

From: Minister
Sent: 06 November 2017 13:04
To: National Planning Framework
Subject: FW: Inclusion of Drogheda in NPF and meeting request

From: [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Imelda Munster
Sent: 03 November 2017 16:32
To: Minister
Cc: Imelda Munster
Subject: Inclusion of Drogheda in NPF and meeting request

A Aire,

I am writing to you regarding the National Planning Framework and the position of Drogheda, Ireland's largest town.

As you may have seen in my previous submission, and as I have outlined in my second submission which I intend to submit next week, Drogheda is well placed to be included in the plan as a 6th city or urban centre. It is the 6th largest urban centre in the state, and there is a serious case to be made for Drogheda to be granted city status.

A key policy objective of the plan is to ensure that urban areas that grow to a population of over 50,000 organically will be given special city status with a designation for investment for the future. Drogheda and its surrounding conurbation is fast approaching this figure, being the largest town in Ireland, and logic would dictate the infrastructural and economic development should meet the demands of this growth. Drogheda has been overlooked in previous state-wide planning initiatives, such as the National Spatial Strategy, and the town has lost significant power due to changes in local government in recent years.

No other regional town can match Drogheda's attributes. Accessibility and the ability to distribute goods is vital to a regions development. Drogheda is perfectly positioned on the North/South corridor. It's served by motorway and rail, has a thriving port and is only 20 minutes from the state's main airport. Drogheda has a young and educated population. The availability of high-speed broadband throughout the town and this willing workforce would be very attractive for FDI which would in turn create indigenous jobs.

But to realise the potential of Drogheda, make the most of its attributes and develop it as a properly functioning regional centre, Drogheda must be included in the National Planning Framework.

I am seeking a meeting with you to discuss this matter, as I am very concerned that Drogheda will once again be excluded from a state-wide plan, and that could prove to be seriously detrimental to the town.

I ask that you consider this request and I look forward to hearing from you.

Is mise le meas,



Imelda Munster

Louth/East Meath

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