

Heather Cooke

From: Colm Markey <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 23 January 2019 17:01
To: RSES
Subject: RSES Draft submission

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Please find attached submission to RSES.

Regards,
Colm Markey

Sent from my iPad

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Le do thoil cuimhnigh ar an imshaol roimh priont?il an r?omhphost seo. T? an r?omhphost seo (agus aon iat?n a ghabhann leis) pr?obh?ideach agus r?nda agus d'fh?adfadh go mbeadh eolas inti at? faoi phribhl?id dl?th?il. N? ceadmhach ?s?id an r?omhphost seo d'?inne ach don t? ar seoladh chuige ?. Munar duit an r?omhphost seo n? an t? at? freagrach as ? a sheoladh, t? cosc ar ch?ipe?il agus ar sheachadadh an r?omhphost seo agus aon iat?n a ghabhann leis chuig ?inne n? ?s?id a bhaint as a bhfuil ann; n? ceart an r?omhphost seo n? aon iat?n a l?amh. D'fh?adfadh do mbeadh cosc ioml?n dl?thi?il ar sceitheadh n? comhfhreagras n? aon ?s?id eile gan chead ar a bhfuil sa r?omhphost seo agus d'fh?adadh s? a bheith ina chion coiri?il.

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I wish to welcome the publication of the RSES Draft as produced by both the members and the executive of the Eastern and midlands regional assembly. The plan builds on the recognition under the NPF of the M1 corridor being of unique economic potential. It also builds on 'the key elements of growth strategy identified at national level' as set out on page 8, with particular reference to reversing declining rural communities, focusing on brown fill and infill development, consolidation of our urban centres and identifying key strategic growth centre with significant economic potential. The proposed development of UAP's for these growth centres is a significant step forward and it is vital the maximum return is achieved through these UAP's.

Support the council submission

I wish to affirm my complete support and agreement with the submission from Louth County Council at this stage of the process. I would also like to recognise the inclusion in the draft of various points raised by Louth County Council and other stakeholders from Louth at previous stages in the process.

In addition to the points raised in the LCC submission I would ask that you would give consideration to the small number of additional points I wish to raise in a personal capacity.

Regional Hospital

I note that the RSES makes reference to a now ten year old proposal to locate a regional hospital at a site close to Navan. A Regional hospital for the North East would be intended to serve the counties of Louth, Meath, Cavan and Monaghan and I and many others remain unconvinced that Navan is the appropriate location for a hospital to service this need. I would ask that the RSES be amended to include a recommendation that a new assessment be carried out to identify the appropriate location for a regional hospital. This assessment should give consideration to key issues such as connectivity, proximity to major urban centres in the region and possible cross border co-operation in the area. It should also insure that the hospital serves its intended need as a regional hospital for the North East rather than an over flow hospital for the greater Dublin area.

Park and Pool Facilities at key Motorway Junctions

Over the last 15 years it has become common place to see large numbers of cars parked at motorway junctions as people choose to park and pool in with other drivers to get to work in Dublin. Many more people have indicated that they would choose to "Park and Pool" if there was a more secure and safe location to park and to disembark. Bus providers have also indicated that they would offer Park and Ride services from these locations if they were provided. I would ask that the development of such facilities would be encouraged and prioritised within the plan.

High Speed Rail Line

The development of a high speed rail line would do much to enhance economic development, co-operation and connectivity between the two largest cities on the Island. As part of the development of such a line I would ask that there be consideration given to a stop at an appropriate location along the M1 corridor. This would have a significant effect on commuter traffic into both cities from the north east region as well as supporting the development of the two identified Growth Centres on the M1 corridor, allowing for commuters to pursue job opportunities in the identified growth centres while still living in Dublin and in effect balancing the flow of commuter activity.

This could also allow for the further development of the existing Dublin Belfast line as a commuter service that could be expanded to cater for the needs of additional towns located along the M1 corridor. The further electrification of this line could facilitate the opening of additional stations such as Drogheda North and Dunleer.

Regeneration of rural villages

I would ask that the final plan might consider additional focus on the regeneration of brownfield sites in small towns, villages and hamlets as an attractive option for the rural living. This would help play a key part in sustaining rural communities.

In Conclusion, I believe the draft respects and embraces both the guidelines in the NPF and previous representations and submissions by the various representatives and stakeholders in Louth. If the points raised in the Louth County Council submission along with the small number of points raised above could be considered to complement what has been put forward in the draft RSES it would be greatly appreciated.

Cllr. Colm Markey

Member of Louth County Council