

To whom it may concern

I wish to make the following submission concerning the draft national framework plan. It is with great concern that I raise the failure of the present document to properly address the realities of urban growth and development in the north east, in particular regarding the town of Drogheda. Drogheda has a true population of over 80 thousand people and continues to grow. While it is one urban centre, the framework document, if adopted, will allow that Drogheda remains a town that is cut in two by the failure to address the town boundary. Drogheda is presently under the municipal control of Louth Coco and Meath Coco, the town and it's citizens have suffered as a result, with vital resources been siphoned off to the two county towns, Dundalk and Navan. I believe that any strategic and evidence based approach to future planning should and must identify the special status of Drogheda and plan for the orderly expansion that is sure to occur in the area. Drogheda has easy access to all means of transport both roads and rail and is close to the main airport. It also enjoys a modern port. It is vital that the entire area of Drogheda and its environs should be brought under a single municipal authority, as was previously the case under the county corporation of Drogheda. Local government should be for the people and by the people, and as such Drogheda can-not remain the cash cow for two other towns simply to satisfy the current status quo. I note that other cities, such as Kilkenny and Galway achieved city status due to historical precedent and that the draft plan has essentially acknowledged such precedent. As such I would ask that similar due consideration be now afforded to Drogheda, which can also boast historic precedent both as a city and as a recognised county corporation. In this age of ever increased centralisation, I would ask that some respect be afforded to local government and that Drogheda be allowed to develop as one entity under one municipal authority, either as a town or city. This would best meet the aspirations and needs of the people of the area and of the country at large.

Yours sincerely

Mary Lawless

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