



15th January 2016

Waterford Boundary Committee
c/o The Secretariat
Waterford Boundary Review
City Hall
Waterford City and County Council
Waterford
X91 PK15

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing on behalf of Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board to express strong opposition to any proposal to alter the existing boundary between Waterford City and County Kilkenny.

The Ferrybank area is part of the identity of County Kilkenny and has always been a significant area of educational provision for the former County Kilkenny VEC and now the Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board.

Ferrybank itself acts as a significant focus for the wider south Kilkenny area and as a base through which services are provided by the ETB for the wider hinterland.

Abbey Community College located in Ferrybank is a large second level school which operates under the remit of Kilkenny and Carlow ETB. The identity and heritage of the school is aligned with County Kilkenny as it represents an amalgamation of the former Slieverue Vocation School and Sacred Heart of Mary Convent Ferrybank. Both of these schools had a distinctive characteristic spirit and heritage linked to their origins in south Kilkenny and now Abbey Community College continues this tradition.

Abbey Community College is located on the county boundary and Kilkenny and Carlow ETB is opposed to any proposal where this flagship school would no longer fall within its functional area.

The alignment of the school is within the broad south Kilkenny area specifically areas such as Kilmacow, Mooncoin, Piltown, Mullinavat, Slieverue, Glenmore and other areas as well as the Ferrybank area itself. The sporting and cultural alignment of the school is also with Kilkenny and this association is an important aspect of the identity of the school.

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From an educational perspective Ferrybank is in a strategic area as it acts as a fulcrum for other educational activities in the southern part of the county. Over the years Kilkenny and Carlow ETB has provided a range of services and programmes based in the Ferrybank area, thereby serving the needs of those seeking second level education and returning to education in south Kilkenny. This activity has been undertaken in co-operation with a broad range of local groups. Through partnership and collaboration we have assisted in serving the needs of the county with a wide range of organisations in both Kilkenny and Waterford

Kilkenny and Carlow ETB considers Ferrybank to be of strategic importance in serving the needs of the county and believes strongly in the sense of identity which county alignment fosters and considers that the future development of the area is best served by strong cooperation and partnership rather than a boundary change.

Yours sincerely

Cynthia Deane
Chief Executive