



ICLRD

Report on Small Towns Study

“Cross Border Co Operation:
A Role for Local Government”.

Ciarán M Tracey,
County Planning Officer, County Leitrim

Presentation

by Ciarán M Tracey, Senior Planner, Leitrim County Council

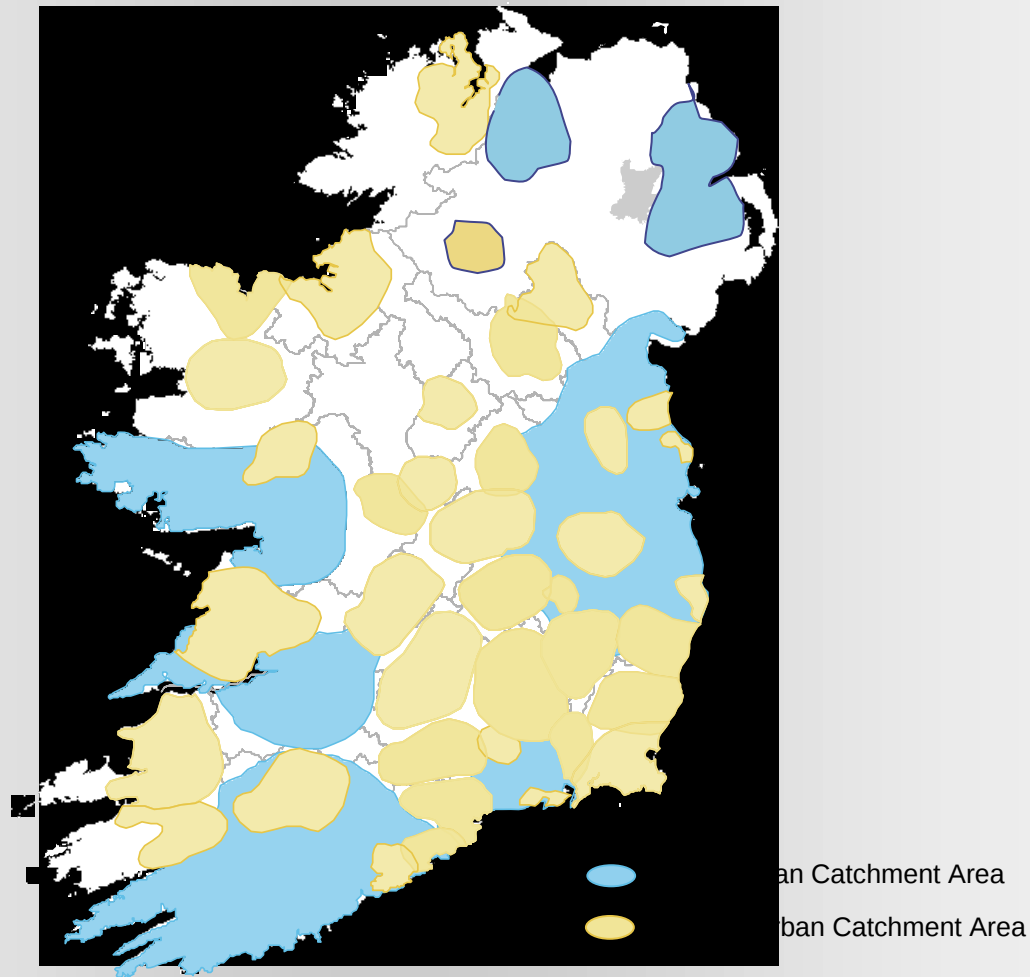
◆ Introduction

- Nature of the Cross Border Area and
- Issues arising

◆ Consultation

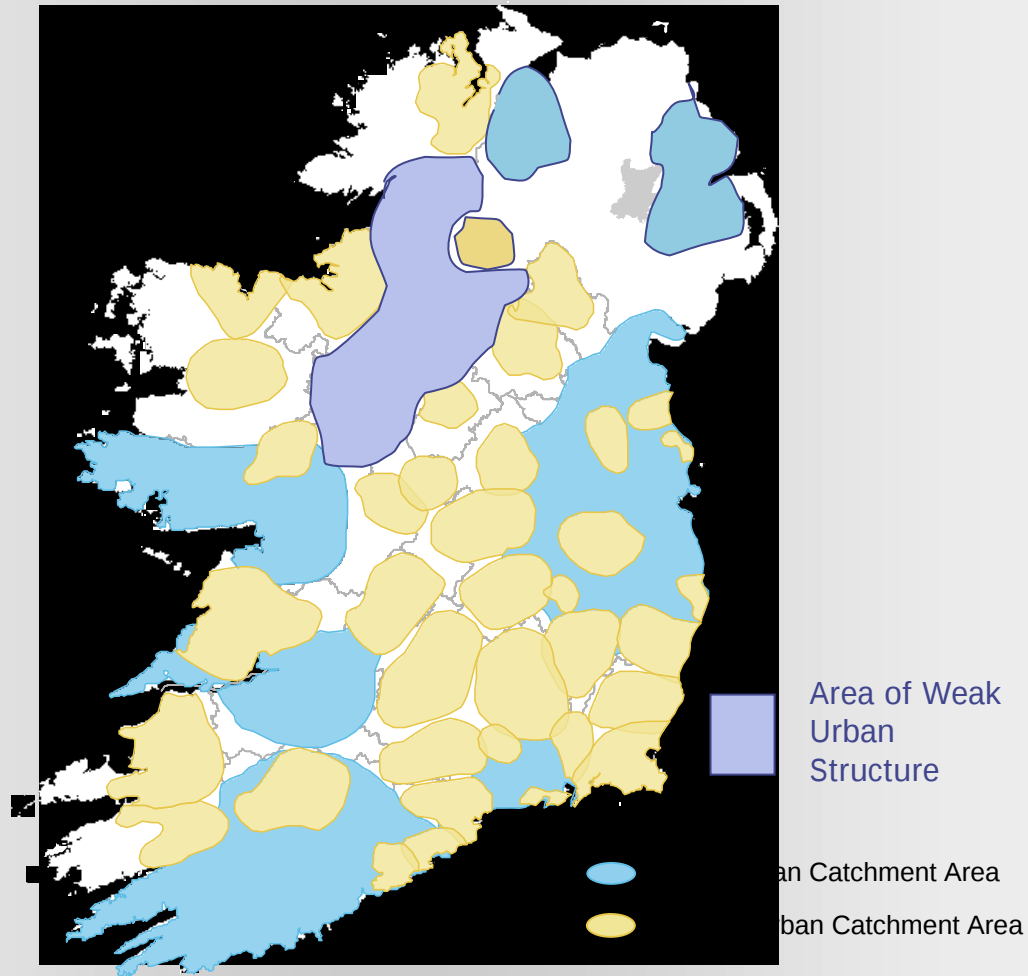
- Formal
 - ◆ Inter County
 - ◆ Transboundary
- Informal
 - ◆ Regional Cross Border Spatial Planning Group
 - ◆ Border Regional Authority Technical working Group

Border Area ~ Urban Structure ~ IRL & NI



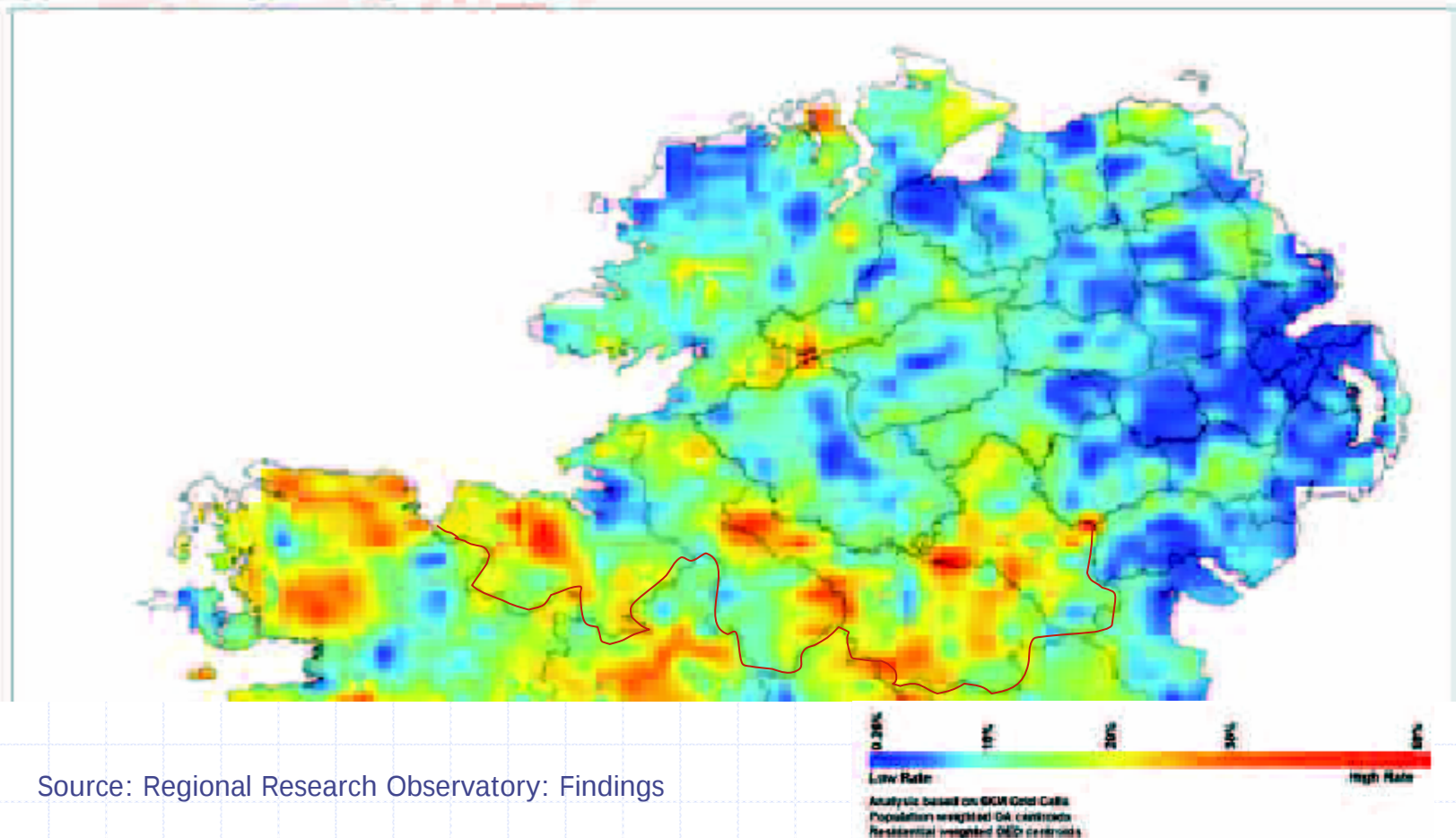
Border Area

~ Weak Urban Structure



Border Area ~ Employment I

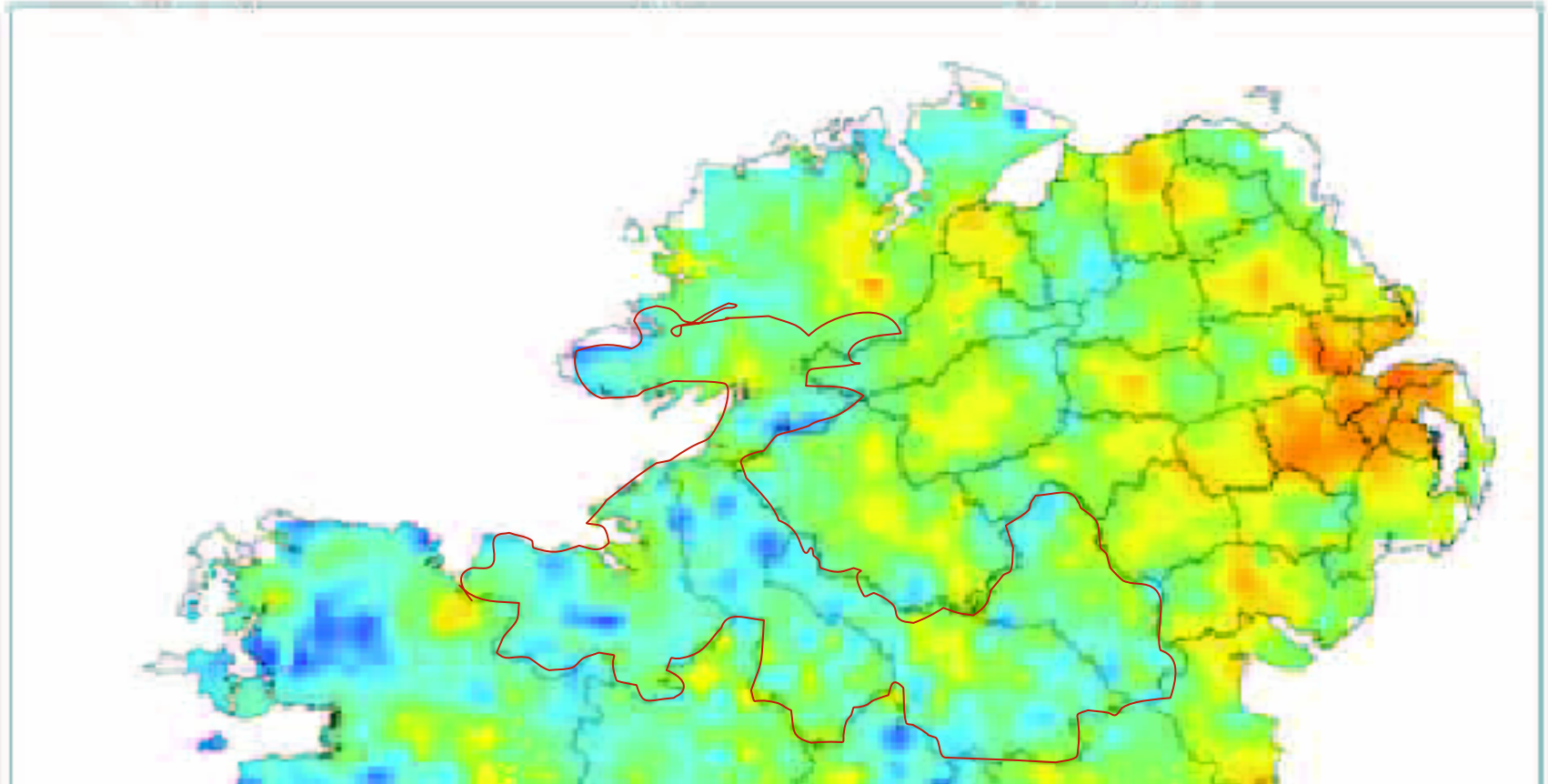
Percentage Proportion distribution of the population whose industry of Employment is :
Agriculture, Hunting, Fishing and Forestry



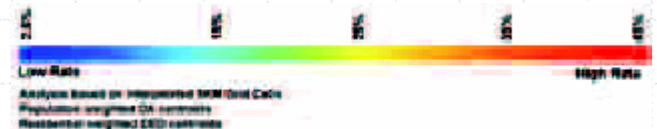
Source: Regional Research Observatory: Findings

Border Area ~ Employment II

Percentage Proportion distribution of the population whose industry of Employment is : Commerce



Source: Regional Research Observatory: Findings



Consultation

- ◆ Formal Consultation
- ◆ Existing legislative framework for Inter-county consultation
 - Development Management Applications
 - Development Plan Preparation
- ◆ Legislative framework for Transboundary Consultation

Existing legislative framework for Inter-county Consultation

◆ Art.28, P&D Regulations 2001 [as amended]

- “where it appears to the Authority that the area of another local authority might be affected by the development – to that Authority”

- ◆ What does this mean?

- Physically affected! ~ measure of proximity?
- Economically Affected ~ does it have to be negative effect only or if it is considered to be positive, should it still be referred?
- Need for guidance from central Government?

◆ How does this work in practice?

Who to Consult?



IRL

Leitrim: 5 Local, 1 Transboundary

Sligo: 3 Local, 0 Transboundary

Cavan: 5 Local, 1 Transboundary

Donegal: 1 Local, 1 Transboundary

Monaghan: 3 Local, 1 Transboundary

Louth: 2 Local, 1 Transboundary

NI:

Unitary Planning Authority consults

Locally with District Councils:

Fermanagh, Dungannon, Armagh,
Omagh, Cookstown: but not inter DC.

Transboundary Consultation

◆ Triggered By

■ EIA Regulations

- ◆ Wind-farm Developments
- ◆ Developments impacting on SAC's, pNHA's etc
- ◆ EU Habitats
- ◆ Strategic Infrastructure Act [An Bord Pleanala]

■ SEA Regulations

◆ Routing of Consultations

■ DoENI to DoEH&LG & visa versa

■ Issues

- ◆ Delays
- ◆ Lack of direct inter authority contact.

Spatial Planning Framework

◆ IRL ~ National Spatial Strategy

- Regional Planning Guidelines
 - ◆ County Development Plans
 - Local Area Plans
 - Non Statutory Plans ~ Area Action Plans: Urban Framework Plans and Village Design Statements

◆ NI ~ Regional Development Strategy

- Unitary Development Plans

Opportunities for Consultation

◆ Formal ~

- mechanisms are stiff and unproductive.
- Formal communication may not be referred to all interested departments, ~ tends to be sectoral in nature and response.

◆ Informal ~

- Allows for a dynamic dialogue which may feed into a formal response when the occasion arises
- Allows for dialogue with other stakeholders within the Public authority : e.g. Economic development departments in NI and Community and Enterprise Directorates in IRL

Informal Consultation

- ◆ ICBAN Regional Cross Border Spatial Planning Group. Role of BRA?
- ◆ Need to formalise / standardise procedures
- ◆ Types of Developments where consultation may be appropriate:
 - Retail Strategy Preparation
 - ◆ Town Centre Renewal Programmes
 - Housing & Settlement Strategies
 - ◆ Town & Village Renewal Programmes
 - ◆ Sustainable Rural Housing Policy
 - Industrial / Economic Development Programmes
 - ◆ Proposals for SDZ's

Opportunities for Co-operation I

◆ Twin / Straddle Towns ~

- Lifford / Strabane : Pettigo / Tullyhamond
- Beleek / Ballyshannon:
- Garrison / Rosinver: Boho / Ballinaglera
- Belcoo / Blacklion: Greenore/ Greencastle

◆ Settlement Strategy ~ Weak Urban Structure

- Town & Village Renewal ~
 - ◆ 5 year programme similar to OPLURD
- Village Design Statements with Local Activists

Opportunities for Co-operation II

- ◆ Develop Templates of Best Practice for
 - Community Consultation and Participation in the renewal programmes / process
 - Village Design Statements
- ◆ Develop Templates for Best Practice and agree standards for 'Sustainable Development'.
 - See ECTP's "Try it this way!"

Opportunities for Co-operation III

- Use ICBAN as Forum for discussion on Transborder Spatial Planning Issues:-
 - ◆ Preservation of Common Cultural and Natural Assets
 - Promotion of Tourism based on above assets
 - Formulation of common environmental policies.
 - ◆ Provision / Sharing of Health and Educational facilities/ resources, based on strategic access
 - ◆ Economic Competitiveness
 - Preparation of Cross Border Atlas/Information for potential investors
 - Waste Management / Trans-border shipments
 - ◆ Integrated Transportation Infrastructure Investment programmes, including :
 - Regional Airports
 - Provision of/ access to and upgrade of rail services
 - Provision and rationalisation of long distance bus routes

Conclusion

- ◆ While Formal Consultation has its difficulties and limitations, these can be resolved through an agreed range of informal referrals and dialogue.
- ◆ Opportunities are there , identified and to be identified, wherein the synergy of improved contact / dialogue can bring added value and improved competitiveness to those areas which become involved in the process
- ◆ Thank you ~ Ciarán Tracey