



Established in 1790

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SUBMISSION TO ISSUES PAPERS OF IRELAND 2040 OUR PLAN

To Whom It May Concern

Further to our e-mail on 16th March 2017, please find below the submission of Drogheda Port Company to the Public Consultation Phase of National Planning Framework, Ireland 2040 – Our Plan.

Drogheda Port would very much support the need for a different path to be considered for Irelands long term strategic planning. The north east region is very much underutilized in terms of its potential economic contribution to the country as a whole. It is often recognised as an adjacent overflow to the Greater Dublin Region, or even included within the Greater Dublin Region, but not fully supported as such through the national strategic planning frameworks.

Drogheda Port is considered in a European context to be part of the Greater Dublin Area Port Cluster and has a considerable scope to develop further given the correct framework.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO THE EASTERN REGION

Introduction

Drogheda is one of five Ports of Regional Significance which are state owned. National Ports Policy acknowledges that Drogheda Port Company retains an important role in regional freight distribution in the Greater Dublin Area and has in the past provided a competitive alternative to facilities in Dublin Port. It is the largest and most commercially focused of the five Ports of Regional Significance. All future national port capacity should not be Dublin centric when there are other possible alternatives.

Role of Regional Ports

The majority of ports in Europe can be categorised as Small or Medium sized Ports (SMPs) and tend to serve local or regional markets rather than national or international ones. These ports underpin the local economy, ensure worthwhile employment opportunities and greatly assist towards local regeneration. Some of these ports such as Drogheda Port have the ability to develop and provide national transport facilities and port capacity.

Value of Drogheda Port to the Region

As a Port of Regional Significance, Drogheda Port looks to its hinterland to directly serve the needs of local industry. A number of major local industries rely heavily on the port to move their products which are best served in transport terms by local infrastructure, due to cost of transport of bulk goods.

Drogheda Port makes a significant economic contribution to its hinterland, the immediate area of which consists of Counties Louth and Meath but whose reach extends to the North East (NE) Region and the Greater Dublin Area (GDA). The port also acts as a national distribution centre for particular products, a role which is increasing. Given the correct planning framework Drogheda Port has the ability to provide substantial new port facilities away from the congested Dublin hub.

Blueprint 2050

Drogheda Port Company is beginning a masterplanning process to address the key issues around the future development of the port.

The plan, ***Blueprint 2050***, will present a vision for the development of Ireland's largest regional port and outline our logistical and socio-economic role from **2018 to 2050** in order to promote and support the provision of new infrastructure, port services and employment for the region and nationally.

The port is currently a key contributor to the economy of the north east region, supporting up to 1,000 jobs and helping to underpin the regional economy. It needs to be able to adapt and grow to continue to assist in the development of the overall region. It can become a key driver to attracting new Foreign Direct Investment and high value manufacturing industry, diversifying the employment base of the region.

On behalf of Drogheda Port Company I welcome the opportunity to contribute to this public consultation process and look forward to actively engaging in this process moving forward.

Yours sincerely



Joan Wiseman
Corporate Administrator