

**From:** Kilkeny City Centre Business Association [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 06 January 2016 10:44  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Online Submission : Waterford Boundary Review (Kilkenny City Centre Business Association)

Name: Kilkenny City Centre Business Association

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Daytime telephone number : [REDACTED]

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

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? We fail to see how moving the boundary will have any more of an impact to secure the existing levels of employment or create additional employment in this area.

What evidence is put forward to support & guarantee there would be a positive impact in this area that cannot be achieved by leaving the boundaries as they are.

From what we can derive with the information available to us, Waterford has already detailed 3 Prime areas to help improve Growth in the area

- Secure University Status for the South East
- Further Development & enhancement of Waterford Airport Revitalising & Modernising the areas of Belview Port ..... again , all of the above having no bearing based on any boundary review.

Question 2 How might the alteration of the boundary help or hinder the identity or cohesion of local communities in the area? It is our belief that the people residing within the confines of the areas affected by any such boundary change will be directly affected in all or some of the following ways

- The people residing in this area have already developed a loyalty & emotional tie to a community / parish that is considered part of Co. Kilkenny.
- To suddenly change all that these people associate themselves with & too will be very traumatic to most. One day your as Kilkenny person, the next your not... most likely to be called a blow in...You might as well tell them they are Irish one day & English the next !!!!
- These people will have lost an identity they have grown up with & are being asked to take on a new identity overnight.. this alone is not a reasonable request to ask of anyone.

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? From the information we have to hand, We are certain that the delivery of services to date that ensures the needs of residents & businesses , the community at large

, are already being met through the co operation of shared services between both councils. We are advised that if there is research showing & identifying areas that can significantly improve existing services or the cost in running such services or increasing the level of services then there other means of achieving this without the need of a boundary change. This can be achieved from the legal options already available to Government & Local Authorities such as

- Shared service arrangements
- Section 89 agreements
- Direction by the minister under section 9 of the planning & development acts.

Question 4 How might alteration of the administrative boundary help or hinder the need to maximise efficiency and value for money in local government? We thought the recent reform

of Local government which has now been implemented was carried out to improve operational efficiency & value for money.

Was not the local government reform act set up to provide for a wider range of reforms to L.A . functions, its structures its funding & its performance in governing throughout all Counties. So once again, if these are in place and being acted on with due diligence, where is there a need for a boundary alteration.

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? There is already a county development plan for Kilkenny including the environs of Waterford North of the City.

In this plan there is inclusion for "Co operation of Infrastructure".

All the studies already carried out by Kilkenny Co. Council & their objectives have already found their way into the current development plan. A boundary change would deviate all this planning , costs to date, and declared null & void going forward if such a boundary change would occur... this makes no sense??

Question 6 How might alteration of the boundary help or hinder the delivery of effective and accountable democratic representation? Kilkenny County Council has 24 elected members representing on average 4,000 people in accordance with the principles set out in Putting People first.

An alteration to the boundary will require a reconfiguring of the electoral area boundaries in Kilkenny.

It will significantly reduce the Piltown Municipal district population and will disenfranchise the current population. They will find themselves in a different electoral area, a different county and a different province which will hinder effective representation.

A boundary alteration has the potential to affect the delivery of services within South Kilkenny.

The overall County Council representation level will also be reduced with a resultant democratic representational deficit.

It will cause significant disruption to the Public Participation Network which has been established under the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

In that way the alteration of the boundary would be a significant hindrance to effective and accountable democratic representation which has only been recently established and which is still in a period of "bedding down"

Question 7 What strengths or weaknesses do you see in current local authority administrative boundary arrangements in the area? The major strength is that the current arrangements gives people in the area a way of representing themselves locally within their existing county structure.

A weakness would be some duplication of administrative procedures such as planning permission across the existing boundary but this can be easily resolved through existing legislation.

The location of the boundary is not a key weakness that is holding back the development of Waterford City.

Significant expansion in Ferrybank in accordance with the 2004 PLUTS targets and phasing has taken place.

In 2006 the population of the area was about 4,000 .

In 2011 this had grown to about 5,600

Ferrybank is now the second largest urban area in Co. Kilkenny.

Relocation of Port to Belview was identified in 1970's It was planned for at that location by the Port of Waterford and facilitated by Kilkenny County Council and the Local

Community at Belview. It was not development that was leaked into County Kilkenny by Kilkenny County Council development policy.

An example of retail leakage from Waterford City would be the the Butlerstown Retail Park and the Faronshoneen retail park which has Tesco, Next and Home base and Ardkeen Shopping area.

Kilkenny County Council has shown through its planning and development policies that the boundary is not a weakness but can be a strength provided that there is proper cooperation structures in place such as the Planning Land Use and Transportation Study. (PLUTS.)

Is there anything else you wish to add ? It is not the wish of the people in the area to experience the the toil of all involved in a boundary change that has failed to identify & put forward any Logistical positive in such a reform.

We, in the Kilkenny City Center Business Association are putting the view forward that we are 100% against the idea of any Boundary reform in the area concerned here.

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