

## Heather Cooke

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**From:** Tony Ewbanks <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** 23 January 2019 16:32  
**To:** RSES  
**Subject:** DRAFT Regional Spatial Economic Strategy

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Sir or Madam

EHP Services wishes to make the following submission in respect of the draft Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy (RSES).

### 1. Regional Ports.

Within the lifespan of the draft RSES we envisage Dublin Port becoming increasingly more integrated with regional Ports and reliant upon their facilities to supplement their varied functions and activities. The draft RSES sets out an ambitious agenda for collaborative growth along the Dublin- Belfast corridor and the strategic role both Dundalk and Drogheda have in delivering upon that potential. Within context of the Dublin –Belfast corridor and capitalising upon the excellent transportation links provided by the M1 motorway and rail link between both cities we would encourage the draft RSES to ensure that it does not negate the sustainable growth and development of other ports not recognised in the National Development Plan as Tier 1 or 2. We would encourage the draft RSES to adopt a more specific direction towards the future roles of County Louth's other regional ports (i.e. Greenore, Dundalk and Drogheda) beyond what has been set out in Regional Policy Objective RPO 8.22. Each port has the facility to become significant growth enablers for the region and as well serviced centres of international connectivity have the potential to function in a supportive and subservient capacity to Dublin Port's functions.

### 2. Greenways

Expanding upon Section 5.9 of the draft RSES the roll out of Green Infrastructure in particular greenways has the potential of opening up opportunities for the delivery of integrated infrastructure for rural areas. Potential greenway routes crisscross the rural landscape connecting rural areas with villages and towns. Greenways could also act as infrastructural platforms for gas, electricity, telecommunications, broadband etc. connecting the rural and urban areas of the region.

We would encourage a change in language to Regional Policy Objectives RPO 7.23 and 7.24 to read as follows:

RPO 7.23: Promote the development of a sustainable Strategic Greenway Network of national and regional routes, with a number of high capacity flagship routes that can be extended and /or linked with local Greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure. Utilise the development of greenways for distribution of services/ utilities where appropriate or of potential strategic importance e.g. broadband, fiber cable, telecoms, gas etc.

RPO 7.24: Support Local Authorities and state agencies in the delivery of sustainable strategic greenways, blueways, and peatways projects in the Region under the Strategy for the Future Development of .National and Regional Greenways. Support the expanded uses of greenway routes as potential local distributors for utilities where appropriate or of potential strategic importance e.g. broadband, fiber cable, telecoms, gas etc.

### 3. Data Centres & Renewal Energy Schemes.

Within context of greater international connectivity, provision of communications and digital infrastructure and the opportunities represented by Dundalk and [redacted] Regional Growth Centres within the Dublin-Belfast corridor there is an excellent opportunity for the draft RSES to encourage the provision of energy and IT distribution hubs to facilitate the development of critical IT infrastructure and data centres outside of the Dublin Metropolitan region.

We would suggest the provision of an additional policy objective stating the following:

*Support the provision of data cabling infrastructure along existing rail and road links on the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor to enable the development of data centres outside of the Dublin Metropolitan area.*

We would be happy to discuss any aspect of this submission with you at any time of your convenience. Should you have any queries about this submission please do not hesitate to contact us.

We would also kindly request emailed confirmation of receipt of this submission.

Regards

*Tony Ewbanks*

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