



J. MURPHY (DEVELOPMENTS) LTD.

BUILDING & CIVIL ENGINEERING CONTRACTORS

Block B, Bryanstown Centre, Dublin Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth
Tel: (041) 983 6727 Fax: (041) 987 3630 Mobile: 087 906 9190 www.jmd.ie

NPF Submissions,
Forward Planning Section,
Department of Housing, Planning,
Community and Local Government
Custom House
Dublin 1

8th November 2017

A Chara,

We are deeply concerned that Drogheda has been omitted from the draft National Planning Framework.

Drogheda has significant potential as a major hub with its proximity to both Dublin and Belfast and considering it is the sixth largest urban centre in the country. Drogheda is strategically located thirty minutes from Dublin city and is serviced by the M1 motorway and the Dublin Belfast rail corridor.

Both Meath County Council and Louth County Council's Local Area Plans anticipate considerable population growth for the southern and northern environs of Drogheda in the next few years. This population increase will place an increased demand on housing, educational and recreational facilities, which in turn will require significant investment in infrastructure and transport. Drogheda needs to be included in the National Planning Framework to facilitate this growth.

Inclusion in the Framework could also address critical issues like third level education, job creation and regional transport.

It is crucial that Drogheda is recognised as an important growth centre, with a view to Drogheda gaining city status and having a city council. Drogheda's population has grown at a faster rate than the other five large urban centres. If we are planning into the future, this fast expanding population must be planned for.

The purpose of planning is to anticipate events and plan accordingly. If the Minister is serious about balanced regional development, as is mentioned in the foreword to the framework, then Drogheda needs to be reconsidered for inclusion.

Sincerely,

J. Murphy Developments Ltd.