

From: Aidan McGrath [redacted]
Sent: 08 January 2016 12:16
To: [redacted]
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Subject: Online Submission : Waterford Boundary Review (Aidan McGrath)

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Area in which you reside. Specific addresses are not needed. Waterford City

Question 1 How might alteration of the boundary help or hinder the retention or creation of employment and the general economic performance of the area? In my view it can only help employment creation as it will make it easier for people to set up business on the North side of the river. Currently if wishing to set up a business there you have to deal with two local authorities, each of which could be working to different agendas, but in an extended Waterford there would be only one local authority to deal with.

Question 2 How might the alteration of the boundary help or hinder the identity or cohesion of local communities in the area? The boundary extension can only help to consolidate local cohesion. Currently there is a feeling of a dysfunctional split personality in the area under consideration with many people there from Waterford and working in Waterford but living in Kilkenny.

Question 3 How might alteration of the boundary help or hinder delivery of services by local government to ensure that the needs of the local community are met now and in the future? There is no question but this has to improve delivery of local services to the community through this extension. At the moment local services being delivered by people making decisions 30 miles away where the centre of attention is 30 miles away does not deliver quality services for this area. This area always seems to be an after thought at best when local authority services are being delivered.

Question 4 How might alteration of the administrative boundary help or hinder the need to maximise efficiency and value for money in local government? In the drive to amalgamate local authorities that has happened in recent years to maximise efficiency in places like Waterford and Limerick we are being told that this has led to increased efficiencies and greater value for money. Surely to extend the administrative area of Waterford through this boundary extension would build on that success.

Question 5 How might alteration of the boundary help or hinder the Planning and Development needs, as administered by the local authority, of the community? One of the greatest examples of disgraceful planning decisions in the state over the last 10 years or so was the building of the Ferrybank shopping centre. This boundary extension would ensure that this type of dishonourable planning is never again repeated.

Question 6 How might alteration of the boundary help or hinder the delivery of effective and accountable democratic representation? The closer the centre of decision making is to the population that it represents ensures much greater accountability.

Question 7 What strengths or weaknesses do you see in current local authority administrative boundary arrangements in the area? The weakness with the current arrangements has always been that this area is far from a priority for the local authority that administers it. This area is no more than a source of income to generate funding for the real priority areas in the county. It has also led to lopsided development of

Waterford with all the South of the City/County expanding at the expense of the North of the City.

Is there anything else you wish to add ? A lot of people seem to think that this might have something to do with which hurling team a person supports but just like people living in Ireland being passionate supporters of English soccer clubs; 'this' will not impact which GAA team a person wishes to follow. This is about proper administration and economic development of Waterford and the people who live in the area and depend on a strong centre for services, jobs and strong local community.

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