



## **What the NSS means for Galway City and County**

- Galway city and its wider catchment is a major national level growth area. It is the largest urban centre in the west energising a broader area.
- The National Spatial Strategy looks to further development of Galway's strengths, particularly in co-operation with Limerick/Shannon.
- This will underpin a dynamic economic region possessing the type of critical mass which is competitive in the national and international context.
- Tuam will be a hub helping to extend the process of interaction between Galway and other areas northwards, further into the west and northwest as well as energising its own extensive area in north and east Galway. Ballinasloe will also benefit from closeness to the Athlone/Mullingar/Tullamore gateway.

- The NSS identifies public transport in the Galway area as an important support. It suggests that connecting Galway to Cork by effective roads and public transport links, via Limerick and Shannon Airport, would play a key role in enabling the strengths of this area to be increasingly developed into the future.
- The region would have good outward connections via Shannon as an air hub for the Galway-Cork axis. The NSS also identifies ways in which rail and bus services from Galway and other centres could be developed in terms of service frequency and speed to underpin Galway's competitiveness.
- The NSS establishes a framework within which regional and local strategies can further extend the process of diversifying and strengthening that is already underway in places such as Clifden and Connemara, to more rural parts of Galway to the North and East. This would be based on the food sector, tourism, fisheries, forestry and other enterprise-related employment activities.
- In relation to smaller villages and towns in Galway, the NSS outlines measures aimed at revitalising declining areas whose services such as schools etc are threatened. These measures include encouraging new housing development in villages through a variety of local authority driven planning and development mechanisms.