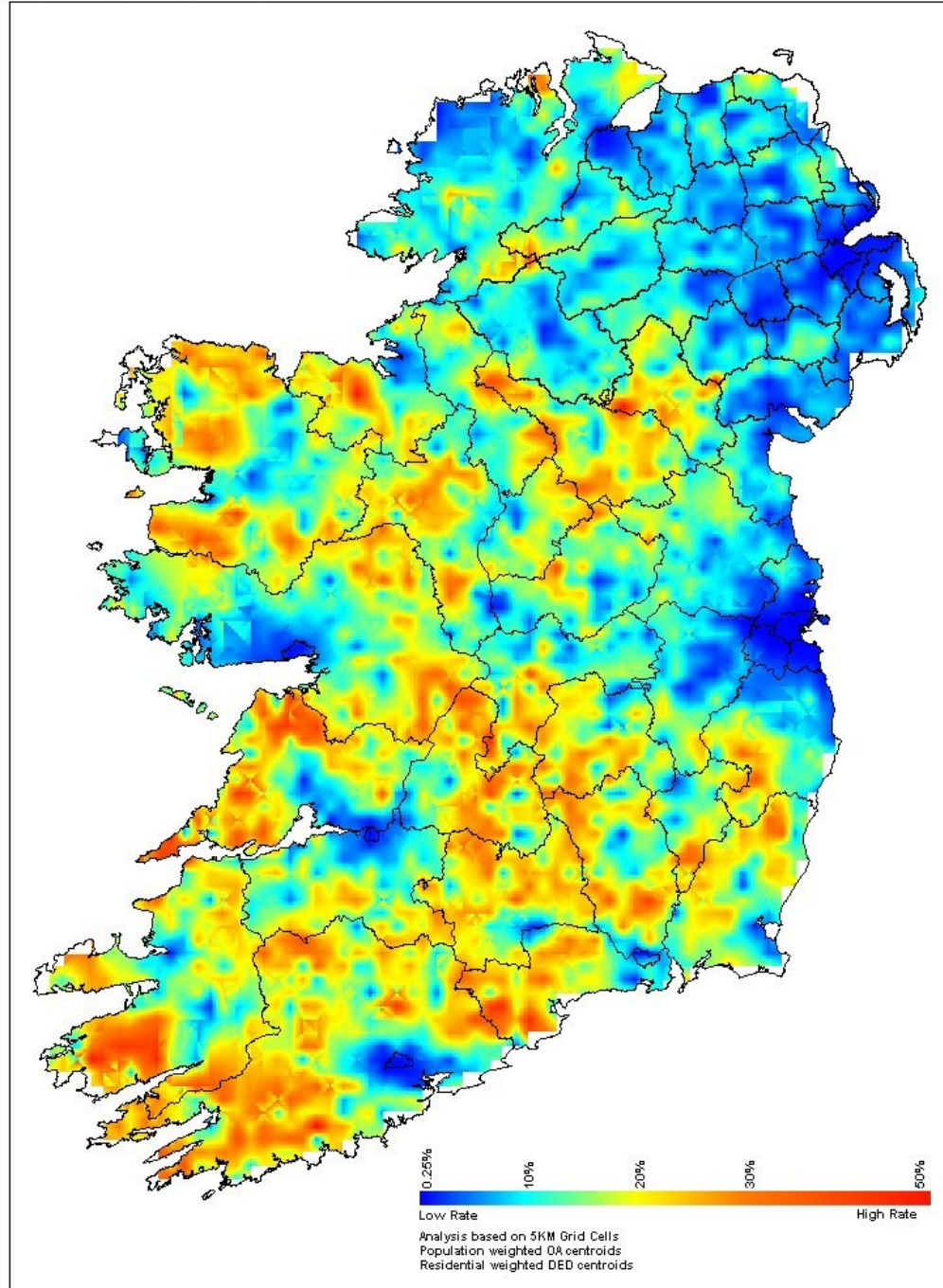
Places with higher proportions of immigrants...





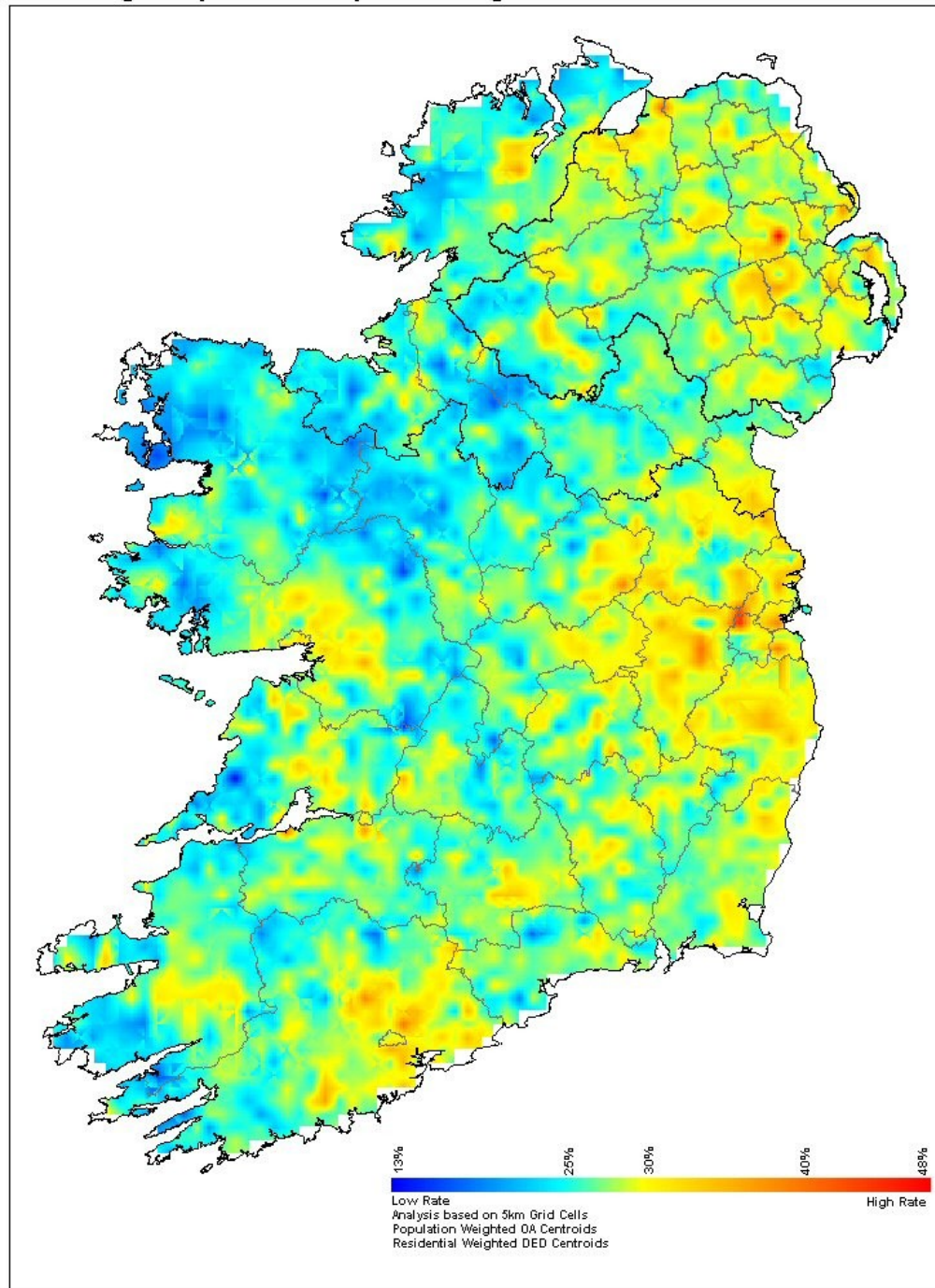
# The dependency of remoter areas on vulnerable economic activity....

Percentage Proportion distribution of the population whose Industry of Employment is :  
Agriculture, Hunting, Fishing and Forestry



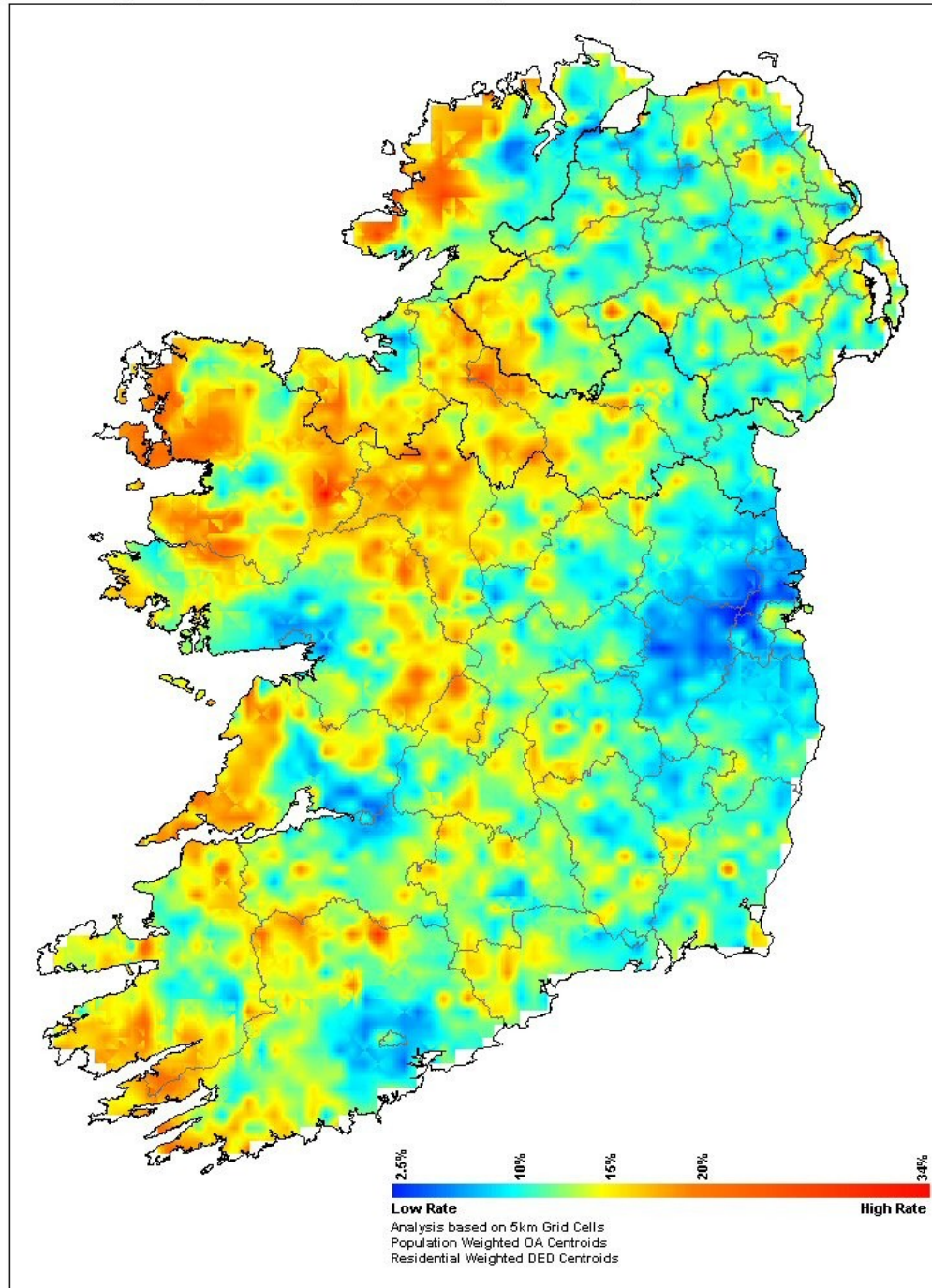
# The concentration in younger population....

Percentage Proportion of Population : Age Band 25 - 44



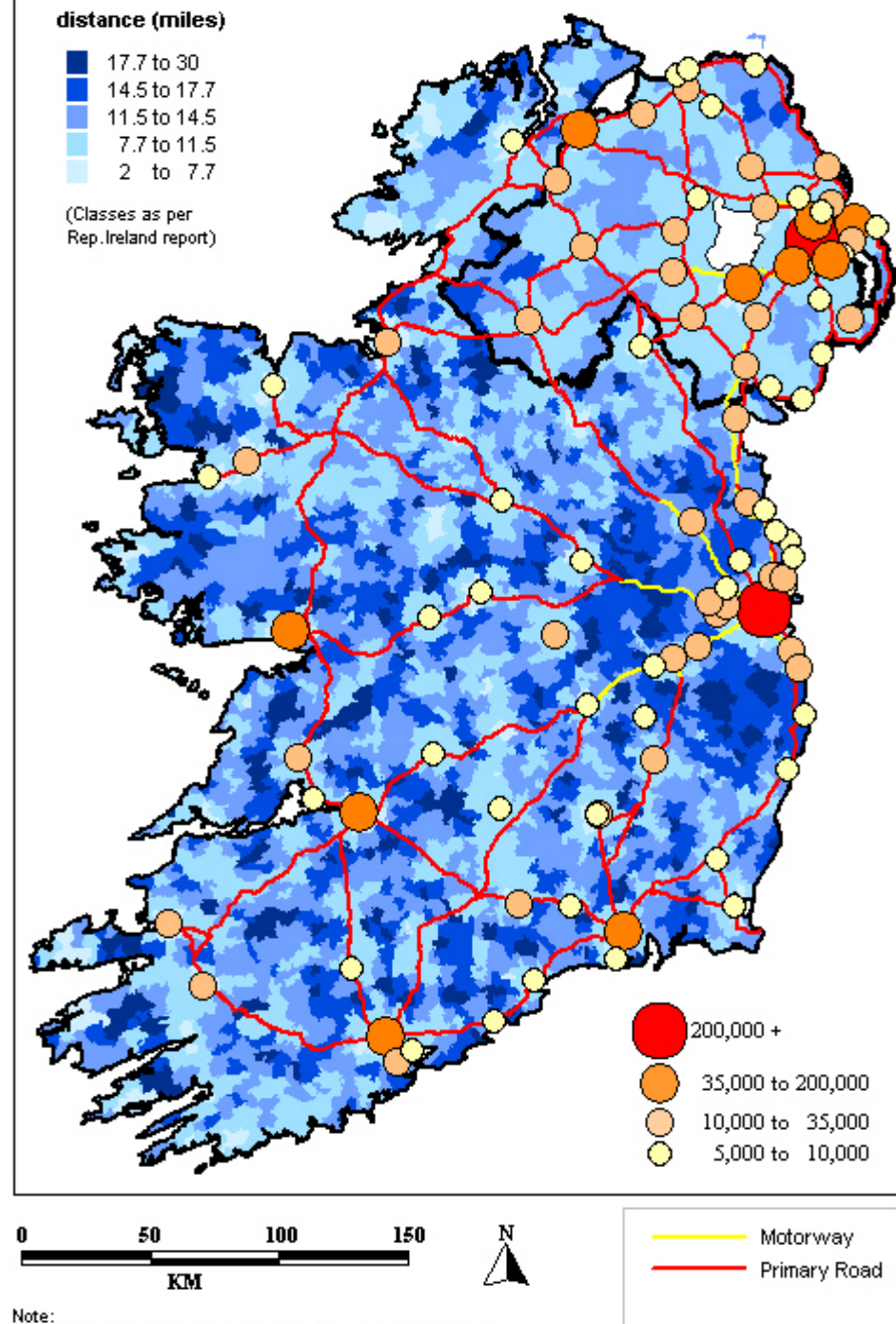
# The age dependency issue in remoter areas...

Percentage Proportion of Population : Age Band 65 plus

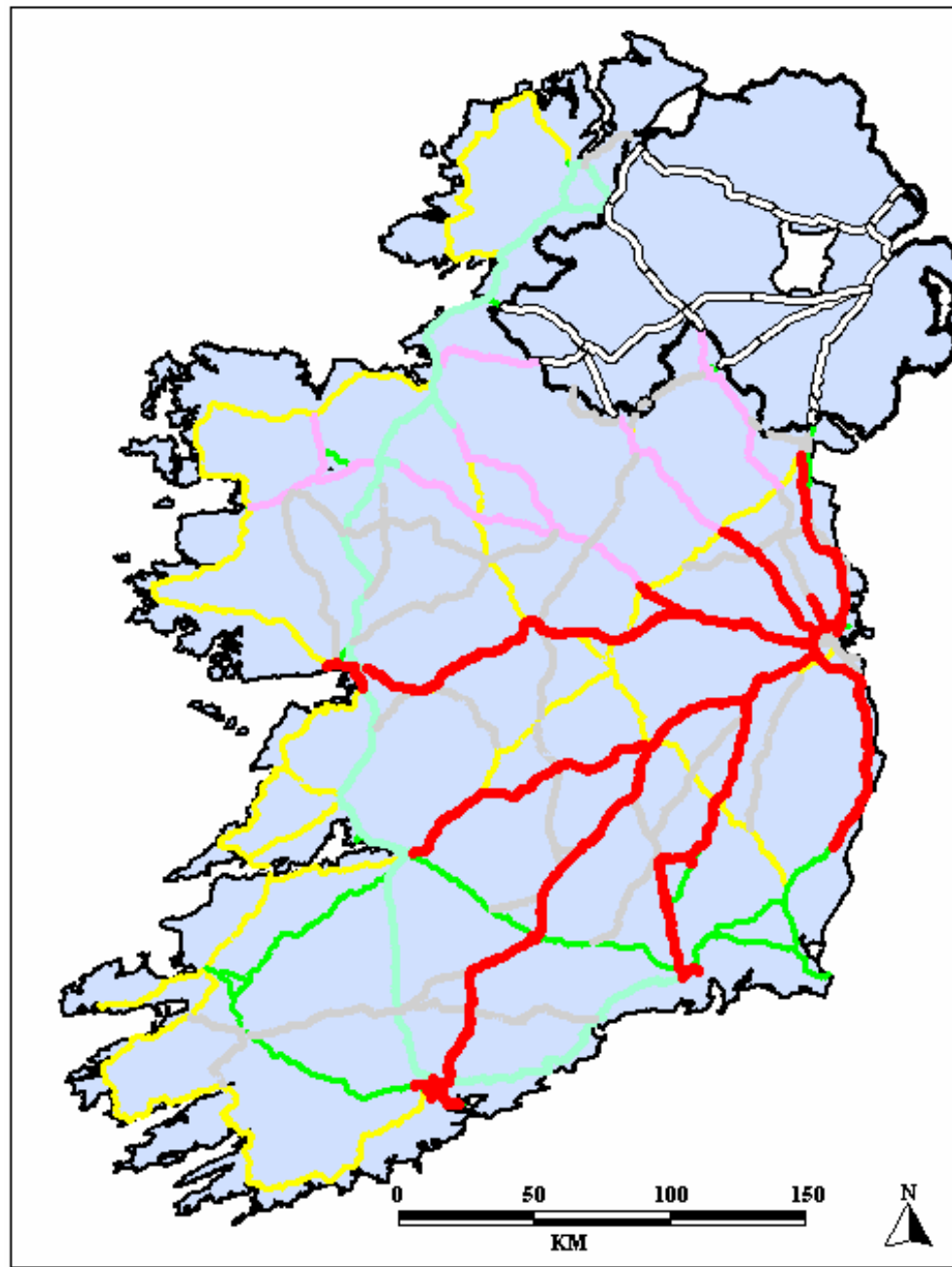
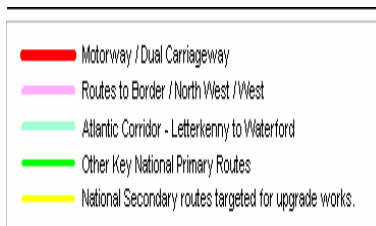


People in RoI seem to travel longer distances to work...

+ different settlement patterns North and South...



# Current and committed road plans...

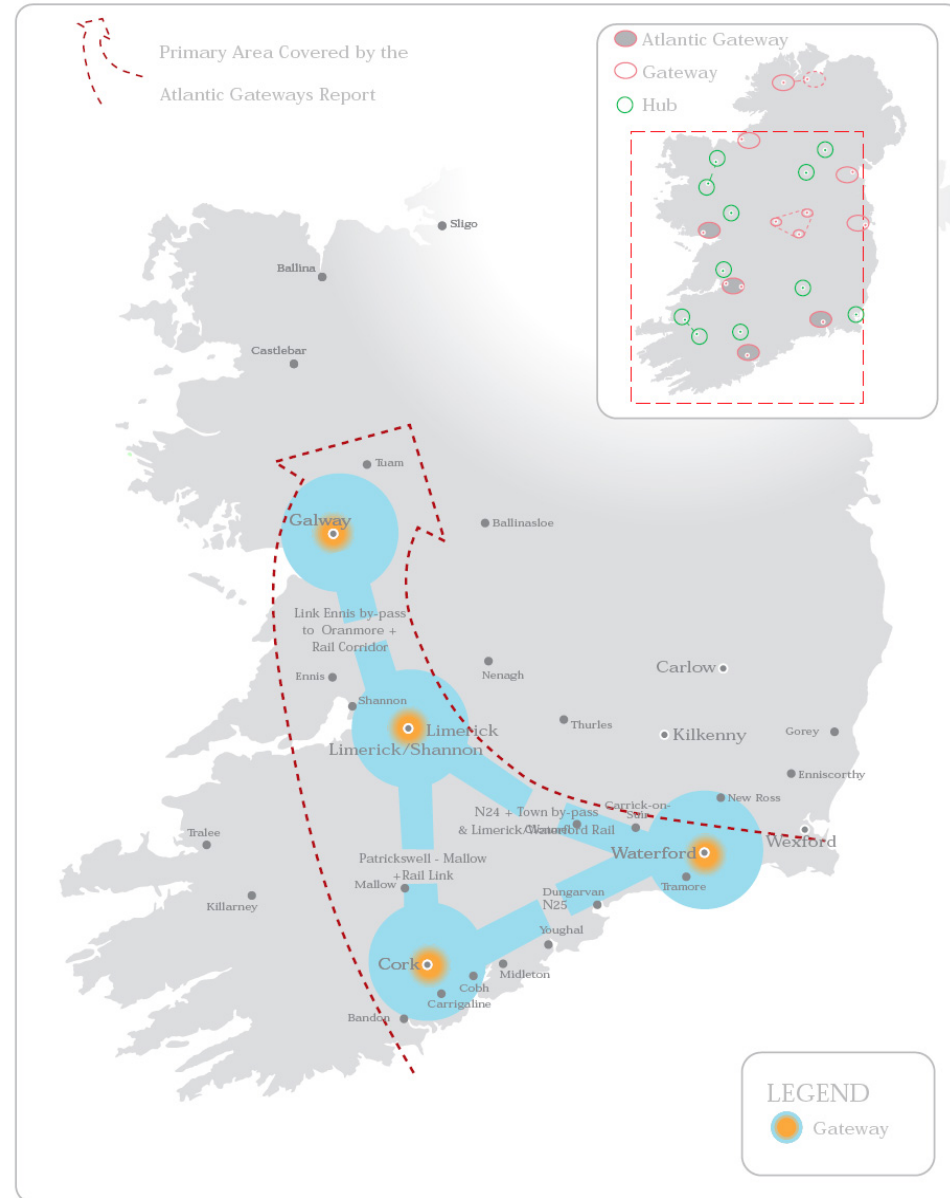


Areas 50k beyond motorways either existing/under construction...



# Potential of the “Atlantic Gateways” ....should this include the NW?...

FIGURE 8 - Atlantic Gateways Phase II “Filling the Gaps”



















# What are these maps telling us?

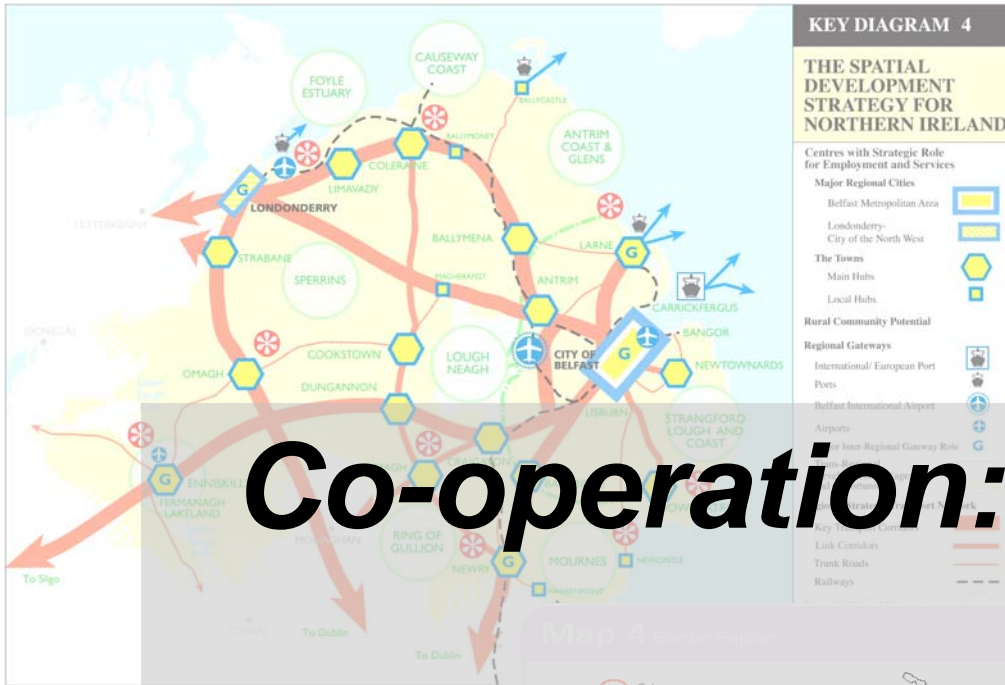
- Major issues facing the island...
- Island has a one off chance in channelling and structuring considerable growth potential....
- Need to agree the key spatial planning priorities that have the potential to bed down competitiveness and drive the infrastructure investment agenda...
- Role that environmental qualities play in enhancing competitiveness and quality of life...and doing something about it...harnessing our assets positively and sustainably!
- Need for a strong east-west dimension...

KEY DIAGRAM No. 4

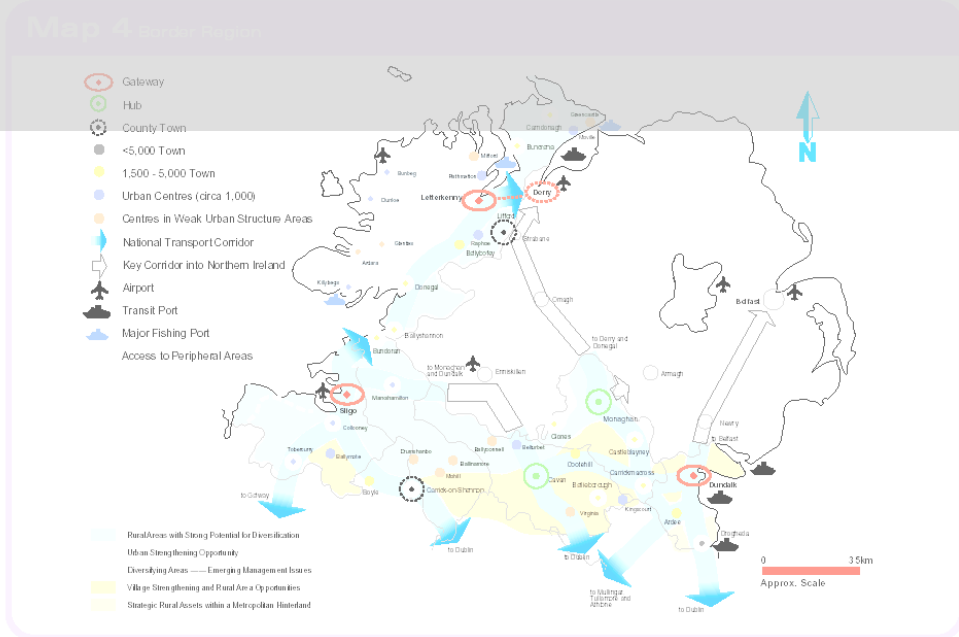
## THE SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Major Regional Cities:	
Metropolitan Area	
Derry/Londonderry - City of the North West	
The Regional Towns	
Major Service Centre	
City Centre	
Rural Community Potential	
International/ European Port	
Ports	
Belfast International Airport	
Airports	
Coastal Recreation and Opportunities	
Key Transport Corridors	
Trunk Roads	
Railways	
Strategic Natural Resources	
Belfast Metropolitan Area Green Belt	
Tourism Destination Resorts	





# Co-operation: Progress



THE SPATIAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGY FOR  
NORTHERN IRELAND

# Cross Border efforts to date:

- M1/A1 motorway: joint contract on £84m new road...
- Jointly operated “Enterprise” rail service...
- €7.7m (Rol) funding for City of Derry airport...
- Waste management eg: proposed all island waste paper mill – award winning ad campaigns and white goods recycling (150,000 ytd)...
- River basin management – SHARE project (Interreg funded)...
- Cross Border bodies: eg Waterways Ireland...
- Interreg funded cross border groups...
- Local (agency/local authority) co-operation eg roads...

Major Regional Cities:

Belfast Metropolitan Area

Derry/Londonderry-  
City of the North West

The Regional Towns

Major Service Centre

Key Service Centre

Central Community Partnership

Regional Gateways

Ports

Belfast International Airport

Trans-Regional  
Development Linkages  
and Opportunities

Regional Transport Network

Key Transport Corridors

Trunk Roads

Railways

Strategic Natural Resource

Belfast Metropolitan Area  
Green Belt

Tourism Destination Resorts



# Cross Border efforts continued:

- National (RoI) Patient Treatment Purchase Scheme...
- Centre of excellence for cancer treatment in NW – Derry?...
- All island energy market by 2007...
- 3 electricity interconnectors...
- 2 gas pipeline connections...
- ESB (RoI) owned Coolkeeragh power station in Derry...
- Seaport capacity study (ongoing)...
- 5 current broadband initiatives...
- Need for spatial context for above?...

KEY DIAGRAM No. 4

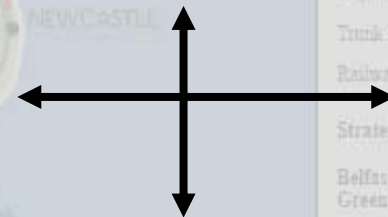
## THE SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND



## THE SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

# East West and European Spatial Context:

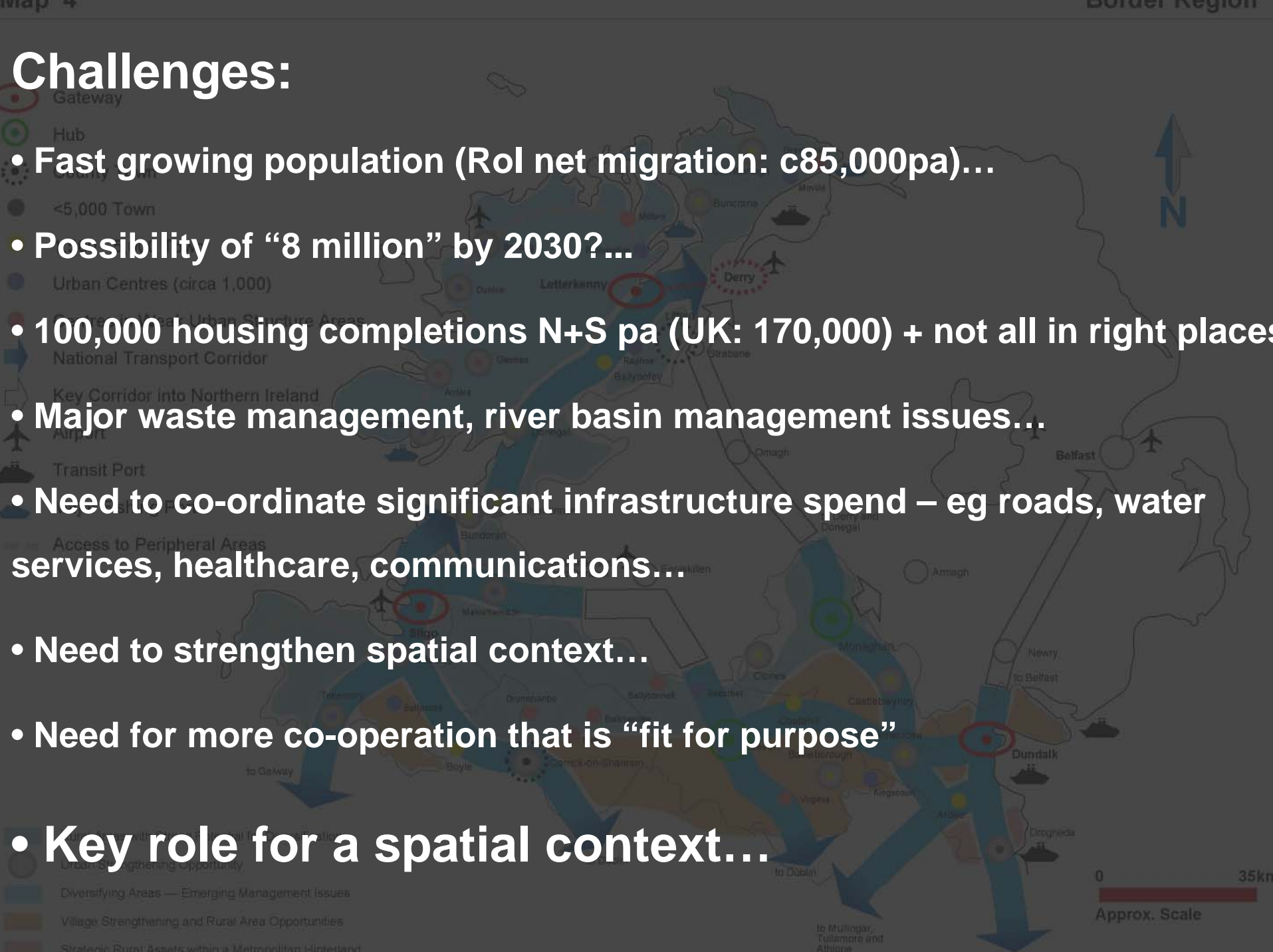
- East – West
- Spatial Strategies for Wales, Scotland, Northern Way Initiative..
- Emergence of Regional Spatial Strategies...
- Much linkage between all above (eg: key role of N of England)..
- European
- INTERREG post 2006 – National Strategic Reference Frameworks...
- ESPON(2) – need for joint approach to data gathering (MOLAND)...
- Future collaboration needs to be:



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Derry/Londonderry - City of the North West	
The Regional Towns	
Major Service Centre	
Key Service Centre	
Development Linkages and Opportunities	
Regional Gateways:	
International/ European Port	
Ports	
Belfast International Airport	
Airports	
Key Transport Corridors	
Trunk Roads	
Railways	
Strategic Natural Resources	
Belfast Metropolitan Area Green Belt	
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# Challenges:

- Fast growing population (RoI net migration: c85,000pa)...
- Possibility of “8 million” by 2030?...
- 100,000 housing completions N+S pa (UK: 170,000) + not all in right places
- Major waste management, river basin management issues...
- Need to co-ordinate significant infrastructure spend – eg roads, water services, healthcare, communications...
- Need to strengthen spatial context...
- Need for more co-operation that is “fit for purpose”
- Key role for a spatial context...



## THE SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE REGION

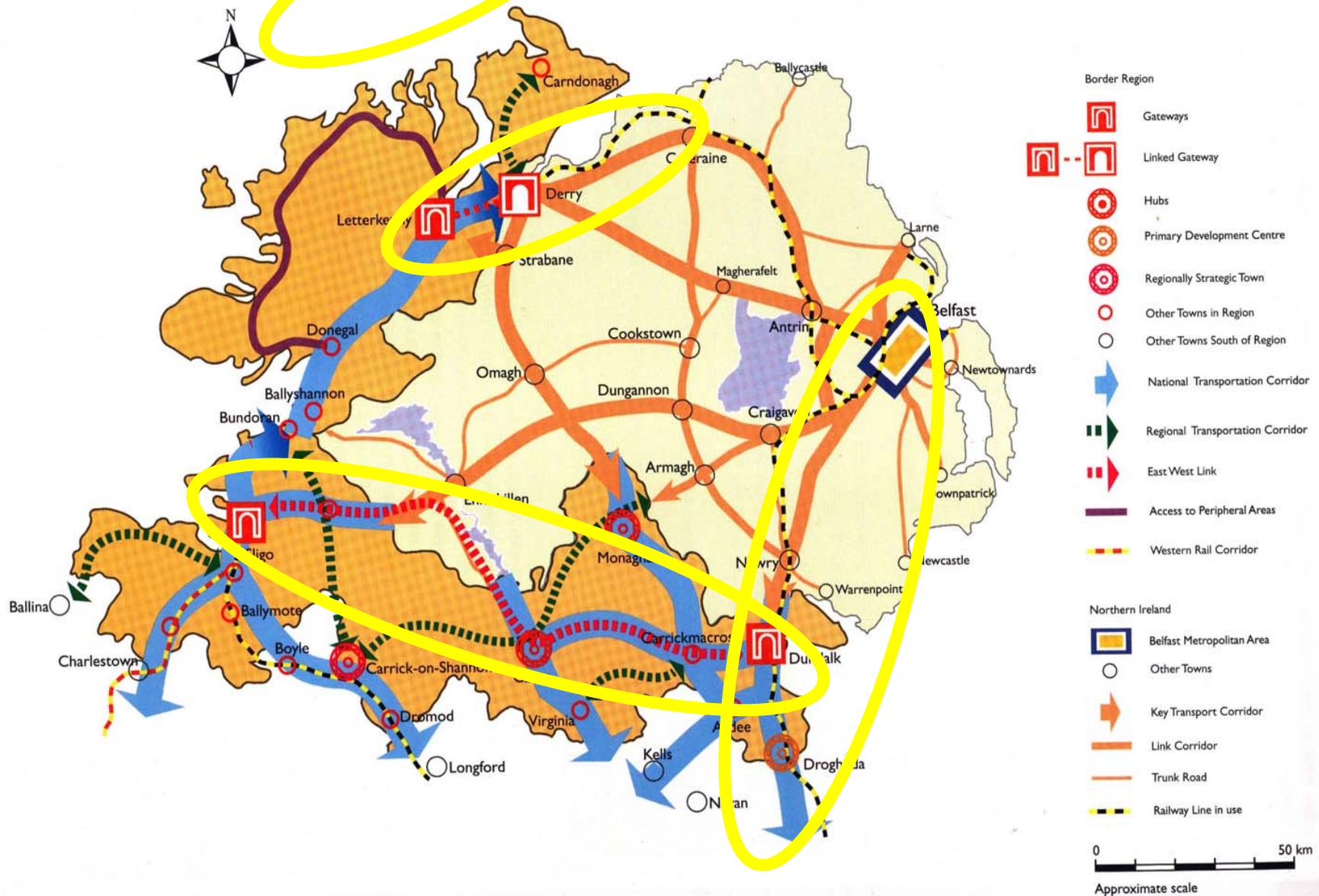
# Towards a Framework for Collaboration:

- What is emerging...3 Tiered approach...intergovernmental, regional, local...
- Flexible approach....criteria for selecting projects and activities...
- 3 initial priorities...
- Collaboration in development and implementation of sub-regional development strategies..northwest..Newry/Dundalk...
- Agreement on the key spatial development priorities to be reflected in the infrastructure investment agenda....thematic maps...
- Development of a comprehensive database to facilitate further excercises...

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Belfast Metropolitan Area	
Derry/Londonderry - City of the World Heritage	
The Regional Towns	
Major Service Centre	
Key Service Centre	
Rural Community Potential	
Regional Gateways:	
Ports	
Belfast International Airport	
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Trans-Regional Development Links	
Regional Transport Network	
Transport Corridors	
Trunk Roads	
Railways	
Waterways	
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# Next Steps...

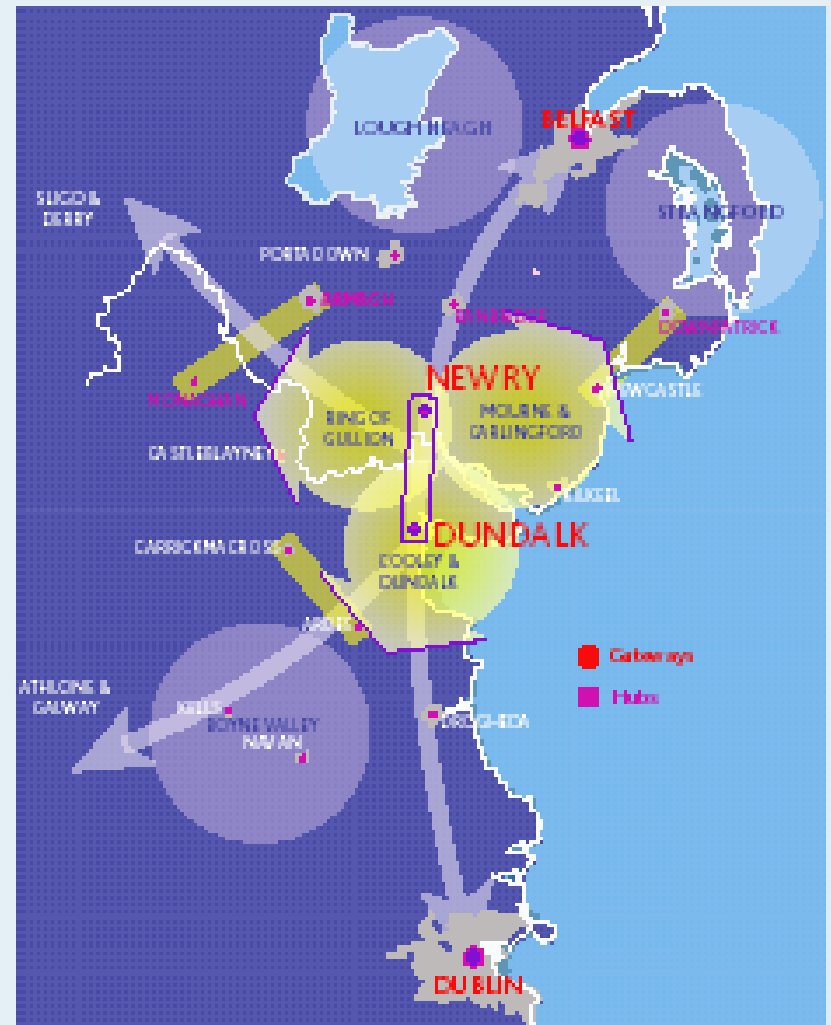
# ...potential collaborative work...



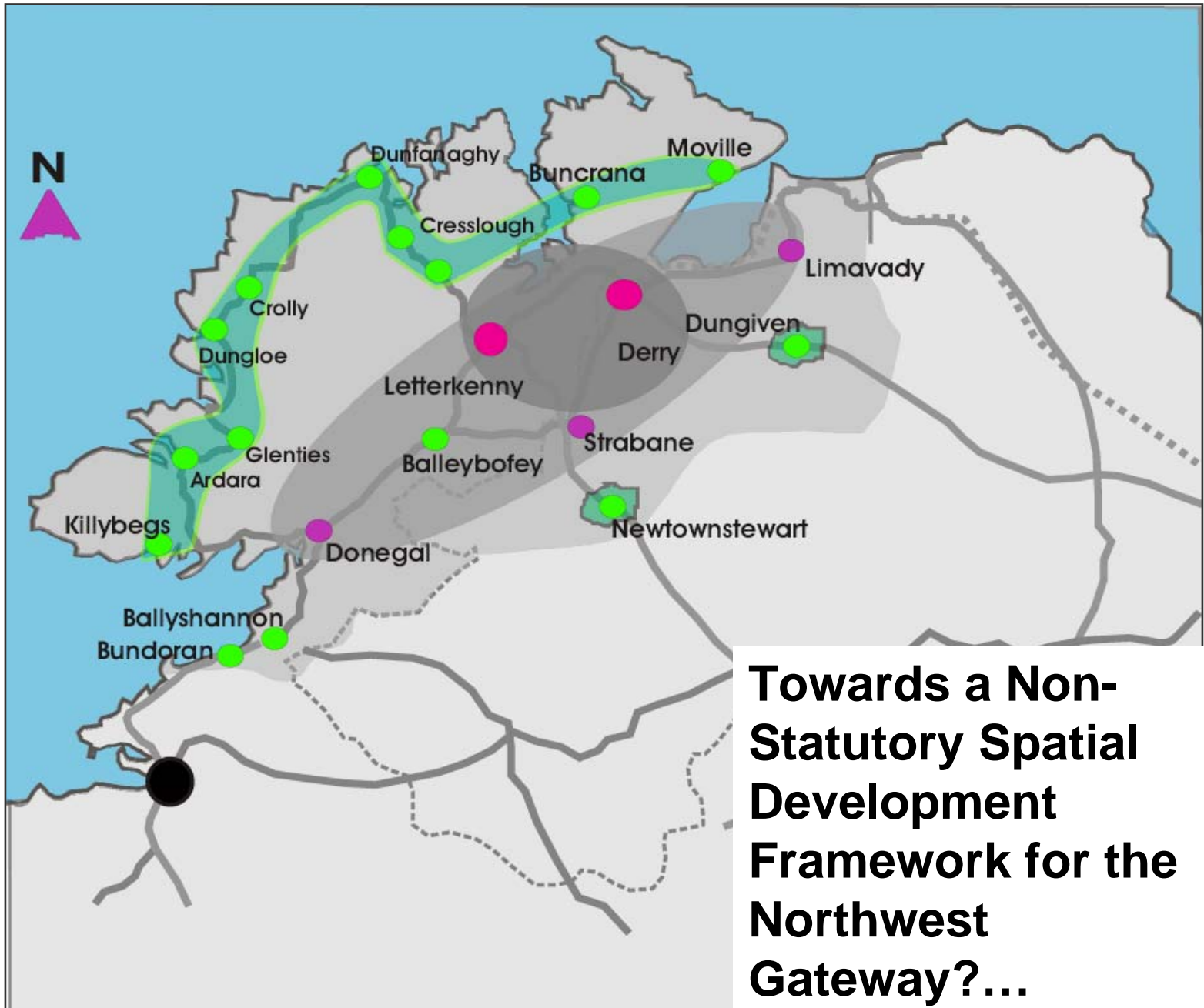
# Some very good sub regional spatial strategies have emerged...Newry-Dundalk Twin City Strategy...

## map 5. Directing Growth: The Regional Strategy

The core twin city theme of pooling resources, creating a shared critical mass and harnessing this to the cross border environmental resource that lies on the doorstep of both cities forms the basis for the self-sustaining regional strategy. From the quality of life agenda to the development of tourism and the attraction of the region to inward investment, an assertive economic development strategy grows from core regional strengths can be developed. The out working of this strategy has the potential to brand the Carlingford Region as a destination in its own right and not as simply the anonymous centre of an inter-city transit corridor.

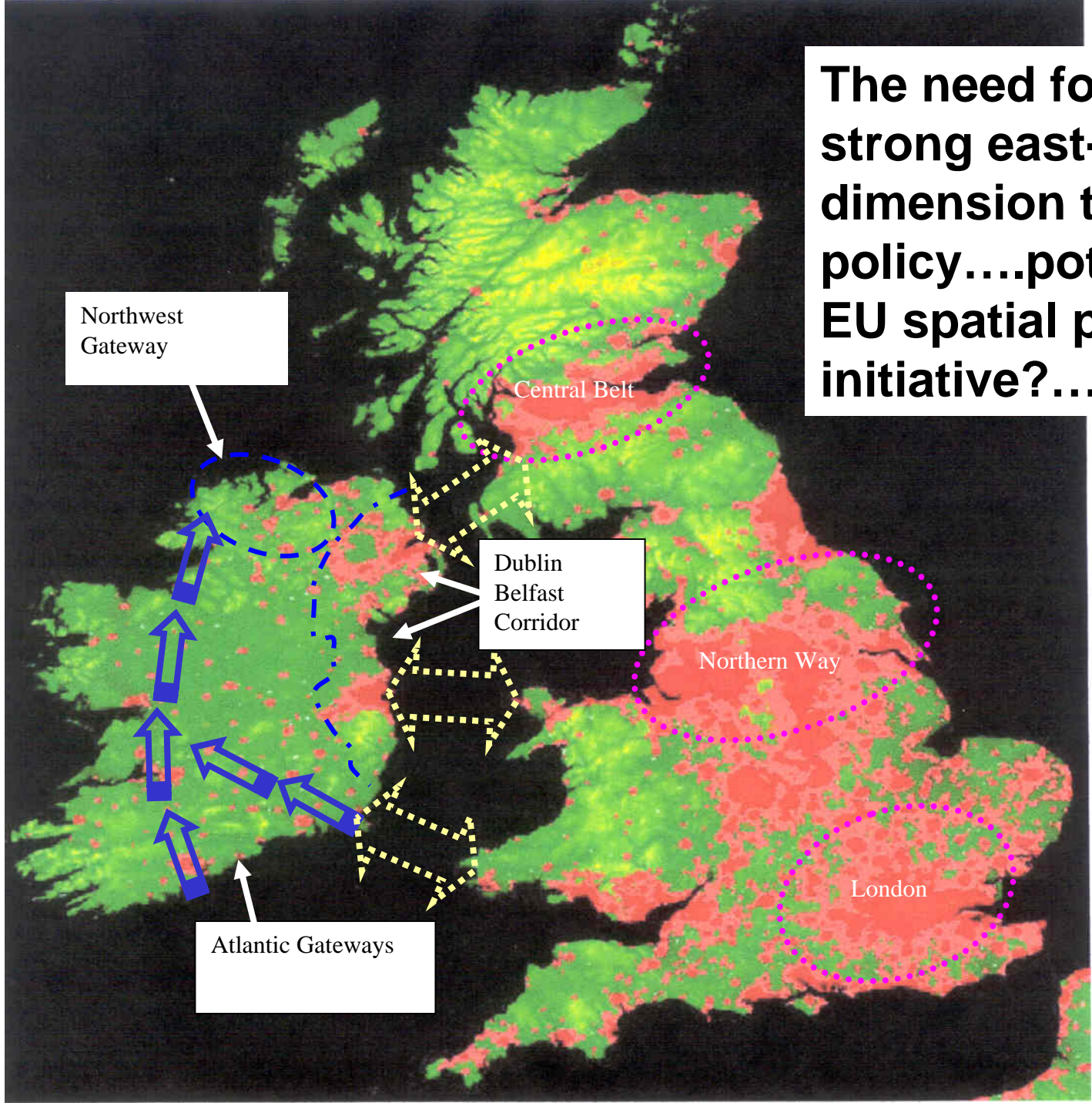






**Towards a Non-Statutory Spatial Development Framework for the Northwest Gateway?...**

**The need for a strong east-west dimension to spatial policy...potential EU spatial planning initiative?...**



Northwest Gateway

Dublin Belfast Corridor

Atlantic Gateways

Central Belt

Northern Way

London

# Implementing a Framework for Collaboration:

- Need to build on existing good co-operation between DEHLG and DRD...
- Implementation of investment plans (National Development Plan and Strategic Investment Board): major opportunity to link in spatial planning initiatives...
- Major need for local initiative and buy in: eg Newry Dundalk Twin City Strategy...
- Development of an annual work programme between the two Governments...
- Joint sponsorship of new research and data gathering...

KEY DIAGRAM No. 4

## THE SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR LAND

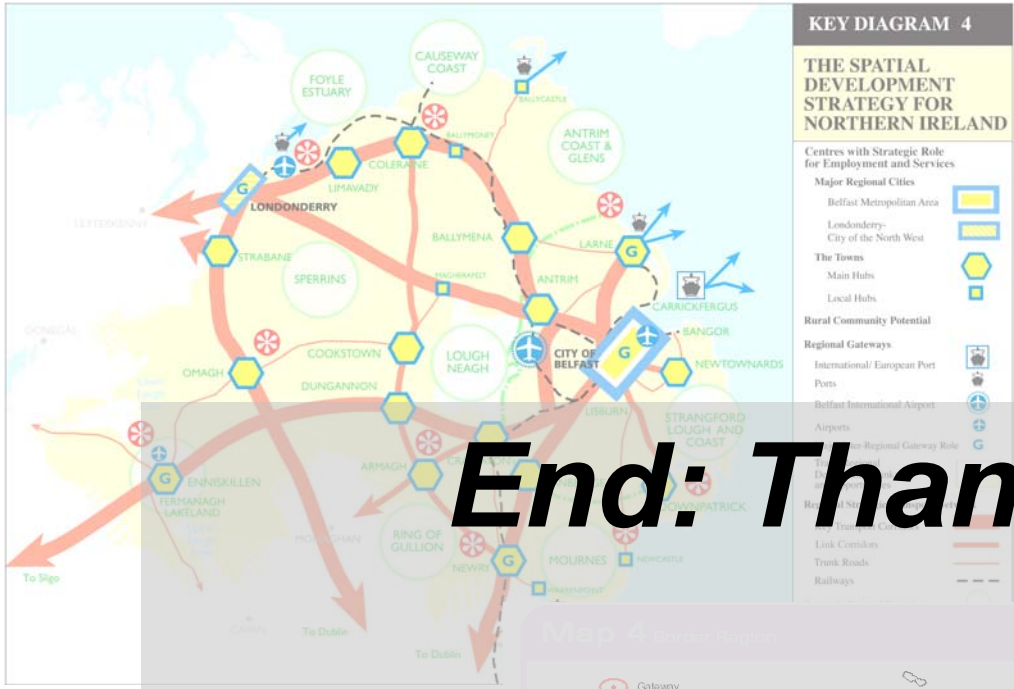
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## THE SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

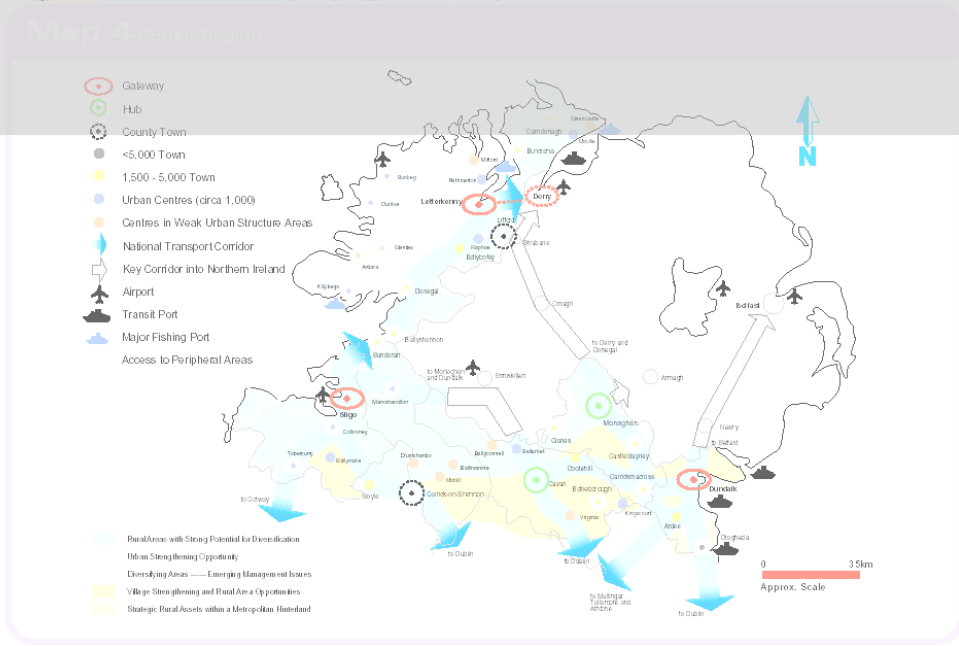
### Conclusion:

- Island faces both significant opportunities but also significant challenges...
- There is a window of opportunity: next decade??
- There is much good practical co-operation...
- Spatial strategies do add up...
- Both Governments working towards a collaborative framework...
- Framework to build on existing initiatives, establish criteria for new initiatives and establish a stronger spatial context for infrastructure co-ordination...





*End: Thank You*



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Government

&

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Department for Regional Development

