



Review of Monitoring Reports on Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies by Regional Assemblies

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Foreword

The National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) was established under the Local Government Reform Act 2014 to provide independent oversight of the local government sector in Ireland.

NOAC fulfils its oversight role in several ways, including through monitoring the implementation of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSES) by the regional assemblies in Ireland.

The regional assemblies are required to prepare a monitoring report on the implementation of the RSES every two years in respect of their region and submit this report to NOAC.

Following the first round of monitoring reports, NOAC carried out a review with the assistance of the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR), and the NOAC report on the Review of Monitoring Reports on Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (First Review) was published in March 2024.

While under Section 35 of the Planning and Development Act 2024, the responsibility for reviewing the monitoring reports will pass from NOAC to the OPR, this part of the Act has yet to be commenced and, therefore, NOAC has now completed this report on the second round of monitoring reports, or Second Review.

NOAC requested the assistance of the OPR, which has specific expertise in this area, in undertaking the second review of the two-year monitoring reports prepared by the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly, the Northern and Western Regional Assembly and the Southern Regional Assembly.

The report sets out commentary on the monitoring reports including key findings and recommendations, which we hope will help further support the implementation of the RSES.

I wish to extend my gratitude to the OPR for their continued collaboration with NOAC, and for their assistance in the delivery of this report.

I would also like to thank the members of NOAC's Working Group on Local Government Governance and Reform and the NOAC Secretariat who have dedicated their time and expertise to this work.

Therefore, it is with great satisfaction that I introduce the NOAC commissioned report "Second Review of Monitoring Reports on Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies by Regional Assemblies".



Michael McCarthy
NOAC Chair
17th September 2025

Key Findings report

1. Introduction

As per section 25A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended (the Act), the three regional assemblies issued their second monitoring reports individually to the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) between 2023- 2024. On 6th January 2025, NOAC requested the Office of the Planning Regulator (Office) to undertake a review of these monitoring reports, on a similar basis to that provided for the first monitoring reports.

It is noted that under Section 35(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2024, this review role will formally transfer to the Office.

2. Overall Context

As requested by NOAC, the Office's report on the first monitoring reports focused on:

- (i) the issues of strategic importance to the implementation of the RSES, including identifying any major obstacles to implementation;
- (ii) recommendations in the monitoring reports that, if implemented, could be deemed to make a significant contribution to the further implementation of the RSES;
- (iii) implementation of the RSES by local authorities; and
- (iv) the process undertaken by the regional assemblies to complete their monitoring reports, including any suggestions on how this could be improved in later iterations.

That report detailed ten key findings in relation to the following:

- (i) mechanisms needed to support the effective implementation of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies;
- (ii) significant governance structures needed for the implementation of the Metropolitan Area Spatial Plans (MASP) for the five regional cities;
- (iii) greater alignment between funding decisions to support the spatial strategies of the RSES, particularly in relation to focusing investment in the cities, Regional Growth Centres and Key Towns;

- (iv) strengthening of the structural alignment between the regional assemblies and government departments;
- (v) prioritisation of additional resources to support local authorities in the preparation of statutory plans for key settlements;
- (vi) consideration of a more active role for the regional assemblies where there are obstacles to co-operation or where local authorities act in a manner that would significantly hinder the implementation of the RSES;
- (vii) amendments to the statutory functions of regional assemblies to remedy existing gaps regarding certain stages / types of statutory plans;
- (viii) suggestions on how monitoring could be improved in later iterations, including greater use of digital data such as the Regional Development Monitor to track and compare progress on key indicators across the three regions and to improve engagement with public bodies.

The Office understands however that there has been no formal response to the findings and recommendations. While progress has been made in terms of the resourcing of the planning system across local government (Key Finding 5: Resourcing of Local Authorities), there would appear to be little change in terms of mechanisms in relation to governance, alignment of funding decisions and the spatial strategies of the RSES, and strengthening the structural relationship between the regional assemblies and central government.

These issues remain pertinent to the capacity of the regional assemblies to implement the National Planning Framework (NPF) – and in particular the new requirements in the revised NPF under NPO 74 that the RSES identify renewable electricity allocations for onshore wind and solar for each of the local authorities (NPO 74), and provide for large scale Transport Orientated Development (TOD) opportunities (NPO 95).

The Office's first monitoring report strongly commended the regional assemblies for their work and collaboration with the All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO) at Maynooth University to develop the Regional Development Monitor as a tool for monitoring the implementation of the RSES. The Regional Development Monitor (<https://rdm.geohive.ie/>) also provides a wide range of data relating to people and places, climate and the environment, and the regional economies. This initiative has developed further to include the National Census Atlas, a visual mapping tool designed to provide economic and social trends emerging across the county and help advance regional development.

The regional assemblies should also be commended for their contribution to ensuring alignment of the statutory forward plans with the RSES's, strong outcomes in regeneration and public realm projects and engagement with EU projects and funding streams to address RSES implementation challenges.

3. Regional Assembly RSES Monitoring Reports (2022–2024)

Section 25A (3) of the Act outlines what the two-year monitoring reports are required to address:

progress made in securing the overall objectives of the regional spatial and economic strategy, including any specific actions and outcomes, including actions specific to the public bodies.

While each of the monitoring reports have a different structure and approach to documenting progress made and recommendations for consideration by NOAC, the Office is satisfied that the three reports submitted to NOAC satisfy the requirements of section 25A (3) of the Act.

The monitoring reports could, however, be presented in a concise logical format with information on progress clearly set out under specific regional strategic outcomes / overarching objectives and key regional policy objectives from the RSES.

The following section provides a consolidated summary of the key findings across all three monitoring reports, grouped into common themes and highlighting any distinctive outcomes.

A. Strategic Planning and Policy Alignment

- ▲ All three regional assemblies report that local authorities have made significant progress in aligning their city / county development plans with national and regional strategies, especially following the finalisation of the NPF and RSES frameworks. This alignment is a critical milestone for delivering spatial planning objectives on the ground.

B. Metropolitan Area Strategic Plans (MASP)

- ▲ Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA): ongoing implementation of the Dublin Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) through dedicated governance structures, enabling coordinated action in transport, housing, enterprise, and water infrastructure.
- ▲ Southern Regional Assembly (SRA): concern that the pace of growth in the Dublin and Eastern Region will undermine the NPF and RSES policy. Full commitment to implementation of the NPF for the region, including accelerated MASP delivery is required.
- ▲ Northern and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA): housing statistics for Galway City and the Regional Growth Centres (Sligo, Letterkenny and Athlone) are of particular concern. Dedicated funding commitment is required for placemaking projects across the Galway MASP and the Regional Growth Centres.

C. Infrastructure Investment

- ▲ The NWRA and SRA have strong concerns that the planned infrastructure investment under the National Development Plan (NDP) is not fully aligned with the overall objectives of the NPF for balanced regional development. In this regard, the NWRA seeks greater financial investment in the region to uplift the region's classification and provide critical investment to attract inward investment.
- ▲ The majority of planned infrastructure investment is being targeted towards the Dublin Metropolitan Area, resulting in underinvestment in the other two regions and particularly in the Northern and Western Region (as per the Regional Infrastructure Tracker - nwra.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/regional-investment-tracker-10-07-2024.pdf, July 2024)
- ▲ Key strategic transport corridors are advancing (e.g. MetroLink, DART+, N5), but NWRA and SRA report slower progress and ongoing need for accelerated investment in regional transport connectivity and sustainable mobility.

D. Housing

- ▲ Overall growth in regional cities and Key Towns is not keeping pace with RSES expectations.
- ▲ NWRA: Housing statistics for Galway City and the Regional Growth Centres (Sligo, Letterkenny and Athlone) are of particular concern with Galway City and suburbs achieving 39% of the RSES Target (based on 2016-2024 target).
- ▲ The NWRA also highlighted that local authorities have failed to designate and prioritise serviced sites within smaller towns and villages, despite the Government's allocation of funding for affordable housing on these sites.
- ▲ SRA: Under-delivery of housing in this region when compared with Dublin and Eastern Regions. Pronounced disparity in rates of delivery in and around Dublin when compared with Regional Cities of Cork, Limerick and Waterford.

- ▲ The SRA report highlights that the amount of zoned land is not a significant factor, and in fact the major challenge is in delivering housing on land that is already zoned. A subsequent report entitled Housing Delivery in the Southern Region – Analysis of Data and Trends from 2024, published in April 2025 from the SRA reiterates these findings.
- ▲ The SRA highlighted that a significant proportion of housing supply relates to rural housing (i.e. 25% of all housing units delivered during the monitoring period), emphasizing the need for positive rural alternatives including investment in the viability of our towns and villages.

E. Regeneration Funding

- ▲ Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) and Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) have supported key town centre revitalisation projects.
- ▲ However, EMRA and SRA highlight challenges in securing funding, as preparing successful applications have become resource-dependant for the local authorities and funding is not being distributed in a manner that is wholly aligned to the spatial objectives of the NPF and RSES. NWRA highlights the requirement of match-funding as an issue.

F. Employment Growth Mirrors National Trends

- ▲ The regional disparity in levels of population growth and housing delivery is not reflected in jobs growth which is growing strongly in line with the national average.
- ▲ Increase in employment for all three regions was aligned with the overall national trend of c. 15-16%.

G. Climate Action & Decarbonisation Lagging Behind Ambitions

- ▲ While policy frameworks and plans are in place (e.g. Climate Action Plans, Renewable Strategies) achieving actual modal shift, regional decarbonisation delivery, energy supply certainty, SEA monitoring and biodiversity improvements remain as areas of concern for the regional assemblies.
- ▲ Modal share of travel to work, college or school showed no significant change between 2016 and 2022, either at national or regional level, with only minor reductions (< 1%) in the proportion for both active travel and public transport, and a minor increase in the share for private vehicles.
- ▲ By comparison to the national profile, the Southern Region has higher levels of car dependency and lower levels of active travel and public transport.
- ▲ When considered against modal share targets for 2030 as set out in Government's Climate Action Plan 2024, it highlights the major challenge that the regions face in achieving more sustainable transport patterns.

H. Digital and Enterprise Support Networks

- ▲ NWRA: The region remains behind the rest of the country in terms of digital connectivity and enterprise ecosystem development.

I. Need for Enhanced Monitoring and Evaluation

- ▲ All three regional assemblies stress the importance of improved data systems and establishing a comprehensive system for monitoring, measuring investment and tracking funding allocations/decisions.

- ▲ The Regional Development Monitor which was introduced in 2022 is an important tool informing and monitoring the implementation of the three RSEs. It illustrates if the vision and objectives of the RSEs are being implemented through a range of socio-economic and environmental indicators and provides a series of new national mapping and visualisation tools to assist policy makers in key areas like housing, climate action, placemaking, and sustainable transport.
- ▲ The Regional Infrastructure Tracker (July 2024) utilised data from public and private sources to reveal that since 2016 the NWRA has received less than 10% of the nationwide investment in infrastructure projects worth more than €1m, and 5.7% of investment from infrastructure projects worth more than €20m, despite accounting for 17.6% of the country's population. The tracker found that investment in areas such as transport, education, housing and energy infrastructure in the Northern and Western Region is below that of other areas.

J. High Levels of Collaboration

- ▲ All three regions are focused on engagement with national and local consultations, for example engagement on the NPF review, policy and research, involvement with various steering committees, with the Office's Plans Evaluation Team and joint projects with the other assemblies like the Regional Development Monitor and AIRO project.
- ▲ Collaborative governance structures are in place, for example, EMRA has established an implementation group for the overall RSEs and a specific implementation group for the MASP with political oversight from the existing Strategic Planning Area Committee and a new MASP SPA Committee. SRA has established the Regional Blue and Green Infrastructure and Nature Based Solutions Network.
- ▲ Ongoing engagement, promotion and integration of the RSEs in other public sector forums on a bilateral basis with key implementation stakeholders is critical.

4. Key Findings

This section sets out the Office's key findings, following a review of the monitoring reports, focusing on the issues of strategic importance to the implementation of the RSES, including identifying any major obstacles to implementation.

Achieving and retaining the long-term ambition of Project Ireland 2040 for balanced regional growth is a key tenet of all three monitoring reports.

4.1 Structural Alignment and Cooperation

The lack of clear and robust governance structures to support the coordination of decision making at a regional and national level was one of the key findings in the Office's first monitoring report.

Key Finding 4: Structural Alignment recommended that consideration be given to strengthening the structural relationship between the regional assemblies, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH), Government Departments and the Project Ireland 2040 Board. This included clear and robust governance structures to ensure effective policy alignment and implementation of RSES and MASP objectives.

This issue arises again in the second monitoring reports. This will be an important issue in terms of supporting the regional assemblies to prepare regional renewable electricity capacity allocations for onshore wind and solar electricity that can be incorporated into development plans by the local authorities. This matter is specifically addressed further below.

SRA in particular recommends improved collaboration with national bodies (e.g., NTA, ESB, TII) and formal inclusion of regional assemblies on the Project Ireland 2040 Delivery Board to ensure integrated infrastructure delivery in line with the RSES and MASPs. EMRA also calls for stronger implementation structures for the NPF, RSES, and MASPs.

Both EMRA and NWRA also recommend greater engagement with national transport agencies in relation to transport policies and programmes that are aligned with RSES objectives, and the alignment of policies and investments to deliver critical infrastructure and support the implementation of the RSES.

EMRA also calls for better alignment with further/higher education and innovation sectors. NWRA stresses the need for investment in higher education and research infrastructure.

In relation to inter-regional coordination, SRA identifies a need for greater coordination of regional governance with a need to address the negative impact of a multiplicity of regional bodies with overlapping mandates and differing boundaries.

Key Finding 1: Improving structural relationships and collaboration

To improve the effectiveness of RSES implementation, stronger structural and governance relationships between the regional assemblies, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Local Government and Housing, Government Departments and other government bodies and agencies and the Project Ireland 2040 Board is recommended, including:

- ▲ Clear and robust governance structures to ensure effective policy alignment and implementation of RSES with particular focus on renewable energy targets, transport oriented development (TOD) and MASP objectives.
- ▲ Formal collaboration frameworks between the regional assemblies and national enterprise agencies to prioritise and direct investment toward Regional Growth Centres and Key Towns to create high-value jobs.
- ▲ Greater involvement by regional assemblies in infrastructure and transport planning to strengthen alignment between national investment policies and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSES).
- ▲ A platform / framework for greater involvement by regional assemblies in the education, research and innovation sectors.
- ▲ Effective coordination structures and procedures between state agencies operating at a regional level.

4.2 Funding and Investment

All regional assemblies seek better alignment between national funding (NDP) and NPF / RSES delivery and highlight the need for regionally balanced investment decisions. This was also the focus of Key Finding 3: Funding Alignment in the Office's report on the first monitoring reports. The Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform (DPENDR) has responsibility for oversight and delivery of the NDP. DPENDR noted in its submission to SRA that it has responsibility for allocating expenditure on a departmental, not a geographic, basis. It is also responsible for ensuring that individual projects satisfy the requirements of the Infrastructure Guidelines (2023) with the responsibility for ensuring that overall departmental spending programmes are aligned with the NPF resting with the individual government departments.

The NDP is primarily monitored through the Project Ireland 2040 Capital Investment Tracker and Map. DPENDR noted that the regional distribution of the number of projects identified in the tracker indicates planned investment is in line with NPF objectives for balanced regional growth. However, the SRA has concerns that DPENDR based its analysis on the number, rather than the nature, of projects and the actual quantum of investment planned. The SRA carried out its own analysis of the regional distribution of infrastructure identified in the NDP, based upon project costs which showed that total planned investment allocated to the Dublin Metropolitan Area was significantly higher than to the southern region / northwest regions combined.

The NWRA also carried out its own analysis of infrastructure investment and published its findings in a separate report entitled Regional Infrastructure Tracker (July 2024). The Regional Infrastructure Tracker found that investment in areas such as transport, education, housing and energy infrastructure in the Northern and Western Region is below that of its counterparts in Ireland, with the region's transport infrastructure ranked the 218th out of 234 NUTS 2 Regions examined in the European Commission's Regional Competitiveness Index.

Based on this analysis, both the SRA and NWRA strongly advocate for a clear framework at national level to monitor, measure investment and track performance on how the scale and distribution of investment aligns with the NPF to achieve enhanced regional development.

Further, the SRA considers that projects of strategic importance in delivering balanced regional growth should be highlighted within the NDP. The region also advocates for greater regional autonomy and decision-making powers at the regional level to enable effective delivery of spatial planning strategies, including fiscal powers and reform of financing structures (e.g. own-source revenues, multi-annual investments). The NWRA make similar requests for the regional authorities to be empowered with fiscal autonomy to raise revenues and implement development policies that address specific regional / local needs.

With respect to funding mechanisms to achieve the NPF and RSES objectives, both the SRA and EMRA highlight the need for reform of the competitive bid process. The funding process has become resource-dependent for the local authorities, with funding being distributed in a manner that is not wholly aligned to the spatial objectives of the NPF and RSES. Improved resources are required for local authorities to prepare comprehensive and successful applications.

The NWRA request that funding schemes, such as RRDF, URDF and Croí Cónaithe, be ring-fenced to support projects enhancing placemaking and compact growth within the Galway MASP and the Regional Growth Centres. EMRA makes a comparable request, with the Regional Assembly informing the roll out of any future funding calls under the RRDF to deliver funding in a co-ordinated manner that ensures the delivery of the RSES.

To ensure regional balance, local authorities in the northwestern region should be exempted from match-funding requirements, reflecting EU policy approaches. With respect to the reduced capital investment in this region, the region wants expanded capital allocations to deliver additional projects of scale prioritisation of committed infrastructure projects of scale under the NDP. Furthermore, a higher rate of capital investment is required for transport, water systems, health facilities and higher education to restore the region's status as a 'More Developed Region'.

Key Finding 2: Funding and Investment

To achieve stronger alignment between national funding (NDP) and the delivery of the National Planning Framework and RSES consideration of the following mechanisms is recommended:

- ▲ Establish structures to enable budgetary dialogue and co-ordination between the regional assemblies and the relevant departments and agencies, including in assessing funding applications.
- ▲ Ensure that the criteria for funding decisions support targeted investment consistent with the spatial strategies of the RSES, particularly in relation to investment in infrastructure projects of strategic importance at a regional level, and in respect of the regional cities, growth centres and key towns.
- ▲ Provide specific funding streams for making and progressing complex funding applications at the regional and local level.
- ▲ Establish a national framework to formally monitor, measure and evaluate how investment supports balanced regional development.

4.3 Climate, Environment and Marine

All regional assemblies welcome a stronger role in climate policy and commit to working more closely with the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, when drafting new policy, reviewing the Climate Action Plans and any potential Designated Maritime Area Plans (DMAP), to ensure cohesiveness with spatial planning. In this regard, NWRA suggests that it could become the competent authority for DMAP preparation, coordinating efforts among local authorities.

The forthcoming Regional Renewable Energy Strategy (RRES) provide the regional assemblies with a unique opportunity to shape the renewable energy sector for the country. The NWRA highlights that these strategies must promote fairness and consider regional advantages for renewable energy generation, while no specific geographic area is disproportionately burdened and advocates for equitable distribution of climate actions.

Arising out of the revised NPF, the regional assemblies must plan, through their RSES, for the delivery of the regional renewable electricity capacity allocations indicated for onshore wind and solar, and identify allocations for each of the local authorities in order to meet the overall national target (NPO 74).

Having regard to the issues relating to governance, coordination and funding identified across the three monitoring reports, a number of the issues raised will be crucial to the successful implementation of these objectives through the RSES.

Key Finding 3: Climate, Renewable Energy and the Marine Environment

The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies have a strategic role in relation to implementing national objectives for climate action, renewable energy and the marine environment. Consideration of the following is recommended so that these functions can be successfully carried out in a timely manner:

- ▲ Ensure that the regional assemblies are adequately structured to support the development and implementation of Regional Renewable Energy Strategies to meet the overall national target for onshore wind and solar renewable electricity.
- ▲ Appropriately resource the regional assemblies in terms of technical expertise and supports (data, GIS etc.) to carry out this work.
- ▲ Establish coordination structures and procedures between the regional assemblies and local authorities to ensure consistency of approach in relation to meeting national targets for renewable electricity.
- ▲ Establish formal collaboration structures between the regional assemblies and the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications for the preparation of Climate Action Plans and Designated Maritime Area Plans, to ensure alignment with regional spatial planning.

4.4 Housing

All the regional assemblies acknowledge the continuing challenge to achieving housing targets in line with the NPF and RSES and highlight the need for housing delivery, especially in regional cities and growth centres.

Recommendations include utilising incentives and mechanisms like Croí Cónaithe, Project Tosaigh, and direct delivery by the Land Development Agency to prioritise housing delivery and provide higher density housing in the regional cities.

Other mechanisms include aligning the Home Building Finance Ireland (HBFI) funding with the RSES Settlement Hierarchy, targeted incentives for building, renovating, and / or purchasing residential units, excluding short-term letting properties within the priority settlements (i.e. Regional Growth Centres and Key Towns).

Key Finding 4: Housing

Prioritise housing delivery in the Regional Cities, Growth Centres and Key Towns, and align the national funding schemes to deliver the housing supply targets of the National Planning Framework.

4.5 Economic Development and Enterprise

The regional assemblies argue for a stronger role in enterprise and employment policy by working more closely with the respective agencies, such as the IDA, Enterprise Ireland, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and the Department of Rural and Community Development. This will provide stronger integration of RSES’ priorities in national strategies to ensure targeted investment in Regional Growth Centres and Key Towns.

The SRA recommends aligning RSES with Regional Enterprise Plans and possibly relocating functions to the regional assemblies, rather than between the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and local authorities.

The NWRA stresses the need to attract and retain enterprise in the region. Future investments should focus on the following to create high-value jobs:

- ▲ Developing regional critical mass and clustering.
- ▲ Enhancing digital and transport infrastructure.
- ▲ Improving higher education and research capabilities, with a focus on smart specialisation and clustering.
- ▲ Expanding enterprise infrastructure and lands spaces to support innovation.

Key Finding 5: Economic Development and Enterprise

Establish formal collaboration frameworks between the regional assemblies and national enterprise agencies to prioritise and direct investment toward Regional Growth Centres and Key Towns to create high-value jobs.

4.6 Resourcing

The EMRA recommends providing targeted resources to local authorities to prepare urban area plans / local area plans that align with the RSES, especially for the Regional Growth Centres and Key Towns. They also propose to work in partnership with local authorities to conduct research and identify practical mechanisms for enhanced RSES implementation, proposing to establish working groups to progress key issues.

This was also the focus of Key Finding 5: Resourcing of Local Authorities in the Office’s report on the first monitoring report.

Since then, the remaining county development plans have been reviewed to ensure consistency with the RSES, and a programme of local area plans for the Regional Growth Centres and Key Towns continues to be rolled out.

The Office is aware that the resourcing of planning authorities has been under review and that additional resources were allocated since the first review. The resourcing of the planning system is also the subject of the Ministerial Action Plan published in October 2024, which sets out a roadmap to increase the pool of planning and related expertise needed to ensure a planning system fit for future needs.

The resourcing of the local and regional government planning system is fundamental to the implementation of the objectives of the RSES and should remain under review.

4.7 Cross-border and International Cooperation

Both the EMRA and NWRA advocate for north-south cooperation and alignment on blue economy and marine spatial planning matters.

Key Finding 6: Cross-border and Internal Cooperation

Foster stronger north-south cooperation and alignment on blue economy and marine spatial planning initiatives across regional and national borders.

5. Conclusion and Next Steps

The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies are a vital driver for spatial equity and regional investment prioritisation. All three monitoring reports affirm the critical role of the RSEs in translating Project Ireland 2040 into regional action. The reports emphasise that the RSEs must continue to shape national investment decisions to address historic imbalances and future-proof regional economies.

The forthcoming development of the Regional Renewable Energy Strategy (RRES) by the regional assemblies is an important national undertaking identifying areas suitable for renewable energy. It is intended to integrate the strategies with wider planning and socio-economic policies for the region. This provides a unique opportunity to establish a renewed regional approach to implementing the NPF and NDP. Regional assemblies should utilise this occasion to identify and develop frameworks and platforms to improve the alignment of regional priorities with national funding. In parallel, greater national support and enhanced regional mandates should be provided to the regional assemblies to enable effective regional delivery.

Following the enactment of the Planning and Development Act 2024, the role of reviewing the monitoring reports will transfer from NOAC to the Office. The Office is committed to working with the regional assemblies in preparing more consistent monitoring reports and utilising agreed key indicators to track progress and compare progress across the three regions.



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