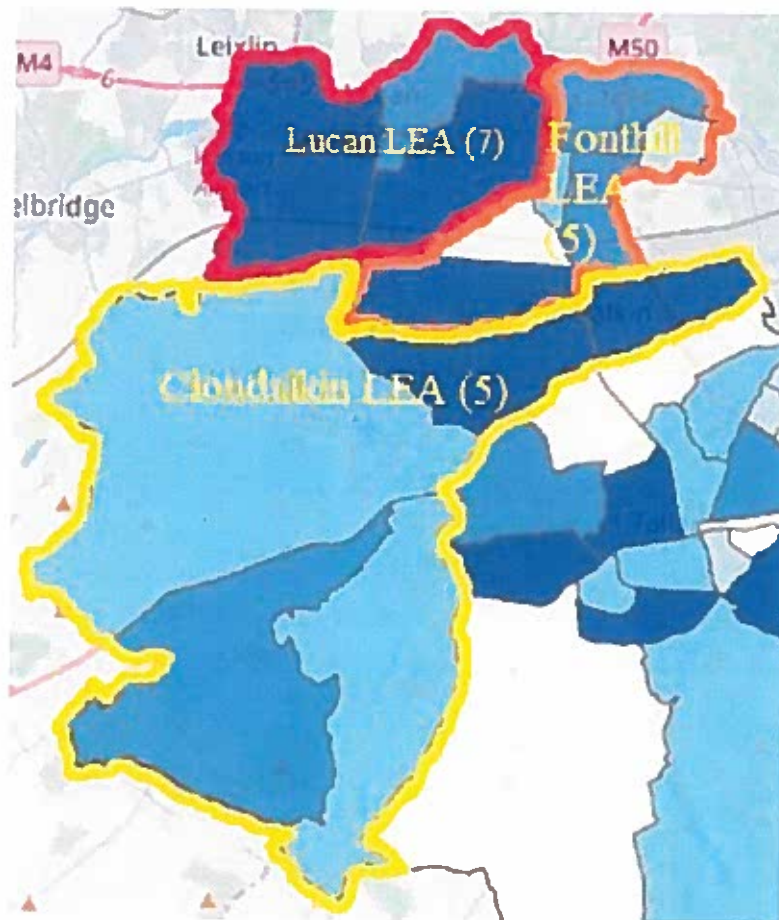


Submission on local election boundary review 2019 – by Paul Gogarty, Mayor of South Dublin

Summary of proposal

The only logical option that does not alter the boundaries of any DED is the creation of a 7-seat Lucan LEA, a 5-seat Fonthill LEA and a 5-seat Clondalkin LEA, incorporating the addition of Saggart District Electoral Division (DED) to make 17 seats covering the entirety of Dublin Mid West rather than the existing 16. The combined population of these three LEAs would be 117,996 meaning an overall number of **6,941 population per Councillor**, which is very close to the average of 6,969 throughout the County.



Introduction

I believe the terms of reference for this boundary review, which reduces the maximum constituency size from 8 to 7 is a political decision primarily driven by the need to minimise the impact of smaller parties and Independents. I think it is counter-productive and will split up a number of communities that had been joined together by their representative areas for many years.

Limits of new terms of reference

Terms of reference heading 3 states: "The number of councillors assigned to a local electoral area shall be not less than 5 and not more than 7." At the same time, 4 states: "Local electoral areas should be designed, as far as possible, around urban villages or have a neighbourhood focal point (or points), taking due account of local and community identities and linkages and the need to facilitate the effectiveness of the governance and representational roles of elected members, including, in particular, the need to avoid designating local electoral areas which are territorially very large or extend over very long distances or over multiple urban villages, or which divide individual urban villages or natural communities."

My analysis of the permutations of DEDs has found that it is now impossible to have a unified Clondalkin and/or Lucan, because the constituency seat size rule requires that Palmerstown as a community be taken out of the Lucan EA.

A central Clondalkin EA in its own right would leave Palmerstown to the North and/or Newcastle/Rathcoole to the South unable to be joined logically with any other LEA because of seat size limits, unless major splits of DEDs are made.

Joining Newcastle to part of Lucan and part of Lucan to Palmerstown is certainly a solution to this (as raised by Stephen Nolan), but this is messy as it a) splits Newcastle from its own Rathcoole hinterland, b) still splits an urban area (this time Lucan) from its own hinterland, and c) makes dividing multiple DEDs necessary. The only minimalist option that does not breach DED boundaries is to split Clondalkin cleanly into two sections. While this is regrettable, it is the sole division of an urban area required and does not require DEDs to be tampered with. It also facilitates the requirement under section 5 of the terms of reference, namely to **fit all of the LEA boundaries with the existing Dáil constituency**, through the re-addition of Saggart LEA, reconnecting the 4 Districts of Newcastle, Rathcoole, Saggart and Brittas which are historically linked.

Proposed new electoral boundaries in detail

REVISED LUCAN ELECTORAL AREA

As seven seats is now the maximum, Palmerstown and Lucan can no longer be joined in the one EA with Lucan. However, by removing Palmerstown Village and Palmerstown West it is possible to retain the existing Lucan DEDs into a cohesive 7-seat Lucan Electoral Area.

10,658 Lucan St Helen's

5,196 Lucan Heights

32,236 Lucan Esker

48,090 population = 6,870 population per Councillor Lucan EA as a 7 seater

NEW FONTHILL ELECTORAL AREA

This is loosely based on Palmerstown plus all the Clondalkin DEDs on or near the Fonthill Road. It forms a clear geographic area that maintains North Clondalkin as one unit with the addition of Clondalkin-Dunawley to maintain the required population for a 5-seater. Equally Clondalkin-Monastery could be used instead, as they are a similar population:

3,635 Palmerstown Village

7,521 Palmerstown West

11,323 Clondalkin-Dunawley (interchangeable with Clondalkin-Monastery)

4,096 Clondalkin-Rowlagh

2,581 Clondalkin-Cappaghmore

6,376 Clondalkin-Moorefield

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35,532 population = 7,106 population per Cllr Fonthill LEA as a 5 SEATER

NEW CLONDALKIN ELECTORAL AREA

The remaining DEDs do not have sufficient population to form a 5 seat minimum constituency. However the addition of Saggart EA makes this possible and also ensures that there are three complete LEAs within the Dublin Mid West Constituency:

11,316 Clondalkin-Monastery (interchangeable with Clondalkin-Dunawley)

9,152 Clondalkin Village

5,009 Rathcoole

4,257 Newcastle

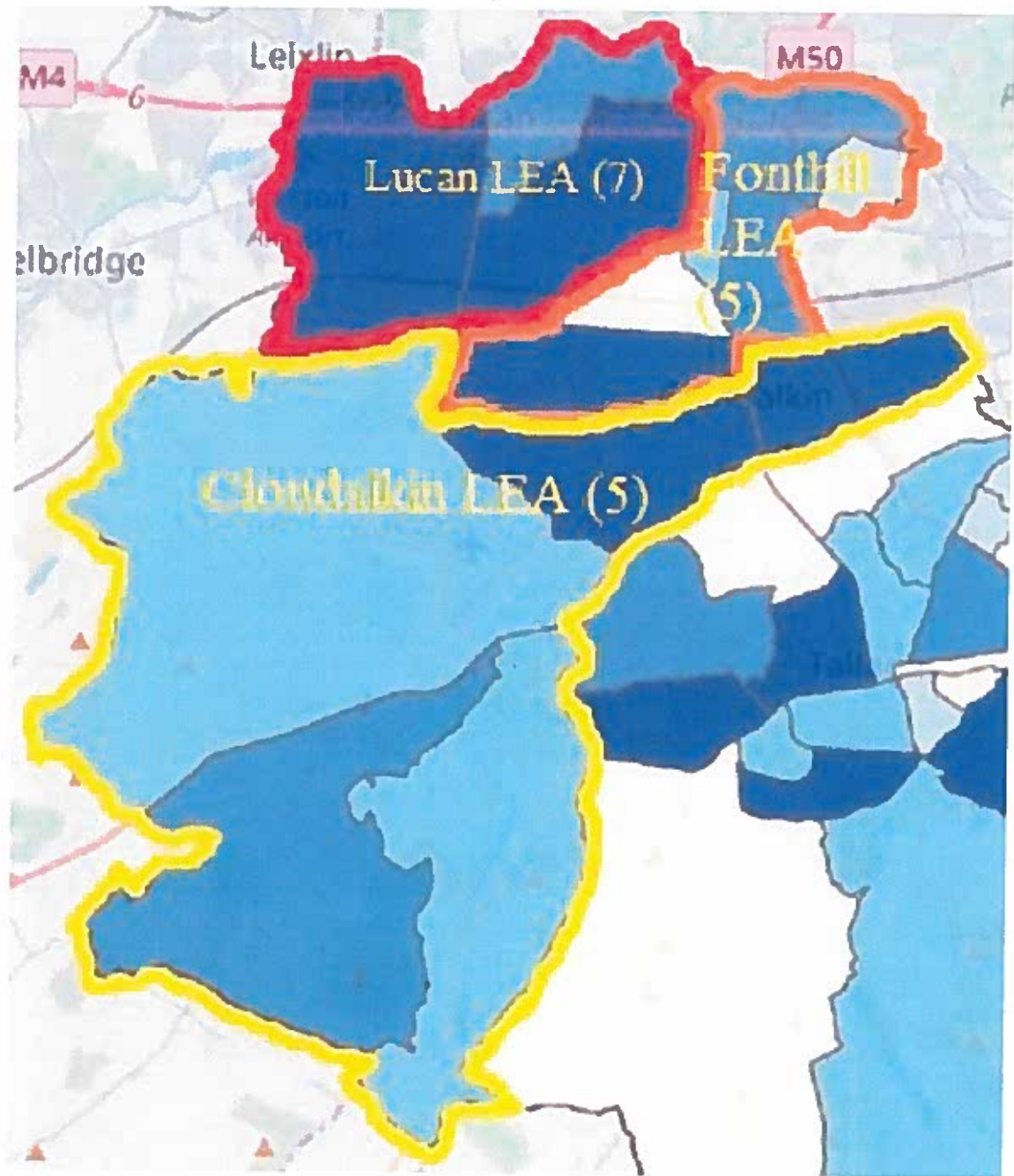
4,640 Saggart

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34,374 population = 6,874 population per Cllr Clondalkin LEA as a 5 SEATER

AN ALTERNATE PROPOSAL FOR CAPPAGHMORE DED

Balgaddy forms the largest part of the Clondalkin-Cappaghmore DED, with an approximate population of 2,100. This area is located in what is now known as "Lucan South Parish" and many residents identify themselves as Lucan South and they send their children to schools in the area that identify as Lucan. Putting this section of Cappaghmore west of the Fonthill Road into the Lucan Electoral area would not affect the min/max criteria by population but would enable a more streamlined definition of the LEA boundary. Cappaghmore estate could then go into either the Fonthill LEA or Clondalkin village.



Basis for analysis

South Dublin population in 2016 was **278,767** (265,205 in 2011)

Population per 1/40 Councillor SDCC = 6,969.175

-10% = 6,272.2575 minimum +10% = 7,666.0925

+ or minus 10%

6,272 per cllr min

6,969 per cllr

7,666 per cllr max

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