

**Cllr Kevin Callan BL**  
**Member of Louth County Council**

## **Submission requesting proper designation within The National Planning Framework for Drogheda, County Louth.**

Drogheda is in a unique position that it is surrounded by high population centres, within a 10 minute journey of Drogheda the population increases from 43K to 100K, The development or collapse of Drogheda will have a direct effect on these 100k people.

In the past 20 years Drogheda's population has increased by 37K people, these people have not been supported by the previous plan and are being further side-lined but the proposed plan.

The Demographic wave from this development will deposit a significant number of graduates on the employment market in Drogheda over the next couple of years , perfectly primed for commercial development of the area, or a mass exodus of capable and committed people.

Dundalk's gateway status in the previous plan has resulted in available resources in the county being diverted to fulfil the requirements of that plan to the detriment of Drogheda, the recent crippling water crises was a direct result of that imbalance, the current plan copper fastens Drogheda's drought.

Despite the lack of national and local Government supports or leadership, Drogheda and the region has flourished and was the fastest growing area outside of Dublin, this growth has been through the supreme efforts of local volunteers at community and business level, voluntary leadership for a settlement of Drogheda's size is not sustainable.

The previous plan sought to force expansion and development of a critical mass in towns and cities around the country and failed miserably as the consumer desire was not considered, the current plan seeks to similarly force development into areas beyond the scope of consumer desire and will similarly fail. The result will be a national loss as the industries and employees are globally mobile

Yours faithfully,

Cllr Kevin Callan

Louth County Council