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Sent: 11 January 2016 10:09
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Subject: Online Submission : Waterford Boundary Review (mary and martin mealey)

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

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? FA regional approach where all of the area in question is part of Southern and Eastern Region has been the framework within which economic development has been promoted - with Gateway /Hub relationships which link Waterford and Kilkenny cities already. Focusing on county boundaries is a distraction.

Question 2 How might the alteration of the boundary help or hinder the identity or cohesion of local communities in the area? Imposing boundary changes on people with defined identities and existing community cohesion has had negative impacts in many parts of the world. Was this not how the boundaries of states within the African continent were created? Were not some of the problems of Northern Ireland born of the crude manner in which this division was imposed?

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? Where the will exists, boundaries do not preclude efficient delivery of services - for instance electric power links between different states.

Question 4 How might alteration of the administrative boundary help or hinder the need to maximise efficiency and value for money in local government? I do not have information to comment on this. - However, to extent that this change may be motivated by the commercial rates revenue distribution (with port related revenue now accruing to Kilkenny) a different solution might be sought.

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? The Planning and Development needs of the people of the region remain the same irrespective of where local authority boundaries are drawn. Just as the different local authority administrations in Dublin share responsibility for development in the Greater Dublin Area, administrations in other regions should also be able to adopt a teamwork approach.

Question 6 How might alteration of the boundary help or hinder the delivery of effective and accountable democratic representation? In theory impact neutral - local representatives elected to the administrative body to which area belongs. However, the impact of the loss of identity which an imposed change would be likely to engender in impossible to predict.

Question 7 What strengths or weaknesses do you see in current local authority administrative boundary arrangements in the area? The sense of identity which people have with their own county is a huge strength. If there are weaknesses they are not obvious to me. It would be important that those who are aware of them make them known to the public.

Is there anything else you wish to add ? County boundaries while created I think historically as administrative units have become for Irish people social/cultural units associated with identity. We have mourned the lack of recognition of 'society' over the last decade - let not the same mistake be repeated.

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