

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [RSES](#)  
Subject: Submission from Drogheda City Status Group  
Date: 12 April 2019 23:59:56

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Please acknowledge receipt.

**SUBMISSION MADE BY BRIAN HANRATTY,** [REDACTED]

**on behalf of:**

**Ms. Anna McKenna, Secretary, Drogheda City Status Group (DCSG),** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

COMMENTS ON AMENDMENTS INCLUDING ADDITIONAL RPOs

- a. Chapter 4 – AFTER CURRENT 4.11, an additional RPO is proposed and currently reads as follows: ***“Enhance Drogheda’s role as a strategic employment centre on the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor and provide for employment opportunities through identification of suitable sites for new industry including FDI”***

We, DCSG propose that an additional sentence should be inserted to follow this:

***Support the development of a locally based Senior Local Government staff cohort and structure (including a Town/City Architect; Heritage Officer; Tourism Development Officer and Senior Economic Planner) to expedite this and it’s evolution into the EMRA’s second city, as well as providing an appropriate local IDA; Enterprise Ireland and LEO presence commensurate with the current combined population of Drogheda and the agglomeration of LBMD: Laytown-Bettystown-Mornington-Donacorney (2016: 40,956 + 11,872 = 52,828) compared to Dundalk-Blackrock (39,004) and Athlone (21,349).***

**NOTE:** From the above, it is clear that a population projection of circa 50,000 for Drogheda by 2031 fails to recognise the rapid growth of the Greater Drogheda Area, reinforced by Housing Completion Data since the 2016 Census – which this planning process needs to recognise, but which Meath Co. Council have already highlighted on page 21 of their earlier comprehensive submission. In contrast to the conservative (negative) population growth set out for Drogheda, the projection for Dundalk (effectively to reach parity with Drogheda by 2031) is wildly optimistic, even including the circa 6,000 population in the Blackrock area. Both Drogheda and Dundalk population figures need to be robustly re-examined in the interests of the credibility of this RSES process, and we have previously, along with our Town Planning specialist Dr. Brian Hughes set out the work of Dijkstra and Poelman for the European Union in support of our position regarding LBMD being part of Drogheda’s figures in the same manner that Blackrock’s form part of Dundalk’s.

**END**