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Secretary,
Local Electoral Area Boundary Committees,
Room 1.67,
Custom House,
Dublin 1.

8th February 2018.

Re: Local Electoral Areas Boundary Review 2018

Dear Sir / Madam,

I refer to the invitation for submissions in relation to the Review of Local Electoral Areas 2018.

This invitation has been considered by Cork City Council, as have the Terms of Reference for the 2 Local Electoral Area Boundary Committees established by Minister for Local Government and Reform, Mr John Paul Phelan, T.D.

The City Council notes that Cork and Galway are not included in the review, but that Committee No. 2 "may also be asked to make recommendations on the division of Cork and Galway into local electoral areas. The Terms of Reference for that purpose will be set out in due course."

A review of the Local Government arrangements in Cork was initiated in January 2015. This process culminated in a decision by Government to approve an extension of the City boundary as outlined in the Report of the Implementation Oversight Group dated 6th December, 2017. I understand that the position with regard to a number of refinements to the final boundary line have been ratified by the Implementation Group in recent days.

It is presumed that the ongoing deliberations in finalising the boundary line for the extended Cork City were the reason that Cork was not included in the Terms of Reference for the Local Electoral Areas Boundary Committees. With the recent completion of the work of the Implementation Group as regards the definition of the boundary line, the City Council is now requesting the Minister to set the Terms of Reference for the Review of the Local Electoral

Areas in Cork. The Council City is of the view that the LEA boundary division would best be dealt with by Committee No. 2 with a particular urban focus.

The review of local government arrangements in Cork has been a protracted process with an ensuing lack of certainty. With Local Elections due to take place in May 2019 it is imperative that certainty is brought to the electoral structures as quickly as possible. This is particularly important in terms of opening up the consultation process to citizens and political interests alike, representing an important element of democratic expression and encouraging participation and ownership in Cork's new local government arrangements.

Yours sincerely,



CLLR. TONY FITZGERALD
ARDMHEARA CHORCAÍ
LORD MAYOR OF CORK