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**Submission to the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committees on the Division of Cork
County into Local Electoral Areas**

Cllr. Gearóid Murphy

As an elected representative for the Kanturk-Mallow Municipal District, I would like to recommend that Kanturk and areas to the west of Kanturk remain in the same Electoral Area and Municipal District as Mallow town. I have a number of reasons for recommending this. Mallow town is a large and quickly growing town, with good transport links with other towns and cities throughout Munster. Mallow town serves as a dynamic urban centre to drive development throughout the rest of the Municipal District. This is particularly needed in the Kanturk-Mallow Municipal District, in light of the aging and declining or stagnant population in the area to the west of Kanturk (i.e. Newmarket, Boherbue, Millstreet and surrounding rural areas between these towns and the Kerry border).

Kanturk and its hinterland (northwest Cork) is dependent on Mallow town for a number of services. These include Mallow Hospital, Mallow College of Further Education, which draws extensively from the northwest Cork region, and Mallow Swimming Pool, which is the only swimming pool of any kind, private or public, existing in the Municipal District. I believe that Kanturk and surrounding areas are more dependent on Mallow town for services than the areas to the east of Mallow, such as Fermoy and Mitchelstown. This is due to larger populations in the towns and villages of northeast Cork than in those of northwest Cork, as well as less isolation between these areas and Cork city, both topographically (the Boggeragh and Paps mountain ranges between northwest Cork and Cork city) and in terms of transport (M8 Cork-Dublin motorway). Northeast Cork also enjoys good transport links with southeast Cork, and the large and growing population centres there, such as Midleton. The closest equivalent in terms of northwest Cork is Macroom, which is much smaller than Midleton and also more isolated from northwest Cork (by mountain ranges) than Midleton is from northeast Cork.

Transport is another public issue on which the interests of Mallow town are closely aligned with those of northwest Cork. A current transport-related issue which deeply affects the whole Kanturk-Mallow Municipal District is the proposed M20 motorway from Cork to Limerick. This motorway being built along the Mallow route (as opposed to through Mitchelstown) would be greatly beneficial for both Mallow town and for people and businesses in northwest Cork. Northeast Cork would not be impacted to the same extent, as

this area is already served by the M8 to Cork city and Dublin. Mallow town also serves as a transport hub for commuters between northwest Cork and Cork city, whether by road, rail or bus. The N72 Mallow-Killarney road passes close to many of the population centres of the Municipal District (e.g. Banteer, Kanturk, Millstreet, Boherbue, Knocknagree) and the area is also served with a direct rail link to Mallow, through Millstreet and Banteer stations. Commuters from northwest Cork are therefore affected by issues relating to Mallow town. This is not true to the same extent for northeast Cork, because of the direct M8 route to the city and also other factors, such as the lack of rail links between Mallow and Fermoy/Mitchelstown.