

To: Waterford Boundary Committee

I would like to express my strong opposition to the proposal to extend the boundary of Waterford County into County Kilkenny. I do so for the following reasons:

- 1 Let's cooperate and pull together for the benefit of all Kilkenny and Waterford people and the South East in general. There have been many examples of cooperation between Kilkenny County Council and the former Waterford City Council plus the newly formed Waterford City and County Council.
  - The relocation of portal activities at Belview has improved the cityscape of Waterford city.
  - A €10,000,000 water services investment in the region that supports increased housing and portal business activities.
  - Also the Wastewater Treatment Plant is located at Gorteens in County Kilkenny. This means that such facility did not have to be installed in the urban environment of Waterford.
  - Kilkenny County Council were actively involved cooperating with Waterford in the delivery of transport infrastructure.
  - Cooperating jointly in a bid to win the title of European Capital of Culture for Ireland in 2020. The three counties of Kilkenny, Waterford & Wexford have come together to transform the South East region and collectively focus the creative & cultural energy of Ireland's most dynamic landscape.
- 2 There are huge financial implications for all of County Kilkenny if the boundary proposal is advanced. There will be a huge loss of rates, LPT Tax, planning and development contributions and other fees and charges to County Kilkenny. This will impact many projects in all Municipal Districts in County Kilkenny.
- 3 There are Regional bodies set up to progress the development of the South East in a coordinated and cooperative manner. These bodies allow for progress to be made while at the same respecting existing boundaries and the sense of identity of the peoples living within those boundaries.
- 4 Changing a boundary is no solution. It is divisive. County boundaries are seldom changed. It has been many years since a county boundary was changed. I am from County Kilkenny and proud of it and have no wish to see our county boundary and citizens moved overnight from one county to another. It would be a very harsh and inappropriate way of dealing with what are mainly council related issues.

FURTHER COMMENTS:

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Signed: Paul Haley

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