

Jeannine Luetzkendorf

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**NPF Submissions**

Forward Planning Section  
Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government  
Custom House  
Dublin D01 W6X0

31. of October 2017

To whom it may concern

I would like to make the following submission for consideration under the National Planning Framework.

The vision set out under the Framework Plan is to ensure Ireland's long term economic, environmental and social progress for all parts of the country. Yet, the document fails to make any provision via a strategic plan for Ireland's largest town, Drogheda. Recent census data identified Drogheda as the fastest growing town in the country. With a population of over 80 thousand in the greater Drogheda area, it is already Ireland's fifth largest population centre and continues to grow.

Drogheda has already the infrastructural foundations required for future development and sustainable growth. The town is strategically placed via its proximity to air, sea, rail and national road networks and has the further potential to open to the inland waterways. The Lourdes Hospital serves a great part of the north east. There is a newly opened court house; an institute for further education and many amenities to enrich the life quality of its citizens. There is land available to absorb further population growth and a significant capacity for office space, which could attract service industries.

Drogheda is at the heart of the Boyne Valley and in close proximity to Ireland's most important and popular archaeology sites and boasts of its own wealth of historical buildings and a fast growing cultural industry. Tourists and citizens alike enjoy the rich culture, music and heritage and the vibrant festival scene, which will extend its repertoire with the Fleadh Cheoil 2018.

I note with concern, that the draft document fails to identify the enormous potential of Drogheda to become a major urban centre and hub for commerce and tourism.

Drogheda will suffer from its lack of status within the National Spatial Strategy plan and can not reach its potential, nor cope with the growth, if its left out of the national planning for the next twenty years.

At present the town falls under the administration of two county councils. It is my belief, that the planning and use of the towns resources suffer greatly as a result. I would therefore submit that the NPF makes recommendations to review the town boundary or that the possibility of city status be considered, and a proper plan be devised to manage Drogheda under one municipal authority. Drogheda needs as a matter of urgency to be afforded attention under the National Planning Framework, for a better Ireland 2040.

I thank you in advance for giving my submission due consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Jeannine Luetzkendorf