

**From:** Glen O'Malley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 09 November 2017 22:02  
**To:** National Planning Framework  
**Subject:** Ireland 2040 submission - Drogheda.

Dear Sir / Madam

I would like to express my shock and concern that once again Drogheda, Ireland's largest town with a population of over 40,000 people and a hinterland population of 70,000, has been omitted from yet another national planning document.

I studied Spatial planning in university and have read numerous government documents, white and green papers and have found it very difficult to understand why Drogheda with its strategic position has constantly being overlooked.

Drogheda is a booming, vibrant and historic town that has struggled through the recession and has came out the other side a winner thanks to its immense community spirit. Anything that Drogheda has achieved recently, from being awarded the Feladh Ceoil in 2018, winning awards for our Maritime Festival, welcoming business such as State Street or Yapstone, campaigning for protection of our built heritage have all been down to local communities and local politics. I can only imagine the successes Drogheda could achieve if it was given the backing it deserves from our government. Drogheda needs to be included within the Ireland 2040 document to grow t its full potential.

The fact that Drogheda is split between the counties of Louth and Meath make planning for the town and its wider hinterland an uncoordinated mess.

40,000 people in Drogheda town and a further 20 -30 thousand in its immediate hinterland are spread across the East Meath / South Louth areas and are completely disenfranchised from each other. The 19th century county council system of local administration is out-dated and failing the Drogheda area. Drogheda needs to be made a city and I ask that you give careful consideration to including a provision within the Ireland 2040 document to making this achievable.

I look forward to reading the finished document and hope to see Drogheda included.

Thanks you,

Glen O'Malley.