

Submission to National Planning Framework

Drogheda and its Environs

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In response to the first draft of the National Planning Framework, which failed to recognise Drogheda as one of the largest urban areas in the State, I wish to propose that Drogheda and its full surrounding urban area in both Louth and Meath be counted and administered as one single unitary urban area and a Primary Development Centre in the National Planning Framework / Ireland 2040.

The Greater Drogheda Area has a population in the region of 80,000 people. The town itself is over 40,000. It is Ireland's largest town and yet has not been represented.

Drogheda is critically positioned in the North East with the ability to ease the commuting and congestion burden in Dublin and on the primary routes into Dublin.

Drogheda is on a par in terms of surrounding infrastructure and location with parts of Fingal such as Swords and the Airport Zone and major urban centres such as Galway and Limerick but attracts much less Foreign Direct Investment. Drogheda has the potential to be a major economic hub for the North East region with a critical mass of employment opportunities.

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.

Drogheda's absence from the previous National Spatial Strategy should be addressed by nominating the full urban area as a Primary Development Centre in the National Planning Framework.

Yours sincerely


