

From: Jack Stephenson [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 November 2015 14:05
To: [REDACTED]
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Subject: Online Submission : Waterford Boundary Review (Jack Stephenson)

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Daytime telephone number : [REDACTED]

Area in which you reside. Specific addresses are not needed. [REDACTED] Dunmore Road, 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? By integrating the area in question into Waterford City and County Council a development of the area would be free from political "parish pump" hindrances to joined up thinking on the future.

Question 2 How might the alteration of the boundary help or hinder the identity or cohesion of local communities in the area? Undoubtedly, some people would feel cut off from their perceived affiliations, but should look at the overall good of what will happen in the future. They will also be closer to their council HQ and facilities. In the past they have been the poor relations of Kilkenny Co Co.

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? Must improve, as outlined above, they will be closer to most LG services

Question 4 How might alteration of the administrative boundary help or hinder the need to maximise efficiency and value for money in local government? Less cost to Kilkenny Co Co, and somewhat more to Waterford. However, this should be offset by improvement in rates to Waterfor. Efficiencies have already been achieved by amalgamation of Waterford City Council and Waterford Co Co. Current costs in personnel should only marginally increase for Waterford with the proposed extension, while Kilkenny would no longer need an office in the area, and would also save on staff costs. Overall the savings would not be great, but are relevant.

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? Infrastructure on national routes would not change as these are administered by NRA. Overall planning should benefit as developments would be decided by one authority, not two, who sometimes have conflicting views.

Question 6 How might alteration of the boundary help or hinder the delivery of effective and accountable democratic representation? There would have to be a mindset change of public representatives in the affected area, who, while continuing to have their main interest in development of their local area, would also have to look to the future of the whole county of Waterford.

Question 7 What strengths or weaknesses do you see in current local authority administrative boundary arrangements in the area? The recent Ferrybank Shopping Centre development represents very much how local interests appear more important to authorities than the common good of the whole area. This thinking has held back the development of the area for years.

Is there anything else you wish to add ? It is important that whatever decision is arrived at by the commission is implemented by the authorities immediately, and that politics, especially with the upcoming election, does not get in the way. The time has come to put the overall development of the area to bed once and for all.

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