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From: David Brazil [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 January 2016 22:16
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Online Submission : Waterford Boundary Review (David Brazil)

Name: David Brazil

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Daytime telephone number :

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? I believe the quote assigned to Alan Kelly TD in the Chairman's Statement is a perfect description of the benefits from alteration of the boundary, extract reproduced below:

The Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Alan Kelly TD, in his statement at the launch of the Boundary Reviews expressed an ambition to bring "all of a town or metropolitan district within a single local authority area (to) eliminate(s) anomalies and distortions of divided administration, service provision, regulatory / enforcement responsibility and electoral representation, including problems such as competitive policies and practices between authorities in relation to planning, rating and charges, which can impact negatively on town centres. Consolidation of administrative responsibility can also strengthen the economic performance of the town or metropolitan district, both by eliminating the anomalies I have referred to and ensuring that there is a single authority working on its behalf".

The results of not having this have been all too apparent historically in the development of the peripheral areas immediately adjacent to Waterford City, impacting on the coherent development of the city. Examples being County Waterford's approval of the Butlerstown Retail Park complex on the west of the city and Kilkenny's approval of the Ferrybank Shopping Centre to the north of the city (remains essentially unused) and which was built despite the objections of Waterford City Council to it at the time. Likewise the the relocation of the Port of Waterford and adjacent industrial park though inherent to the balanced industrial development of the city currently remain outside the administration of Waterford City and County Council. Infrastructure, such as road connectivity, did suffer historically in the area too due to inappropriate fragmented assignment of administration for area. Thankfully, this was resolved in more recent years with broader thinking under the control of the NRA.

Question 2 How might the alteration of the boundary help or hinder the identity or cohesion of local communities in the area? Over the years this point is continually used as a basis to reject the long-term appropriate and uniform development of the city to the benefit of all in the region. In particular, loss of sporting affiliations are raised. In this, the 21st century, this cannot be used to block economic and wider social benefits for the majority, if not everyone, in the longer term. The merger of Waterford City Council and Waterford County Councils was a far larger change to both areas and population than that outlined in the current boundary extension. The City, the oldest in Ireland, lost its autonomy which had been held for centuries. There was a very significant population negative to the change but it still went ahead. The results so far have been positive with benefits to development of both city and county. There is no reason to believe the same will not be true

of the currently proposed boundary extension and all those that will live in the combined areas.

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? I can foresee no reason why the delivery of services by local government would suffer in the extended area. The area impacted by the boundary extension would be closer to an administration centre and resources. As a result services would inherently improve due to proximity and economies of scale.

Question 4 How might alteration of the administrative boundary help or hinder the need to maximise efficiency and value for money in local government? The area impacted by the boundary extension would be closer to an administration centre and resources. As a result services would inherently improve due to proximity and economies of scale. This would maximise efficiency and value for money to local government.

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? I believe the quote assigned to Alan Kelly TD in the Chairman's Statement is a perfect description of the benefits from alteration of the boundary, extract reproduced below:

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Question 6 How might alteration of the boundary help or hinder the delivery of effective and accountable democratic representation? This is a democratic state, the principles of democracy prevail.

Question 7 What strengths or weaknesses do you see in current local authority administrative boundary arrangements in the area? The weaknesses and strengths of the current administrative boundary are those so aptly described in the quote assigned to Alan Kelly TD in the Chairman's Statement, extract reproduced below:

The Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Alan Kelly TD, in his statement at the launch of the Boundary Reviews expressed an ambition to bring "all of a town or metropolitan district within a single local authority area (to) eliminate(s) anomalies and distortions of divided administration, service provision, regulatory / enforcement responsibility and electoral representation, including problems such as competitive policies and practices between authorities in relation to planning, rating and charges, which can impact negatively on town centres. Consolidation of administrative responsibility can also strengthen the economic performance of the town or metropolitan district, both by eliminating the anomalies I have referred to and ensuring that there is a single authority working on its behalf".

Is there anything else you wish to add ? Let's do this and move on for the benefit of the vast majority, if not everyone, in the longer term. This current review appears to have been setup with rational decision making processes put in place so that logic and reason will prevail under an independent committee.