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From: Caroline Joyce [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 December 2015 12:11
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Cc: [REDACTED], [REDACTED]
Subject: Online Submission : Waterford Boundary Review (Caroline Joyce)

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

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? Help by greater population means critical mass of people and make it easier to attract investment. The people to North of Waterford city are at the moment not taken into account in studies, surveys, population studies, planning decisions when they clearly are in the areas natural hinterland so it makes sense economically, spatially and culturally.

Question 2 How might the alteration of the boundary help or hinder the identity or cohesion of local communities in the area? I think there will only be positive impacts, we are all culturally linked, linked by proximity and access to businesses, services, schools, hospitals, work etc. People in the potential boundary change area are already linked by common usage of these services. By being brought into the the decision making process of all of these services, elections etc, people can feel more connected to the things that matter in their area.

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? Help better provision by providing critical mass of population and greater proximity to service providers, decision makers etc

Question 4 How might alteration of the administrative boundary help or hinder the need to maximise efficiency and value for money in local government? It would help better efficiency of services and value for local government as a by joining the neighbouring adjacent population local government could get economies of scale.

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? It can only help with planning and spatial strategy planning, there have been numerous terrible planning decision in this area which have led to ghost estates and empty oversized shopping centres. The area is a stones throw from Waterford city so any decisions re planning and development just be based on what is of benefit or all population in the area, not shortsighted decisions that had the potential to undermine Waterford city. Bringing planning and development under Waterford council should stop this as Waterford council have a retail policy strategy for not undermining the city centre. The success of Waterford city centre is vital for the whole region.

Question 6 How might alteration of the boundary help or hinder the delivery of effective and accountable democratic representation? It should benefit it, at the moment, people are voting for representatives that may as well be based in a different county, this is not to slander the existing representatives but the population of the area would be better served by councillors and TDs who are from the vicinity and where decisions that affect them are made a stones throw away.

Question 7 What strengths or weaknesses do you see in current local authority administrative boundary arrangements in the area? The current arrangements have led to an invisible wall, people who are from Waterford city, who work, school, shop etc in Waterford city feel they are cut off and ignored in their homes.

Is there anything else you wish to add ? If I live, work and socialise in an area, I want joined up thinking, I want to make decisions, vote for people and be involved in the things that affect me. If you take the GAA colours out of this debate, it makes economic, spatial and common sense that the area would be better managed by Waterford council which I would naturally associate with most and would most have an interest in and would in turn have an interest in me.

Finally, not being from Waterford or Kilkenny I feel I have a unbiased view on this, remove county colours from this debate and it makes sense. Merging of county councils and areas to provide better services has been a success already in those counties involved in creating mass, it makes sense to include those who naturally lean towards Waterford to bring them into that mass.

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