

Committee 1

Local
Electoral
Boundary
Review

February 16

2018

Cllr. John Cummins

Waterford
City & County
Council

Introduction

The Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee Report 2013 recommended effectively that east Waterford would become a Metropolitan District comprising of three local electoral areas with wedge shapes emanating from the urban City area out into the suburban countryside and encompassing the former Tramore Town Council area. Its recommendations are detailed below.

Local Electoral Areas	Number of members	Population 2011	Population per member	Percentage variance from county average + / - %
Metropolitan District Local Electoral Areas				
Waterford City East	6	22,340	3,723	+4.7
Waterford City South	6	20,681	3,447	-3.1
Tramore - Waterford City West	6	22,907	3,818	+7.4
Subtotal	18	65,928		

The population of the Metropolitan District now stands at 67,835, an increase of 1,907. It can be argued that this population has already increased since the 2016 census given that the only construction of scale occurring in Waterford is within the Metropolitan District with a number of active sites in Tramore and the City, with planning applications pending and commitments under the LIHAF to construct significant houses up to 2020 on two city landbanks. Coupled with the new NPF which singles out Waterford City as a major growth centre it is safe to assume that the population of the metropolitan district will rise significantly over the next 5 years and consideration of same must taken into account s part of this review.

When one divides the 2016 census population of the Metropolitan District by the number of Councillors (18), the ratio of constituent to councillor is 3,769 compared with 3,453 for the rest of the county (Comeragh; Dungaravn/Lismore districts combined). In fact this unbalanced ratio is even more profound when the Comeragh Municipal District is taken in isolation - population of 19,279, divided by six councillors is 3,214. *Given that the number of councillors assigned to local electoral areas is permitted to be five, rather than six when these boundaries were set in 2013, there is a very strong case to be made for the metropolitan district to increase its councillor number by 1, at the expense of the Comeragh Municipal District and the rest of the county.* I am not advocating an increase in the total

councillor count for Waterford City and County as this is precluded in the Terms of Reference, I am merely trying to have a fair balanced ratio of councillors to electorate across the entire county which is not presently the case. This new ratio is detailed below; where the lines for the new Comeragh/Dungarvan/Lismore Districts are drawn is up to the committee, for the purpose of this submission I will focus on the metropolitan district.

	Councillors	Population	Electorate to councillor ratio	Variance to LA average (3631)
Metropolitan District	19	67835	3,570	-1.68%
Comeragh/Dungarvan/Lismore	13	48341	3,718	+2.40%

The table below is reflective of the status quo with no additional metropolitan District councillor, which is not in keeping with the current and projected population growth over the next five years, especially in the context of the new NPF. The table above is likely to even out in terms of population growth while the table below would only result in an even wider variance in political representation in the metropolitan district vs the rest of the county.

	Councillors	Population	Electorate to councillor ratio	Variance to LA average (3631)
Metropolitan District	18	67835	3,769	+3.8%
Comeragh/Dungarvan/Lismore	14	48341	3,453	-4.9%

Proposal 1 (Metropolitan District increases its membership to 19)

This proposal assumes the Metropolitan District membership is increased by 1 to 19. It enables the creation of a district for the Tramore area plus its surrounding rural catchment stretching from Passage East to Annestown – common theme being coastal. This would reflect the terms of reference to have a focus on town areas (& former town council areas) and it would effectively mirror the former Local Electoral Area of Tramore that existed up until 2014, with the exception of the more city orientated divisions of Kilbarry (rural), Ballynakill (rural) and Killoteran which are natural extensions of the City. A case for a 4 seater Electoral Area in the City West area must be made on the basis of population - this was a 4 seater here up until 2014. The need to ensure smaller electoral areas is key as is the need to maintain the 3 electoral areas in the City which has historically has always been there. The break down detailed below reflects natural lines both visually on a map and in reality on the ground.

	Councillors	Population	Electorate to councillor ratio	Variance to LA average (3631)
Tramore (plus rural)	5	18,372	3,674	+1.18%
Waterford City East	5	17,386	3,477	-4.24%
Waterford City South	5	17,326	3,465	-4.57%
Waterford City West	4	14,751	3,688	+1.57%
	19	67,835		

Tramore (plus rural) – 5 seats

Islandikane	2085
Pembrokestown	500
Tramore	9545
Drumcannon	372
Killmacleague	398
Killea	1571
Rathmoylan	1149
Woodstown	600
Faithlegg (rural)	2152
Total	18372
Electorate per councillor (5)	3674
	+1.18%

Waterford City East – 5 seats

Ballymaclode	1247
Farronshoneen	5607
Grange South	2722
Ballynakill (rural)	420
Grange Upper	2412
Ballynakill	2125
Park	1520

Newtown	1064
Custom House B	269
Total	17,386
Electorate per councillor (5)	3,477
	-4.24%

Waterford City South – 5 seats

Kilbarry (rural)	253
Ballytruckle	5938
Grange North	883
Poleberry	1357
Mount Sion	849
Custom House A	353
Centre A	791
Centre B	236
The Glen	742
Ballybricken West	145
Shortcourse	301
Newport Square	543
Morrisons Road	490
Morrisons Ave East	510
Morrisons Ave West	300
Slievekeal	593
Roanmore	812
Kingsmeadow	1093
Kilbarry	1137
Total	17,326
Electorate per councillor (5)	3,465
	-4.57%

Waterford City West – 4 seats

Ferrybank	858
Bilberry	802
Military Road	763
Cleaboy	2556
Gracedieu	1662
Killoteran	574
Ballybeg South	309
Ballybeg North	2757
Tycor North	2152
Tycor South	381
Larchville	944
Lisduggan	993
Total	14,751
Electorate per councillor (4)	3,688
	+1.57%

Proposal 2 (Metropolitan District increases its membership to 19)

This proposal assumes the Metropolitan District membership is increased by 1 to 19. It enables the creation of a district for the Tramore area plus its surrounding rural catchment stretching from Passage East to Annestown (same as above). It then divides the City in 2 – east and west. The majority of East remains the same with the natural addition of the Ballytruckle electoral division which effectively means the Tramore Road becomes the East/West line for the two electoral areas. It reflects a big change in the city which has historically always had 3 electoral areas.

	Councillors	Population	Electorate to councillor ratio	Variance to LA average (3631)
Tramore (plus rural)	5	18,372	3,674	+1.18%
Waterford City East	7	25,295	3,614	-0.47%
Waterford City South	7	24,168	3,453	-4.90%
	19	67,835		

Tramore (plus rural) – 5 seats

Islandikane	2085
Pembrokestown	500
Tramore	9545
Drumcannon	372
Killmacleague	398
Killea	1571
Rathmoylan	1149
Woodstown	600
Faithlegg (rural)	2152
Total	18372
Electorate per councillor (5)	3674
	+1.18%

Waterford City East – 7 Seats

Ballymaclode	1247
Ballynakill	2125
Park	1520
Poleberry	1357
Newtown	1064
Grange Upper	2412
Farronshoneen	5607
Ballynakill (rural)	420
Grange South	2722

Grange North	883
Ballytruckle	5938
Total	25,295
Electorate per councillor (7)	3,614
	-0.47%

Waterford City West – 7 seats

Ferrybank	858
Bilberry	802
Military Road	763
Cleaboy	2556
Gracedieu	1662
Killoteran	574
Ballybeg South	309
Ballybeg North	2757
Kilbarry (rural)	253
Kilbarry	1137
Larchville	944
Lisduggan	993
Tycor North	2152
Tycor South	381
Custom House A	353
Custom House B	269
Centre A	791
Centre B	236
The Glen	742
Ballybricken West	145
Shortcourse	301
Newport Square	543
Morrisons Road	490
Morrisons Ave East	510
Morrisons Ave West	300
Slievekeal	593
Roanmore	812
Kingsmeadow	1093
Mount Sion	849
Total	24,168
Electorate per councillor (6)	3,453
	-4.90%

Proposal 3 (Metropolitan District remains at 18 members)

This proposal assumes no change in the councillor representation for the metropolitan district, which as stated in the introduction is not what I am advocating as I believe the ratio of councillor to electorate will be unbalanced across the county as a result. However I have included same in event proposal 1 or 2 are not implemented. This proposal centres giving the town of Tramore a Municipal District of its own without any linkage to the urban area of Waterford City, in line with the terms of reference to have a focus on town areas (& former town council areas), while being cognisant of the need to minimise geographic area. A special case is therefore warranted to make both Tramore and the City West area 4 seater electoral areas. The alternative contained in proposal 4 would mean ending the historic and well established practice of 3 electoral areas within the City area

	Councillors	Population	Electorate to councillor ratio	Variance to LA average (3631)
Tramore (plus rural)	4	15,620	3,905	+7.54%
Waterford City East	5	18,805	3,761	+3.58%
Waterford City South	5	18,659	3,732	+2.78%
Waterford City West	4	14,751	3,688	+1.57%

Tramore (plus rural) – 4 seats

I believe an exceptional case can be made for 4 seats, given the need to minimise the geographic area, an alternative would have to take in a significant rural area.

Islandikane	2085
Pembrokestown	500
Tramore	9545
Drumcannon	372
Killmacleague	398
Killea	1571
Rathmoylan	1149
Total	15,620
Electorate per councillor (4)	3,905
	+7.54%

Waterford City East – 5 seats

Woodstown	600
Faithlegg (rural)	2152
Ballynakill (rural)	420
Grange South	2722
Farronshoneen	5607
Grange Upper	2412
Ballymaclode	1247
Ballynakill	2125

Park	1520
Total	18,805
Electorate per councillor (5)	3,761
	+3.58%

Local Electoral Area – Waterford City South – 5 seats

Kilbarry (rural)	253
Ballytruckle	5938
Grange North	883
Newtown	1064
Poleberry	1357
Mount Sion	849
Custom House A	353
Custom House B	269
Centre A	791
Centre B	236
The Glen	742
Ballybricken West	145
Shortcourse	301
Newport Square	543
Morrisons Road	490
Morrisons Ave East	510
Morrisons Ave West	300
Slievekeal	593
Roanmore	812
Kingsmeadow	1093
Kilbarry	1137
Total	18,659
Electorate per councillor (5)	3,732
	+2.78%

Local Electoral Area – Waterford City West – 4 seats

Ferrybank	858
Bilberry	802
Military Road	763
Cleaboy	2556
Gracedieu	1662
Killoteran	574
Ballybeg South	309
Ballybeg North	2757
Larchville	944
Lisduggan	993
Tycor North	2152
Tycor South	381
Total	14,751
Electorate per councillor (4)	3,688
	+1.57%

Proposal 4 (Metropolitan District remains at 18 members)

This proposal assumes no change in the councillor representation for the metropolitan district, which as stated in the introduction is not what I am advocating as I believe the ratio of councillor to electorate will be unbalanced across the county as a result. Similar to proposal 1 and 2 It enables the creation of a district for the Tramore area plus its surrounding rural catchment stretching from Passage East to Annestown – common coastal areas. It also splits the City into two new east/west electoral areas. This is not in keeping with the historical 3 electoral areas within the City but it is difficult as shown in proposal 3 not to have two special 4 seat electoral areas without such a revision.

	Councillors	Population	Electorate to councillor ratio	Variance to LA average (3631)
Tramore (plus rural)	5	18,372	3,674	+1.18%
Waterford City East	7	26,686	3,812	+4.98%
Waterford City West	6	22,778	3,796	+4.54%

Tramore (plus rural) – 5 seats

Islandikane	2085
Pembrokestown	500
Tramore	9545
Drumcannon	372
Killmacleague	398
Killea	1571
Rathmoylan	1149
Woodstown	600
Faithlegg (rural)	2152
Total	18372
Electorate per councillor (5)	3674
	+1.18%

Waterford City East – 7 Seats

Ballymaclode	1247
Ballynakill	2125
Park	1520
Poleberry	1357
Newtown	1064
Grange Upper	2412
Farronshoneen	5607
Ballynakill (rural)	420
Grange South	2722
Grange North	883
Ballytruckle	5938
Kilbarry (rural)	253

Kilbarry	1137
Total	26,686
Electorate per councillor (7)	3,812
	+4.98%

Waterford City West – 6 seats

Ferrybank	858
Bilberry	802
Military Road	763
Cleaboy	2556
Gracedieu	1662
Killoteran	574
Ballybeg South	309
Ballybeg North	2757
Larchville	944
Lisduggan	993
Tycor North	2152
Tycor South	381
Custom House A	353
Custom House B	269
Centre A	791
Centre B	236
The Glen	742
Ballybricken West	145
Shortcourse	301
Newport Square	543
Morrisons Road	490
Morrisons Ave East	510
Morrisons Ave West	300
Slievekeal	593
Roanmore	812
Kingsmeadow	1093
Mount Sion	849
Total	22,778
Electorate per councillor (6)	3,796
	+4.54%