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To Whom it Concerns.

I welcome the opportunity to make this submission as part of the review of Local Electoral Areas in relation to the Local Elections to be held in 2019. Having been elected to Longford County Council for the first time in 2014 in the Ballymahon Electoral Area and to the then new Ballymahon Municipal District Council I am of the view that the three Municipal districts in County Longford have been a success and are operating quite well.

The findings of Census 2016 saw the population of County Longford rise from 39,000 to 40,873 a welcome growth of 4.8%, and in the 10 year period of 2006 to 2016 the Ballymahon Town Area where I am based has seen a population increase of 48% far outstripping the population increase in the rest of County Longford for that 10 year period which had a 19% increase in population.

Despite this growth rate in population and notwithstanding the planned opening of the new Center Parcs Holiday Village in close proximity to Ballymahon in the Summer of 2019 with an anticipated 1000 new jobs for the area I am of the opinion that the current level of elected members for the Ballymahon Municipal District should remain at 6. Having due regard that the number of councillors representing a local electoral area should not be more than 10 or less than 6 and that 18 councillors elected across Longford's three Municipal Districts strikes the right balance as it represents a range of 1,950 to 2,383 of population per member.

Given due value to the above I recommend that Ballymahon Municipal District remain a single electoral area.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr. Pat O'Toole.