



Member Louth County Council

# Councillor Oliver Tully



Cllr Oliver Tully

## Mayor

## Borough District Drogheda

NPF Submissions  
Forward Planning Section  
Department of Housing, Planning,  
Community and Local Government,  
Custom House  
Dublin 1, D01 W6XO

10<sup>th</sup> March 2017

### A Chara

As Mayor of Drogheda I wish to support the submission made by 'The Drogheda City Status' group on the National Planning Framework.

Strategically Drogheda is placed along the east coast within 30 minutes of the centre of Dublin, our capital city. Drogheda is serviced by the M1 motorway and the Dublin Belfast railway, has its own very busy sea port and is serviced by the national gas interconnector.

There is an abundance of fresh processed water and there is ample capacity in the sewerage treatment plant for a significant population increase. On the Southern environs of Drogheda, Meath County Council prepared a Local Area plan 2008- 2014 for a population growth of 8,500 people while Louth County Council has prepared a Master Plan for the Northern Environs of Drogheda for a population growth of 20,500. Both of these area plans identified the necessary infrastructural requirements to compliment both plans, which are significant. As such Drogheda should be viewed as a unique region with such a significant planned increase in population growth.

The educational infrastructure in the Drogheda region has benefited from significant investment over the last few years and is continuing to improve but will require further investment as the planned developments progress. These expansions in the educational system for the Drogheda Region have been identified as part of the National Development Plan in January 2007 by the School Planning Section Department of Education and Science in the draft Area Plan for North Dublin, East Meath and South Louth and the 2007 Planning Strategy for the Greater Drogheda Area.

It is important that all of the relevant documentation to support Drogheda and its environs is studied properly in the context of the National Planning Framework. Documents of significant relevance to the National Planning Framework in the Drogheda region are the Drogheda Borough Council Development Plan 2011-2017, the Louth County Development Plan 2015-2021 and the Meath County Development Plan.

It is crucial that Drogheda's case for treatment as a growth centre and City Status is trenchantly made and understood. If this opportunity is missed Drogheda will be left behind and lose out on Government support, investment and resources. It is important that the Drogheda region becomes a growing and thriving area to allow Drogheda achieve its undoubted potential. This will help shape the direction of Drogheda evolving from Ireland's largest town into Ireland's first City in the North East.

Mise le Meas

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Oliver Tully", written in black ink. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

Cllr Oliver Tully  
Mayor  
Borough District Drogheda