

FW: Notice of Preparation of the Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021 - 2027

Drogheda_DV []

Sent: 18 December 2020 12:23

To: LouthCDP

Louth County Council

Town Hall

Crowe Street

Dundalk

Re: Notice of Preparation of the Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021 – 2027

To whom it may concern.

I am directed by Chief Superintendent Louth Division to forward below correspondence from Inspector Gavin Scott Drogheda Garda Station for your information and attention, please.

I refer to the Draft Louth County Development Plan for 2021 to 2027 which is extensive in its detail culminating in a 523 page document and appendices accumulating to hundreds of pages.

The plan is inspirational and aspirational in equal measure and aspires to facilitate the projected rise in population to 50,000 in both Drogheda and Dundalk towns within a stressed economic environment and challenging policing background.

The Garda organisation is referenced only once throughout the draft plan of 523 pages with reference to Major Emergency Management in conjunction with other emergency services.

Tourism is a key focus on the Drogheda plan with a development of a Boyne Greenway Route extending from Drogheda town centre towards the west of the town. There is a focus on tourist development that will draw many local, indigenous and foreign travellers to Drogheda during the summer period. In addition to this there is a significant rezoning of land to the north of Drogheda that if developed will raise noteworthy security concerns for the Garda Organisation.

Having studied this detailed plan and the relevant Housing Strategy, with relevance to Drogheda, it is obvious that extra policing resources will be required as the towns (both Drogheda and Dundalk) grow into a Regional Growth Centre under the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.

I recommend that provision for consultation with District and Divisional Policing services prior to the development of lands to the North of Drogheda and Risk Assessments when developing the Boyne Greenway Route for tourist safety are provided for within the final plan.

In addition the plan does not take into consideration the Government driven Operating Model of policing being developed across the Organisation whereby Louth will become the Divisional Headquarters for not just Louth County but also Cavan and Monaghan with resources spread throughout the new Operating Model for policing. Again prior consultation with the Garda Senior Leadership Team to ensure preparedness for the implementation of this plan would greatly benefit the safe and risk assessed development of tourism, housing and business community within the County of Louth.

In essence the draft plan would benefit from acknowledging the additional stresses upon emergency services, including An Garda Síochána, that the proposed development within the County will cause and provide a strategy to meet the additional challenges

Sent on behalf of Chief Superintendent Louth Division

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