



DIFE

DROGHEDA

Institute of Further Education

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Submission to National Planning Framework

**The Greater Drogheda Area – Designation as a City & Primary
Development Centre**

Date: 9/11/2017

From Davy Mc Donnell Principal Drogheda Institute:

Address: Twenties Drogheda

Drogheda Institute of Further Education (DIFE) is the sole provider of further education courses in the greater Drogheda catchment area. It serves a regional area from Mid Louth to North Dublin and from Navan, Co. Meath to the coast along the Dublin–Belfast economic corridor.

Since opening in 2003 the Institute has experienced a continuous and sustained growth in the number of students attending the college culminating in the enrolment of over 1000 students in September 2017. This makes the Institute one of the largest PLC colleges in the entire country.

The Louth Meath Education and Training Board have greatly assisted the college in modifying its accommodation provision to meet the needs of a modern Further Education Institute. In recent times a number of new lecture rooms, a computer laboratory, extensive Fashion and Interior design studios and a dedicated animal care building have been constructed. In addition a brand new state of the Culinary Arts extension has been completed and a full size all weather soccer pitch has further complemented the campus facilities

At the Institute we have a varied and diverse range of courses and something to suit everybody's individual needs. All courses are fully certified by accredited awarding bodies such as QQI, ITEC and City & Guilds. While certain courses target the school leaving population, an increasing number of courses have been adapted to suit mature applicants and those who wish upskill or to pursue lifelong learning. All of the courses on offer provide excellent employment opportunities and links into further and higher education.

In response to the first draft of the National Planning Framework, which failed to recognise Drogheda as one of the largest urban areas in the State, I wish to propose that Drogheda and its full surrounding urban area in both Louth and Meath be counted and administered as one single unitary urban area and designated as a City & Primary Development Centre in the National Planning Framework / Ireland 2040.

Yours sincerely


