

Name: Pio
Surname: Smith

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Message:

The National Planning Framework is a great opportunity for citizens to have an input into the future development of their town, city ,region and hinterland.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on National Planning Framework (<http://npf.ie>)

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

RE: IRELAND 2040 NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK

A Chara,

Please find attached submission to the NPF 2040 Plan by Cllr.
Pio Smith, Mayor of Drogheda Borough Municipal District.

INTRODUCTION

Drogheda is a sustainable National Growth Center and is strategically placed close to Dublin and with easy motorway access to Belfast. The Buchanan Report 1968 identified Drogheda as a centre for regional growth in the context of reducing the dependency on Dublin and managing in a sustainable way Ireland's urban growth. The National Development Plan(2000 – 2013) and the National Spatial Strategy(2002-2020), also outlined the need to improve regional development and stop the reliance on the Dublin area.

THE ROLE OF DROGHEDA OVER THE NEXT 20 YEARS

The population of Drogheda has grown significantly over the past 10 years and now stands at circa 40,956(CSO,2016). Furthermore, a report by Dr. Brian Hughes a chartered planning and development expert, states that the latest census figures for the Greater Drogheda Area is circa 83,000 people. Louth County Council has produced figures that show the future residential growth for Drogheda in 2024 to be 65,000.

Thus, there is significant evidence that shows the steady increase in both Residential and Greater Drogheda Area population growth, and that this will continue into the

future. Therefore, from a population growth perspective, Drogheda is well placed to develop into a secondary city supporting the International city of Dublin.

SECONDARY CITY OF DROGHEDA

In order to develop into a major secondary city, Drogheda will require investment in transport links to Dublin and Belfast as well as investment in infrastructure development. The role of Drogheda as a support city to Dublin will also be complimented by it's role as an economic power generating source for the South Louth/East Meath area. Economic growth in Drogheda will result in greater numbers of people being able to live and work in the new city, thus enabling people to live closer to where they work and move away from the current unsustainable trends of increased commuting. This is one of the major objectives of the NDP 2040.

INFRASTRUCTURE FIRST POLICY

In order for Drogheda to fulfil it's potential it is essential that the Government follow an infrastructure first policy toward the new city. Hence the Government should adopt a version of the Copenhagen "Finger Plan" for Drogheda. Since 1947, the Copenhagen Finger Plan has evolved into a plan for the development of the entire Greater Copenhagen area. Replicating this plan and applying it to Drogheda would enable the sustainable development of the new city and allow for a more stable flow of capital investment into the

future. The following infrastructure projects should be prioritised:

- 1) Primary Care Facility
- 2) Municipal Sports Facility
- 3) Dart Line to connect Drogheda to Dublin
- 4) Improved Public Transportation
- 5) Soft Infrastructure projects to support social, community and human capital.
- 6) Create walking and cycling facilities that reduce reliance on cars
- 7) Flood Defense system for Drogheda
- 8) Investment in tourist infrastructure, ie Greenway from Mornington to Drogheda
- 9) Investment in Social Housing
- 10) Build the Northern Port Access Route

CONCLUSION

The National Planning Framework is a timely opportunity to effectively plan the future of Drogheda in a sustainable manner, such that it can become a secondary city to Dublin and a driver of economic growth in the South Louth/East Meath Region. In 2040 the population of Drogheda and the Greater Drogheda Area will be such that one directional commuter flow will be unsustainable. Providing and

implementing an Infrastructure First Policy, under a specific Finger Plan for Drogheda will provide the framework for Drogheda City to achieve it's potential.

REFERENCES

The Buchanan Report 1968

CSO Census 2016, EP001: Population & Actual & Percentage Change 2011-16 by Sex, Province, County or City, Census Year & Statistic,.

The National Development Plan 2000 - 2013

National Spatial Strategy 2002 – 2020

.

.