

6 December 2012

For the attention of the Members of the Council

### **Invitation for Submissions**

A Chara,

The Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Mr. Phil Hogan, T.D., has established a committee to review local electoral areas and to report to him not later than 31 May 2013.

The review of local electoral areas is being undertaken in prospect of the local elections to be held in 2014, having regard to the results of census 2011 and the *Action Programme for Effective Local Government* published in October 2012.

The *Action Programme* provides that:

- there will be a rationalised organisation integrating town and county governance with integrated authorities organised on the basis of municipal districts within counties;
- municipal districts will cover each entire county, drawn as far as possible around existing town authorities and larger non-municipal towns and their hinterlands;
- councillors will be elected simultaneously to both municipal district and county council, with members in common instead of the current separate town and county membership, and;
- in the case of Dublin, the configuration of local electoral areas in Dublin City Council and in the counties of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin will be reviewed separately by the Committee.

The task of the Committee is:

- to review and make recommendations on the division of council areas into local electoral areas, and;
- to make recommendations on the number of members of each council to be assigned to each local electoral area.

The Committee's report will be considered by the Minister as the basis for the revision of the local electoral areas under his statutory powers.

The Terms of Reference of the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee are attached.

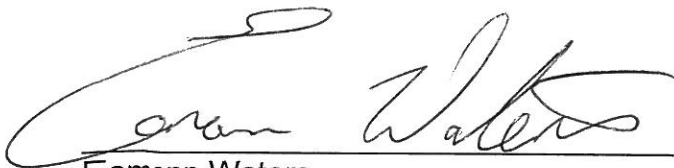
The Committee is now inviting submissions in respect of the work it is undertaking. Submissions may be sent by e-mail to: [boundarycommittee@environ.ie](mailto:boundarycommittee@environ.ie) or by post to:

Secretary,  
Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee,  
Room 1.77,  
Custom House,  
Dublin 1.

to arrive no later than Friday 25 January 2013 at 5pm.

Submissions will be made available on the website of the Committee ([www.boundarycommittee.ie](http://www.boundarycommittee.ie)) after they are received. Further information on the Committee is available from this website or by contacting telephone number: 01-888 2769.

Is mise le meas,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eamonn Waters', written over a horizontal line.

Eamonn Waters,  
Secretary,  
Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee.

To: The Council of each County, City, Borough and Town

## Terms of Reference

### Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee 2012/2013

1. To review and make recommendations on the division of each council area, other than Cork City, into local electoral areas, and to make recommendations on the number of members of each council to be assigned to each local electoral area.
2. The Committee should have regard to the population as ascertained at census 2011, to the Government's *Action Programme for Effective Local Government* and to the decision of Government to merge the councils of Limerick City and Limerick County, North Tipperary and South Tipperary, Waterford City and Waterford County and make its recommendations accordingly.
3. (a) The recommendations on local electoral areas will provide the basis for the configuration of the municipal districts to be established in counties outside Dublin. Local electoral areas should be formulated to facilitate this and the Committee should have regard to the Government's *Action Programme for Effective Local Government* in doing this.  
  
(b) Generally, each municipal district will consist of a single electoral area. However in some particular circumstances, for example for reasons such as geographic coherence, population, or other factors related to the configuration of municipal districts such as the definition of 'metropolitan' municipal districts within the unified authorities in Limerick and Waterford, a district may comprise more than one local electoral area.
4. Local electoral areas should be designed, as far as possible, around the existing boroughs and other municipal towns and large urban centres which do not currently enjoy municipal status. Local electoral areas should generally be named accordingly.
5. In recommending changes to local electoral areas, the Committee should take due account of local and community identities and linkages and, as far as practicable, of existing local authority electoral and administrative areas.

6. The number of councillors representing a local electoral area should typically be 7 and not more than 10 or less than 6.
7. Within any city or county the variance in representation of each local electoral area from the average for the city or county should, as far as practicable, be within a range of +/- 10%.
8. The number of members shall be fixed at 63 in Dublin City Council. The number of members shall be fixed at 55 in Cork County Council.
9. Subject to a minimum total of 18 and a maximum total of 40 members of every other council-
  - there should be one member for every 4,830 population in each council area;
  - in addition, and subject to a maximum of four additional members per council except where councils are merging:
    - in counties where there are existing town councils there should be four additional members per Borough Council and one additional member per Town Council, and
    - in cases where the city and county councils are being merged, i.e. Limerick and Waterford, there should be five additional members.