

From: robert purfield [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 November 2017 17:08
To: National Planning Framework
Subject: Submissionfor Ireland 2040,

To whom It may concern:

I wish to the make the following submission for consideration under the NPF

While a National Planning Framework may be a useful tool in developing strategies for housing, employment and infrastructure, it is bitterly disappointing that the draft document fails to identify the largest town in the country, Drogheda.

Drogheda town has huge potential to be a strategic and beneficial urban hub both for commerce and tourism in Ireland as it is situated on the M1 just a short distance from both Dublin and Belfast airports and also has access to it's own port on the river Boyne. Drogheda could serve as a strategic import/export hub and with a proper management plan it could strengthen both the local and national economy. The town also has may unused commercial sites such as the Boyne tower which would prove ideal for attracting businesses as well as many sites that would be prime for development.

Unfortunately as it stands the town falls under the administration of two county councils and as a result services and planning for the town are disjointed. Vested interests in this from both councils in terms of maintaining the current boundary is holding the town back from proper development and the insistence on adhering to a boundary from centuries ago is no longer a viable option. This sort of behavior needs to be circumvented.

I want to propose that the NPF make recommendations to develop plans that bring the entire town of Drogheda under the one single administration and that the town of Drogheda be recognised as a single borough and that the administration of both the Louth and Meath quarters be amalgamated into a single borough council. I also propose that as the largest town in Ireland be afforded with a special status which would see it's inclusion in the NPF

Furthermore Drogheda is an historic and culturally significant town which, with proper planning and development could become a tourist hub with access to the battle of the Boyne site, Newgrange, Slane etc. The town has always been central to the history of Ireland, and could easily become the flagship of a new Ireland that places cooperation and shared traditions at the fore.

In addition to this the correct investment that could come from making this move would have the added benefit of creating more jobs in the local area, thus giving many people living in the town an opportunity to work in the locality instead of having a daily commute to Dublin, which would take pressure off Dublin in terms of traffic volume and associated issues.

The benefits of making Drogheda a single municipal borough are easily identified and such a move would allow for better planning and use of the towns natural resources.

I trust this meets with your approval.

Kind regards,

Robert Purfield,

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