

## Heather Cooke

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**From:** Anne Campbell <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** 23 January 2019 15:38  
**To:** RSES  
**Subject:** RSES submission on behalf of Sinn Féin, Dundalk  
**Attachments:** RSES sinn fein .docx

Hi there

Please find enclosed a submission on the draft RSES from Sinn Féin Dundalk.

With best regards

Anne

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Le do thoil cuimhnigh ar an imshaol roimh priontáil an ríomhphost seo. Tá an ríomhphost seo (agus aon iatán a ghabhann leis) príobháideach agus rúnda agus d'fhéadfadh go mbeadh eolas inti atá faoi phribhléid dlíthúil. Ní ceadmhach úsáid an ríomhphost seo d'éinne ach don té ar seoladh chuige é. Munar duit an ríomhphost seo nó an té atá freagrach as é a sheoladh, tá cosc ar chóipeáil agus ar sheachadadh an ríomhphost seo agus aon iatán a ghabhann leis chuig éinne nó úsáid a bhaint as a bhfuil ann; ní ceart an ríomhphost seo nó aon iatán a léamh. D'fhéadfadh do mbeadh cosc iomlán dlíthúil ar sceitheadh nó comhfhreagras nó aon úsáid eile gan chead ar a bhfuil sa ríomhphost seo agus d'fhéadadh sé a bheith ina chion coiriúil.

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## Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy

Sinn Fein Dundalk welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on the draft Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy and to comment on issues specific to Dundalk and Drogheda.

We make this submission on behalf of the Sinn Fein councillors on Dundalk Municipal District:

Anne Campbell, Edel Corrigan, Antoin Watters, Ruairí Ó Murchú and Tomas Sharkey;

and on behalf of Sinn Fein Louth TD Gerry Adams.

### Dundalk

*Dundalk has the potential to form part of a sustainable network of centres of scale, including Newry, connected by public transport within the Region and within the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor. Dundalk in particular, due to its proximity to Newry, provides for enhanced cross-border interactions which, if promoted, can help to realise the growth potential of Drogheda-Dundalk-Newry as an important cross-border network for regional development.*

**Sinn Fein Dundalk welcomes the aspiration of a cross-border economic corridor and urges that no matter what the eventual outcome of Brexit, that enhanced economic and social co-operation with Dundalk-Newry and Dublin-Belfast is robust enough to withstand even a hard border. As an initial step, there should be even more focus on the Memorandum of Understanding between Louth County Council and Newry Mourne Down Council, with additional monetary supports for joint projects if needed.**

*Furthermore, the presence of Dundalk Institute of Technology provides a key driver for an enterprise ecosystem along with the existing sectoral clusters.*

**Sinn Fein Dundalk supports the idea that DkIT is a key driver for this enterprise ecosystem but wants far more financial support given to the IT from central government to allow the development and expansion of courses and, if needed, the physical imprint of the college.**

*The Strategy seeks to prioritise regeneration of town centre opportunities in Dundalk to promote revitalization and redevelopment of the town centre, promote regeneration of opportunity sites and surrounding areas and promote sustainable development through integration of existing facilities.*

*This can also present opportunities to combat social exclusion in the town. The preparation and adoption of an Urban Area Plan (UAP) shall be a priority for Louth County Council following the adoption of the draft RSES, to provide a coordinated planning framework to identify and deliver strategic sites and regeneration areas so that a minimum of 30% compact growth can be achieved.*

*The vision provided for in the draft RSES is that Dundalk will act as a Regional Growth Centre to achieve a target population in the region of 50,000 by 2031.*

**The 50,000 in 2031 target is achievable in the region, but those involved in spatial and economic planning should be mindful of the extra social inclusion work, and additional services, that are needed when populations increase in urban areas.**

*RPO 4.15: An Urban Area Plan (UAP) shall be prepared by Louth County Council for Dundalk to provide a coordinated planning framework to identify and deliver strategic sites and regeneration areas for the future physical, economic and social development of the town to ensure targeted compact growth of a minimum of 30% is achieved. The UAP shall facilitate the sustainable, compact, sequential growth and urban regeneration in the town core by consolidating the built footprint of Dundalk through regeneration of the town centre Core Character Area with a focus on rejuvenation of Clanbrassil Street / St. Nicholas Quarter and development of key town centre infill/brownfield sites in this area. A significant proportion of future urban development shall be accommodated on infill/brownfield sites by encouraging development, including renewal and regeneration of underused, vacant or derelict town centre lands for residential development to facilitate population growth.*

*The UAP shall:*

- Support development on key town centre infill/ brownfield sites include Long Walk Shopping Centre, Carroll's Village Shopping Centre, Williamson's Mall, and Dunnes Park Street*
- Improve accessibility and sustainable mobility in the town centre by enhancing modal choice through integration of rail, bus and taxi services*
- Promote the Seatown / Port Harbour Area for regeneration and repurpose of a water based urban quarter*
- Facilitate Urban Expansion through development of the Mount Avenue masterplan lands.*

**Sinn Fein Dundalk welcomes the plans for the regeneration of Dundalk town centre. However, the financing of the Bridge Street area redevelopment plan should be an immediate priority for the RSES because of the current work being undertaken in Clanbrassil Street and the fact that Bridge Street is a key route out of the town heading North.**

**We would also urge that priority be given to the development of housing in Dundalk town centre, to include overhead accommodation above shops and the redevelopment of long unused, suitable retail space as housing.**

**Plans, currently being discussed, about the possibility of a high speed rail link between Belfast and Dublin should take note of the fact of the large numbers of people who live along the route. Consideration should be given to having one stop along the line, preferably at the half-way point – Dundalk.**

**In addition, when drafting the UAP, consideration has to be taken of the haphazard and confusing information available to the public who wish to use public transport to get around Dundalk. Cohesion, between the timetables of public and private transport providers, along with making this information readily available to the public, should be prioritised.**

**Clustered development with sustainable energy has to be about more than developing business parks in the way Xerox site seems to be a success and the retail park in Dundalk South is also booming with potential for other retail development. The Coe's Road is wide open for biomass in food production, if managed properly with the right bio mass boilers with the brownfield sites.**

**The upgrade of renewable should focus on how we power our public lighting system as it costs Louth County Council in excess of €8 million. However, the North side of Dundalk town is starved of amenities as everything is based locally enough but in Dundalk south. There is a need to develop the whole of the by-pass area beyond the town centre and towards the Castletown Road, Armagh Road and Newry Road and towards Ballymascanlon.**

**Clustered residential new builds with its own source of sustainable energy should be seriously considered for Dundalk/Carlingford area especially the peninsula.**

*RPO 4.20: Support social inclusion measures including the revitalisation of areas by physical regeneration, planning, investment and community development and measures to improve educational attainment levels, up skilling in key competencies and skills acquisition.*

**Social inclusion measures are key to successfully growing the population of the region. We want to see early intervention, novel and modern methods of community enhancement and development.**

**In addition, with the proposed significant increase in population, Louth Sinn Fein wants to see a proper review, carried out by the HSE, the RCSI Hospital group and other relevant parties, of the decision to locate a regional hospital in Navan.**

*RPO 4.21: Support the proposed Dundalk Flood Relief Scheme, subject to the outcome of appropriate environmental assessment and the planning process.*

**We welcome the significant investment already announced under the CFRAM scheme for Dundalk and North Louth and support additional assessment and funding for areas yet to be identified.**

**In relation to Dundalk-Carlingford, there should be the focus on improving existing economies and creating quality of life and attracting investing comes with developing the natural economy of the Cooley area as a major tourist hub in the field of eco-tourism.**

**It is our belief that the Navy Bank can be extended south as far as possible with wooded walkway across the marsh. These exist in the north and across Europe and would enhance the quality of life of citizens for various reasons and it would create the need for better transport systems into the peninsula see better more accommodation provided (investment) and attract our schools' field trips instead of Dublin Zoo.**

**There is a requirement on Coillte with Louth Council to build scenic viewing areas in the Cooley mountains and allow walkers to rest instead of just wandering aimlessly on the hills.**

**Sinn Fein wants to see a commitment to the Narrow Water Bridge in this plan.**

**Eco-tourism for Louth is a big winner in terms of investment and attraction.**