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Re National Planning Framework

This is a follow up submission to the revised draft plan

Dundalk Chamber of Commerce welcomes the recognition of the strategic economic and social importance of the Dublin-Belfast corridor and the potential which this represents for development within the context and aims of the National Planning Framework.

It will be critical that the strengths and capacity for development represented by the Drogheda-Dundalk-Newry linear city are planned for and utilised to enable the RSES for the Eastern and Midland region to achieve the potential for growth identified.

The existing population centres with fast and easy access to broadband, three airports, three deep water ports, and road and rail infrastructure can facilitate the stated objectives of fostering international connection and growth of economic centres without excessively concentrating population in the already congested Dublin metropolitan area.

The existing high levels of connectivity, large population concentration and transport networks, allied with the availability of serviced and zoned development lands can facilitate ecommerce, manufacturing, and financial services while still within an hour of both Dublin and Belfast. The available lands within existing urban boundaries can accommodate significant population growth without leading to unwelcome urban sprawl, an aim clearly articulated in the Framework.

Access to centres of education and research (DIT, DCU, DkIT and SRC) along with a mobile and technologically capable workforce within easy reach all facilitate the establishment and development of enterprises from small to large scale.

In order to capitalise on these opportunities it is vital that the RSES for the Dublin area responds to and takes full cognisance of the capacity the adjoining centres represent for controlled and managed growth.



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BREXIT CHALLENGE

Because of the uncertainties which surround the impact of Brexit, in whatever forms it takes, there will be a need to review and to adapt the plan to respond to the challenges and opportunities which will be created. This will be one of the key factors which will affect development in this region. The capacity to develop as a threshold to a major trading partner and as an access point between the UK and Europe should not be underestimated and will present opportunities as well as threats. The scale of the impact will be significant in any case and will have consequences for all aspects of life in the Border regions including transport, tourism, education, health, local economic movement and retail economics.

CONCLUSION

We look forward to continuing our good working relationship with Louth County Council and establishing links through our contribution to the RSES