

## Ross Higgins

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**From:** Niall Kierans <niallkierans@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 21 January 2019 14:40  
**To:** RSES  
**Subject:** RSES Submission  
**Attachments:** Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (submission).docx

Dear Sirs

Please find attached the submission on behalf of 'Love Drogheda' the Drogheda Business Improvement District Company

Sincerely yours  
Niall Kierans  
Treasurer  
Love Drogheda

15 West St.  
Drogheda  
Co. Louth  
A92PCF3





## (Drogheda Business Improvement District) RSES submission

Dear Sirs

In reference to the invitation for submissions re the RSES, please find below our observations specific to the Town of Drogheda

### [Under the Draft Regional & Spatial Strategy Spatial Strategy](#)

[– to manage future growth and ensure the creation of healthy and attracting places to live and work \( Page 3\)](#)

Present plans make no effort to encourage employment in Drogheda

### [Climate Action Strategy – to accelerate action and ensure a clean and healthy environment, sustainable transport and green infrastructure.](#)

Sustainable transport is not served by consigning 22,000 commuters weekly by rail alone, (separate from Bus or Car commutes) from Drogheda. Separate from the fact that the same buses and trains return almost empty on each return journey.

### [Draft Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy \(P5\)](#)

This does not reflect correctly Droghedas growth to date let alone projected growth in future, as per available CSO stats.

### [Vision \(P6\)](#)

[At its core, the draft RSES sets out a settlement and economic growth strategy that seeks to ensure that the needs of the Regions' citizens such as access to employment opportunities and services, ease of travel and overall well-being are met.](#)

Access to employment opportunities and overall well-being are not being met with long commutes

### [Settlement Strategy \(P10\)](#)

[to achieve more co-ordinated and sustainable settlement and travel patterns across the Region.](#)

Clearly not the case in Drogheda to date

### [The draft RSES considered the following in the development of the Settlement Strategy: \(P11\)](#)

[The scale of employment provision and net commuting flows](#)

Again, Clearly not the case in Drogheda to date

## Guiding Principles for Core Strategies (P12)

### Reference to Key Towns 'Commensurate population and employment growth'

Drogheda as a proposed regional centre doesn't even get this. We have the population growth without the employment provision. Any FDI investment in Louth is directed to Dundalk, so much so that IDA Irelands website refers to a number of Drogheda firms as located in Dundalk. There is no reference whatsoever on the IDA site of the existence of Irelands largest Town or its industries, let alone its superior transport links to Dublin City, Port, Airport and the M50, or the fact that Drogheda has one of the largest regional ports in the state.

## Climate Change (P19)

Economic Strategy - The economic strategy is one of smart specialisation, clustering, orderly growth and placemaking. It is underpinned by the transition to a low carbon economy and the use of clustering.

• Connectivity - The transport sector is one of the significant contributors to our national Green House Gas (GHG) emissions and so the need to transition to a low carbon society by reducing transport usage and transitions to lower carbon options, including transition to clean renewables is a key aspect of Ireland's response to climate change.

Heavy reliance on commuting doesn't assist low carbon ambitions

## Connectivity (P20)

### Sustainable Transport

The transport sector is one of the significant contributors to our national Green House Gas (GHG) emissions and so the need to transition to a low carbon society by reducing transport usage and transitions to lower carbon options, including transition to clean renewables is a key aspect of Ireland's response to climate change.

Reducing transport usage comes from providing local jobs

## Quality of Life (P21)

Chapter 9 outlines policy objectives which underpin much of the content of the draft RSES and relate to the creation of healthy and attractive places and good quality of life for all people in the region. The availability of, and access to, services is key to creating healthier places. This includes access to adequate housing and employment choice, supported by good healthcare and education, quality public realm and access to nature, the arts and cultural heritage.

Quality of life stems from local employment

## Implementation and Monitoring (P24)

The EMRA is strongly committed to the preparation of evidence-based strategies and plans and this is demonstrated in the baseline data gathering and the preparation of Regional Profiles, which informed the development of the draft RSES.

Drogheda does not seem to benefit, as yet, from evidenced based decisions. Decisions affecting Drogheda are invariably made in Dublin, Dundalk or Navan. Little heed is given to the opinions of those on the ground in what is Irelands largest and fastest growing Town and hinterland.

Drogheda, Irelands 6th largest Town, pop. 40,956 (Growth 6.2% since 2011) will soon agglomerate with the conurbation of Laytown, Bettystown, Mornington, Irelands 39th largest Town, pop 11,872 (Growth 9.0% since 2011) to become Irelands 5th largest urban area. (Source; CSO 2011 & 2016 Census)

Sincerely yours

Niall Kierans

'LOVE DROGHEDA' .....Droghedas' Business Improvement District campaign

15 West St.

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Co. louth