



Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy

Submission on behalf of Drogheda Chamber of Commerce - 11th April 2019

Name	Eddie Phelan & Cormac Bohan	Shona McManus
Role	Council Members	President

*PAR: Proposed Amendment Reference

*PAR No.	OBSERVATION
23	<p>AMEND RPO 4.8 Drogheda Subsection V</p> <p>This addition should be amended to include reference to the joint cross-boundary plan developed by Louth and Meath County Councils in order to ensure a cohesive approach to development of commercial and residential projects in this area, taking into account the appropriate population (existing and forecast) within 15 minute commute.</p> <p>Similar to PAR 33 (New RPO – Maynooth) – PAR 23 should also include the line that <i>“the Join Local Area Plan prepared by Meath and Louth County Councils shall identify a boundary for the plan area, strategic housing and employment development areas and infrastructure requirements, including appropriate investment in water and waste water infrastructure, and promote a greater co-ordination and sequential delivery of serviced lands for development.”</i></p>
23	<p>AMEND RPO 4.8 Drogheda Subsection VI</p> <p>This statement should be extended to read: <i>Support the implementation of the Urban Design Framework Plan for the Heritage Quarter, including a sequence and timetable for the implementation. It should also include practical guidance for planning staff to facilitate a pragmatic approach to incorporating and protecting heritage structures.</i></p>
24	<p>New RPO – Drogheda</p> <p>Drogheda and District Chamber welcomes the inclusion of this new RPO. However we request that it be extended to acknowledge the importance of developing the Port Access Route (Tom Roe’s Point to North Road Roundabout) to facilitate new industry and FDI. This route is not just for the benefit of Drogheda but for trade and industry across the North-East Region.</p> <p>It should also be stated that the North East Regional Hospital (Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital) has received extensive infrastructural investment by Government over the past decade to provide healthcare for a rapidly increasing population in this region. The hospital is also a significant employment centre with over 1,500 directly employed medical and ancillary staff and a further 2000 supported jobs. On this basis RPO 4.31 seems to contradict Government and HSE policy unless it is omitted or amended to</p>



	read <i>“Support development of the regional hospital on the existing site in Drogheda to serve the North-East of the country.”</i>
79	<p>AMEND RPO 6.1 Competitive and Resilient Economic Base</p> <p>Request amendment to new sentence to read:</p> <p>Support the national economic agencies, Local Enterprise Offices, Regional Enterprise Plan Steering Committees, Local Authorities and other relevant stakeholders with their plans for job creation and enterprise development, prioritising areas of high urban population and large commuting communities.</p>
81	<p>New RPO – Regional Enterprise Strategies</p> <p>We welcome the addition of this RPO, especially the objective to <i>“Develop a network of innovative co-working spaces in the region to mitigate long commuting times, promote remote working opportunities and life-style benefits”</i> due to Drogheda and East Meath’s high population of commuters and the need to support local start-ups and scaling companies.</p> <p>However, this new RPO fails to recognise Louth’s location as one of the 4 counties in the Eastern region of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly – All of the published aims are from the Mid-East and the Midlands Action Plan for Jobs and excludes the North East Action Plan for Jobs which is Louth’s main regional Action Plan.</p> <p>For instance, Strategic Objective 4 of the North East Action Plan is <i>“Drive a higher level of economic success in the North-East by building on niche strengths and fostering clustering amongst enterprises”</i>.</p> <p><i>Action 3 of that objectives calls for :</i> <i>“ Explore the establishment of similar network in financial services, payments and agri-food to support the sharing of ideas and peer to peer learning within the region. Seek to extend and connect theses networks with aligned activities outside of the region and on a North-South basis.”</i></p> <p>We request that the RSES includes the development of the M1 Payments Corridor , www.M1PaymentsCorridor.com (M1PC), with a National Payments Building in Drogheda, as a key Regional Enterprise Strategy as it directly relates to this objective of building a Financial Services and Payments Niche in the region. The M1PC has a strong record of delivering economical development impacts over the past four years and the M1PC region includes the Fingal, North Dublin, and Meath areas of the EMR RSES. It also closely aligns the RSES of developing the Drogheda-Dundalk-Newry Corridor.</p>



82	<p>New RPO – Rural Economy</p> <p>Request addition of “the Eastern Region” to this statement after “the Midlands”. This aims to nurture tourism in the rural areas of Louth, Meath, Kildare and Wicklow which are all part of Ireland’s Ancient East.</p>
85	<p>Amend RPO 6.18 – Tourism</p> <p>Request addition to this statement: <i>to spread the benefit of tourism throughout the region and to encourage the increase of tourism product development, focusing first on existing tourism and heritage assets that are ripe for development before investing in the development of new features.</i></p>
100	<p>Amend RPO 7.23 – Greenways, Blueways and Peatways</p> <p>We have concern that the new statement added to this point is too broad and will impede the proper development of Greenway facilities in the way that is not intended. We suggest that the new line should be removed and replaced with:</p> <p><i>Where there is concern in relation to ecological sustainability an appropriate cost / risk / benefit analysis be completed and used to modify the design or ameliorate to allow the project proceed.</i></p>
111	<p>NEW RPO – Mobility Management and Travel Plans</p> <p>We ask that this point expressly state that “such plans should include cycle and pedestrian routes aligned with the users desire line to enhance use of these routes.”</p>
121	<p>AMEND RPO 9.12 – Regeneration</p> <p>Taking into consideration heritage towns, those with numerous protected structures and those with existing compact footprints, the new text should be amended to include the following sentence:</p> <p><i>Regeneration density targets for urban areas will take into consideration existing population densities and consider a target density rather than a percentage increase.</i></p>
123	<p>AMEND RPO 9.16 – Childcare, Education and Life-Long Learning</p> <p>Include a supplementary sentence: <i>Adopt a preventative approach to childhood poverty and low educational attainment in new communities using an early intervention programme such as The Genesis Programme (developed in Louth), which an area based response to reduce the risk of childhood poverty and deprivation.</i></p>
126	<p>NEW RPO – Open Space and Recreational Facilities:</p> <p>Suggest amending the current statement to read: <i>To support Local Authorities in the development of regional scale Open Space and Recreational facilities, incorporating people centred, multi-use areas for sporting and health-development activities, particularly those close to large or growing population centres in the region.</i></p>
127	<p>NEW RPO – Protected Structures</p>



	Request the current text be updated to read: <i>Support the sensitive re-use of protected structures, providing practical guidance for planning staff and facilitating a pragmatic approach to re-use and protection of heritage structures.</i>
129	NEW RPO – Water Supply Line 2, add “and rollout” after “subsequent investment plans” so that it reads “ <i>subsequent investment plans and rollout to align the supply of water services ...</i> ”

[END]