



RE: Observations on the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region Public Consultation.

Dear Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly,

I have massive concerns regarding the plan and the absence of balance in my mind towards county Meath and heavily towards the North and East the county. This is an issue I highlight as I believe it can be altered at this stage and I hope that your assembly does that.

I have of course contributed as my role as a Meath County Councillor to the Meath County Council submission and so now I simply wish to highlight in summery opinions connected to my Municipal District and the people that live within it.

I feel it seriously unhealthy for people to be spending the likes of 5 hours commuting daily and |I belive a successful plan should address that.

N2 Corridor and Ashbourne

- I feel that the N2 as a good access rout to Dublin and a connection between Dublin and Derry via Ashbourne, Slane, Ardee, Monaghan, etc. has not been considered in the same the that M1 corridor has been highlighted now and in the past.
- The absence of Ashbourne as a growth town is heavily surprising and I would ask for that to be altered as jobs in Ashbourne takes would give great prospects to Meath people and lead to less commuters into Dublin giving a saving to all.
- The Rural Development in my area of North Meath where there are a surprisingly high number of factories (e.g. Dawn Paper, Meade Potatos, Hibernia Steel, etc.), however they rely on good access to ports and Dublin city and thus the N2 roadway been upgraded to Motorway status would certainly give security to existing jobs but would also heavily encourage expansion and new enterprises in my area.

Drogheda Growth Town –



Cllr. PADDY MEADE



- I very much welcome Drogheda been allocated Growth Town Status as I believe the Meath part of the town will benefit very well along with surrounding areas of East Meath, Duleek, Donore and even Slane.

However I have serious concern over the joint area plan element, for should this not be addressed in an equal manor with 50% representation on it by both Meath and Louth it may not be done in as sustainable manor as it should be. It would be important that both counties would come to compromises and agreements on issues rather than having one county having the possibility of dictating the terms.

Rural Development –

- As outlined above the N2s upgrade is vital to my area but so also is road networks between towns.
- Broadband is a must, having seen 10 jobs leave my area recently to move to a town and sighting broadband I can honestly say this is a serious issue and one needing a heavier focus in your plan.

Tourism and Newgrange world Heritage Site –

- I am lucky to have Newgrange in my area which brings in a high number of tourists on a good day. However the entrance to this comes via entrance to a visitor centre located on the L-1600 a road which connects to the M1 and M2.

However L-1600 road which plays a vital role in Irish tourism carrying National and International Traffic to Newgrange should be upgraded and treated with the same national importance. As currently its low status has led to Newgrange having to be shut on day when the road flooded or when wind knocked trees etc.

Finally as I pointed out earlier I contributed and support the Meath County Council Submission which I would call on you to give great credence too.

Cllr. Paddy Meade

Cllr. Paddy Meade,

Meath County Council.

B.A. Hons Architecture.



Elected Member of Meath County Council
Member of the Fine Gael Party

