

4. DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

THE ANALYSIS PRESENTED IN THIS REPORT YIELDS A LOGICAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK WHERE THE DIFFERENT LAYERS INTERACT WITH EACH OTHER. THIS INCLUDES THE ROLE OF KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL IN RESPONDING TO THE DEMANDS OF THE SOCIAL PARTNERS AND TO IMPROVE THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF THE COUNTY IN ORDER TO MEET INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION.

These in turn impact on the social partners in order to initiate changes that allow the county to compete and attract. Some policies will impact on a number of growth drivers and a number of social partners while others may have a more selective impact. The various links between these are central in determining the performance of the county.

The layers can be combined to form a development framework that can be used to tease out and analyse the complex connections between different agents and growth drivers and how these can contribute to the action layer of competing, attracting and changing. The most logical manner in which the different layers can be combined is in the form of a rotating disc, which is shown below in Figure 6.

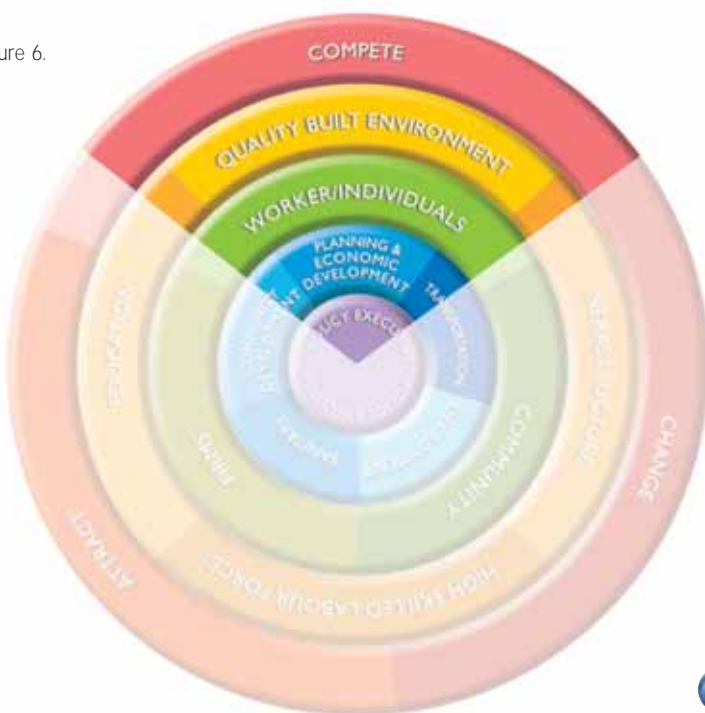
Rather than being fixed each individual item can be combined with all other items on the disc, which is achieved by allowing the different layers to rotate. Thus, while in Figure 6 Planning and Economic Development is aligned with Workers, Quality Built Environment and Compete, any other combination is also possible.

The usefulness of this representation of the key interactions is that it allows the interconnections between layers to be explored, while still remaining relatively simple. An alternative approach would be to construct a flow chart of the connections, which given that there are sixteen highly interconnected agents, growth drivers and actions fields would get complicated and confusing. Thus, the disc represents the simplest representation of the overall dynamic. Taking the above constellation, one can ask what relationship between these fields exists and what the service platform Planning and Economic Development can do for workers in relation to a Quality Built Environment in order to compete internationally. In order to avoid confusion and to focus on just these interactions it is useful to block out the other fields, which yields the shape of a keyhole (see Figure 6).

Clearly a quality built environment contributes significantly to the quality of life of workers and thus helps to attract and retain these in the county. Planning which is perhaps the most significant function of the county council plays an important role in delivering a quality built environment. Of course the policy executive should be instrumental in putting forward and supporting actions that support the development of a high quality built environment.

By rotating the different layers on the disc a different constellation of fields can be selected and the exercise can then be repeated. In some cases there may be little connection but in others there may be substantial interaction. These latter areas are particularly important since they are areas where the service platforms of the county council have significant influence. This is particularly the case in relation to infrastructure and the Quality Built Environment where the County Council has policy levers.

Figure 6.





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