

Submission to National Planning Framework

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

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The National Planning Framework has failed to recognise Drogheda as one of the largest urban areas in the country. There seem to be a pattern here as Drogheda was absent from the previous National Spatial Strategy. I believe this should be addressed by nominating 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.

The Greater Drogheda Area has a population in the region of 80,000 people. This takes in Drogheda itself and areas in South Louth and East Meath.. It makes no sense for these areas to be counted in isolation of one another in either statistical or planning terms. Doing so leaves a huge gap in the services and infrastructure required and actually provided to what is actually one of Ireland's largest urban areas and deprives the State of an alternative Primary Development Area to counter congestion in Dublin. The Greater Drogheda Area counted as one contiguous interlinked urban area for statistical and planning purposes.

Until such time as the size and population of Drogheda is recognised properly through the recognition of its real status issue the area will not reach its full potential for the attraction of Foreign Direct Investment. Drogheda has the infrastructure which should attract foreign investment. Drogheda has the potential to be a major economic hub for the North East region.

Drogheda's true size both in urban spread and population size needs to be represented more accurately in census data and national statistics which inform Government and Local Authority decisions on planning, resource allocation and prioritisation for public services and promotion of foreign direct investment.

Yours sincerely

Joan McQuillan