



16th February 2018

Re: Local Electoral Area Boundary Review

Submission to the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee by Tipperary County Council

Background: Tipperary

County Tipperary is the largest inland county in Ireland with a population of 159,553 and covering an area of 4,282 square kilometres. Tipperary is one of the most developed agricultural areas in Ireland and some of the world's best known stud farms and racing stables are based in Tipperary. The existing county towns of Clonmel and Nenagh are located at opposite ends of Tipperary and provide strong economic and social focal points for the county. The towns of Cahir, Carrick on Suir, Cashel, Roscrea, Templemore, Thurles and Tipperary, which function as service centres for their local hinterland, are also crucial to the fabric of the county. Overall, the extensive network of towns in Tipperary helps to ensure strong economic, social and community linkages throughout the county.

Tipperary County Council was established as the single local authority for Tipperary on the 1st June, 2014 replacing the former North and South Tipperary County Councils, Clonmel Borough Council and Town Councils in Nenagh, Thurles, Carrick-on-Suir, Tipperary, Cashel and Templemore. This transformation in the county represented a historic and major reform of local government arrangements to Tipperary.

The creation of Tipperary County Council was a significant project encompassing the political merger of the two former County Councils, seven Borough/Town councils, and the administrative merger of approximately 1,000 staff. This process has signalled the commencement of a more unified service on an all-county basis across a range of public and private service providers and cognisance must be taken of the new Council's significant efforts, in terms of staff and time resources and investment in office infrastructure in each District, in establishing a new service delivery model. These new structures, although in their relative infancy, have brought about a greater level of efficiency and have adapted well to the changing needs of the Council in delivering for the people of Tipperary. Given the scale of the changes involved, adjusting over time to the new reality is critically important and keeping the existing Municipal District structure will help to foster and cement the new service delivery model. It is critical that towns are not separated from the rural hinterlands which they serve and in which there is a vital interdependency.

Recommendation:

While appreciating the constraints on the terms of reference of the Committee, this Council requests that the Boundary Committee recommend, in your forthcoming Report, the establishment of the following Local Electoral Area Boundaries as set out in the attached appendices within the existing five Municipal Districts having regard to the policy objectives of reducing the size of territorially large electoral areas and of designating urban-focused local electoral areas around the larger towns within the county.



In compliance with these recommendations, the Council have made the following assumptions:

- No change in the total membership of the Council;
- No change to the configuration of Municipal Districts;
- The number of Councillors assigned to each Local Electoral Area shall range between 5 and 7 with the exception where a 4 or 3 seat Local Electoral Area may be recommended “where otherwise the geographic size of an area would be disproportionately large”.
- Having regard to the Census 2016 population, the variance from individual average local authority representation must be within the range of plus or minus 10%;
 - Population of Tipperary = 159,553
 - Average Representation per Councillor = 3,989
 - +10% Variance = 4,388
 - -10% Variance = 3,590
- Any town that was formally a Borough Council shall be designated as a distinct “Municipal Borough District” (within the current Municipal District structure)
- A County town shall be designated a “distinct Local Electoral Area”;
- Other Local Electoral Areas should, as far as possible, be designed around urban centres, taking account of local and community identities and linkages as well as natural boundaries;

The Council recommends this approach on the basis that a workshop was held with the members of Tipperary County Council on the 12th February 2018 and there was general consensus amongst the members in relation to the recommendations proposed notwithstanding differing views expressed by a small number of Councillors (2 in total) who were unable to attend the workshop, and have indicated that they will be making an individual submission on their own behalf.

Tipperary County Council fully acknowledges the parameters within which the Committee must operate and the Elected Members of Tipperary, acting for and on behalf of the citizens of the Tipperary, urge that the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee recommend the establishment of the LEA boundaries as recommended herein.

Signed: Ger Walsh

Mr. Ger Walsh,
Meetings Administrator,
Tipperary County Council



.Local Electoral Area Boundary Recommendations:

Appendix 1

Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District

This district does not require any adjustment in the context of the terms of reference, therefore no changes are proposed to this area and the entire district should be designated as a Local Electoral Area.

Carrick-on-Suir Local Electoral Area

Municipal District	Carrick-on-Suir
Name of LEA	Carrick-on-Suir LEA
Population of LEA	21,677
No. of Seats	6
Average Population per Cllr	3,613
Total area (Sq km)	682
Average Area per Cllr	114

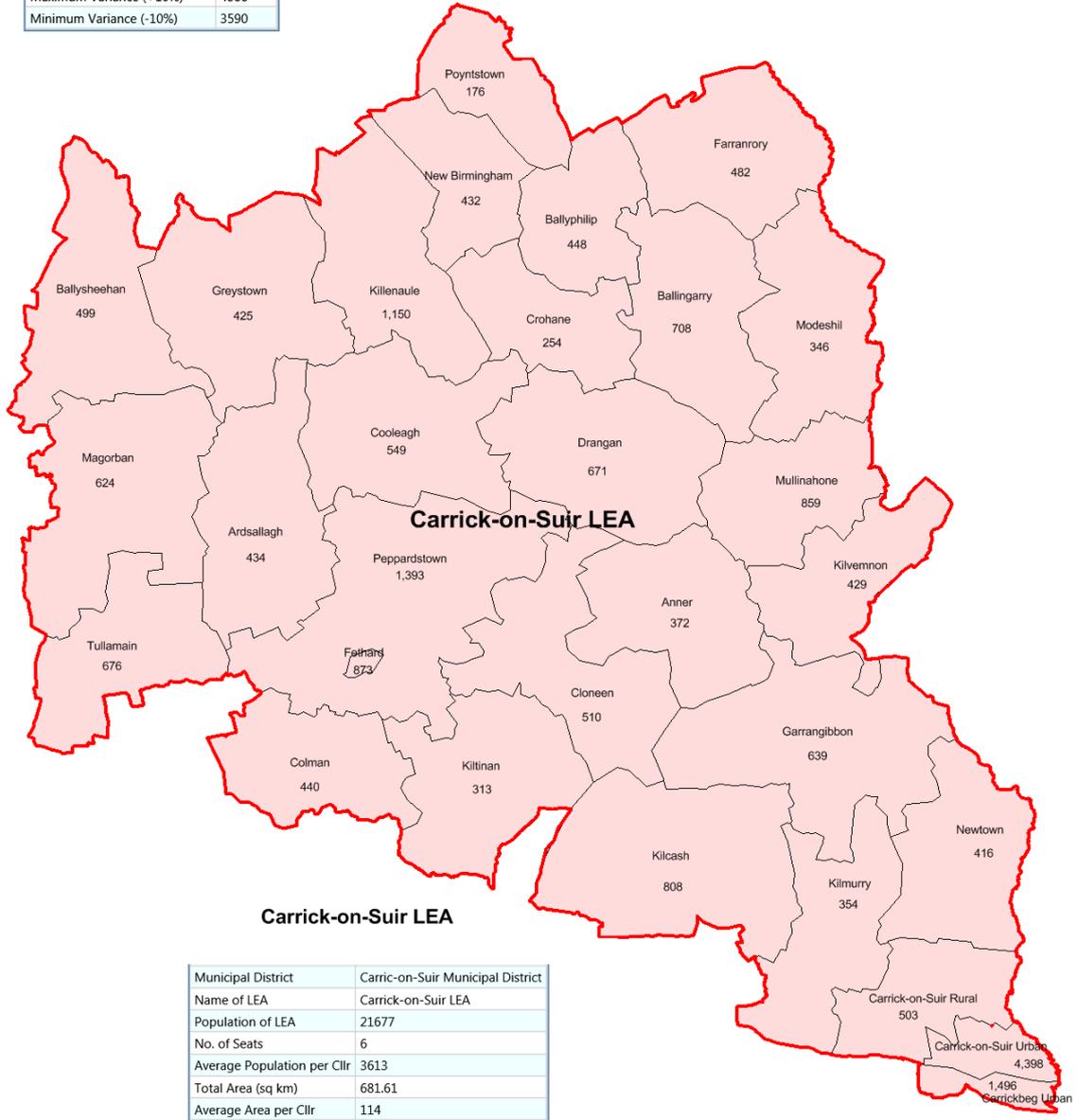
- Designating the existing district boundary as a Local Electoral Area is compliant with the terms of reference
- No. of seats will be not less than 5 and not more than 7
- Average Representation is within the range of plus or minus 10% of 3,989 i.e. $\leq 4,388$ and $\geq 3,590$
- Average Area per Cllr is 114 sq km compared to the County Average of 106 sq;
- Map 1 attached shows the recommended boundary of the Carrick-on-Suir LEA;



Recommended Option Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District

Tipperary County Data

Tipperary	159,553
No. of Cllrs	40
Average Representation per Cllr	3,989
Maximum Variance (+10%)	4388
Minimum Variance (-10%)	3590



Carrick-on-Suir LEA

Municipal District	Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District
Name of LEA	Carrick-on-Suir LEA
Population of LEA	21677
No. of Seats	6
Average Population per Cllr	3613
Total Area (sq km)	681.61
Average Area per Cllr	114



Appendix 2

Cashel-Tipperary Municipal District

This district does not require any adjustment in the context of the terms of reference, therefore no changes are proposed to this area and the entire district should be designated as a Local Electoral Area.

Cashel-Tipperary Local Electoral Area

Municipal District	Cashel-Tipperary
Name of LEA	Cashel-Tipperary LEA
Population of LEA	27,382
No. of Seats	7
Average Population per Cllr	3,912
Total area (Sq km)	771
Average Area per Cllr	110

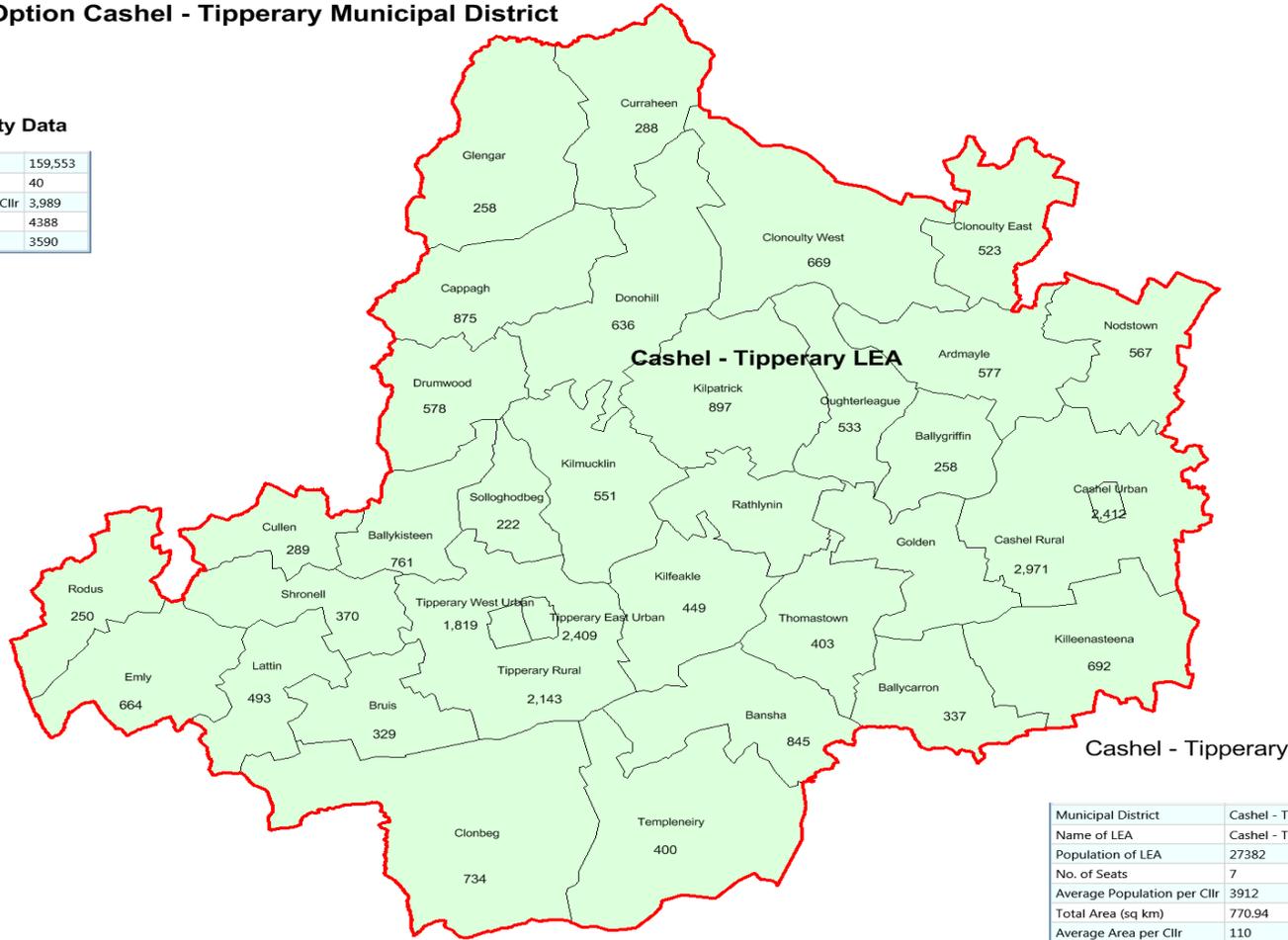
- Designating the existing district boundary as a Local Electoral Area is compliant with the terms of reference
- No. of seats will be not less than 5 and not more than 7
- Average Representation is within the range of plus or minus 10% of 3,989 i.e. $\leq 4,388$ and $\geq 3,590$
- Average Area per Cllr is 110 sq km compared to the County Average of 106 sq km;
- Map 2 attached shows the recommended boundary of the Cashel-Tipperary LEA;



Recommended Option Cashel - Tipperary Municipal District

Tipperary County Data

Tipperary	159,553
No. of Cllrs	40
Average Representation per Cllr	3,989
Maximum Variance (+10%)	4388
Minimum Variance (-10%)	3590



Municipal District	Cashel - Tipperary Municipal District
Name of LEA	Cashel - Tipperary LEA
Population of LEA	27382
No. of Seats	7
Average Population per Cllr	3912
Total Area (sq km)	770.94
Average Area per Cllr	110



Appendix 3

Clonmel Borough District

Clonmel Local Electoral Area

Municipal Borough District	Clonmel
Name of LEA	Clonmel LEA
Population of LEA	21,927
No. of Seats	5
Average Population per Cllr	4,385
Total area (Sq km)	127.5
Average Area per Cllr	25

- The environs of the town to include Kilsheelan, Lisronagh, Ballyclerihan and Inislounaght are required to make it complaint with the terms of reference;
- A 5 seat Local Electoral Area is recommended for Clonmel as the major centre of population;
- Average Representation is within the range of plus or minus 10% of 3,989 i.e. $\leq 4,388$ and $\geq 3,590$;
- Appendix 3 attached shows the recommended boundary of Clonmel LEA;

Cahir Local Electoral Area

Municipal Borough District	Clonmel
Name of LEA	Cahir LEA
Population of LEA	14,863
No. of Seats	4
Average Population per Cllr	3,716
Total area (Sq km)	554
Average Area per Cllr	138

- Recommend 4 seat Local Electoral Area for the Cahir area;
- Average Representation is within the range of plus or minus 10% of 3,989 i.e. $\leq 4,388$ and $\geq 3,590$
- Average Area per Cllr = 138 sq km compared to the County Average 106 sq km per Cllr;
- Appendix 3 attached shows the recommended boundary of the Cahir LEA;



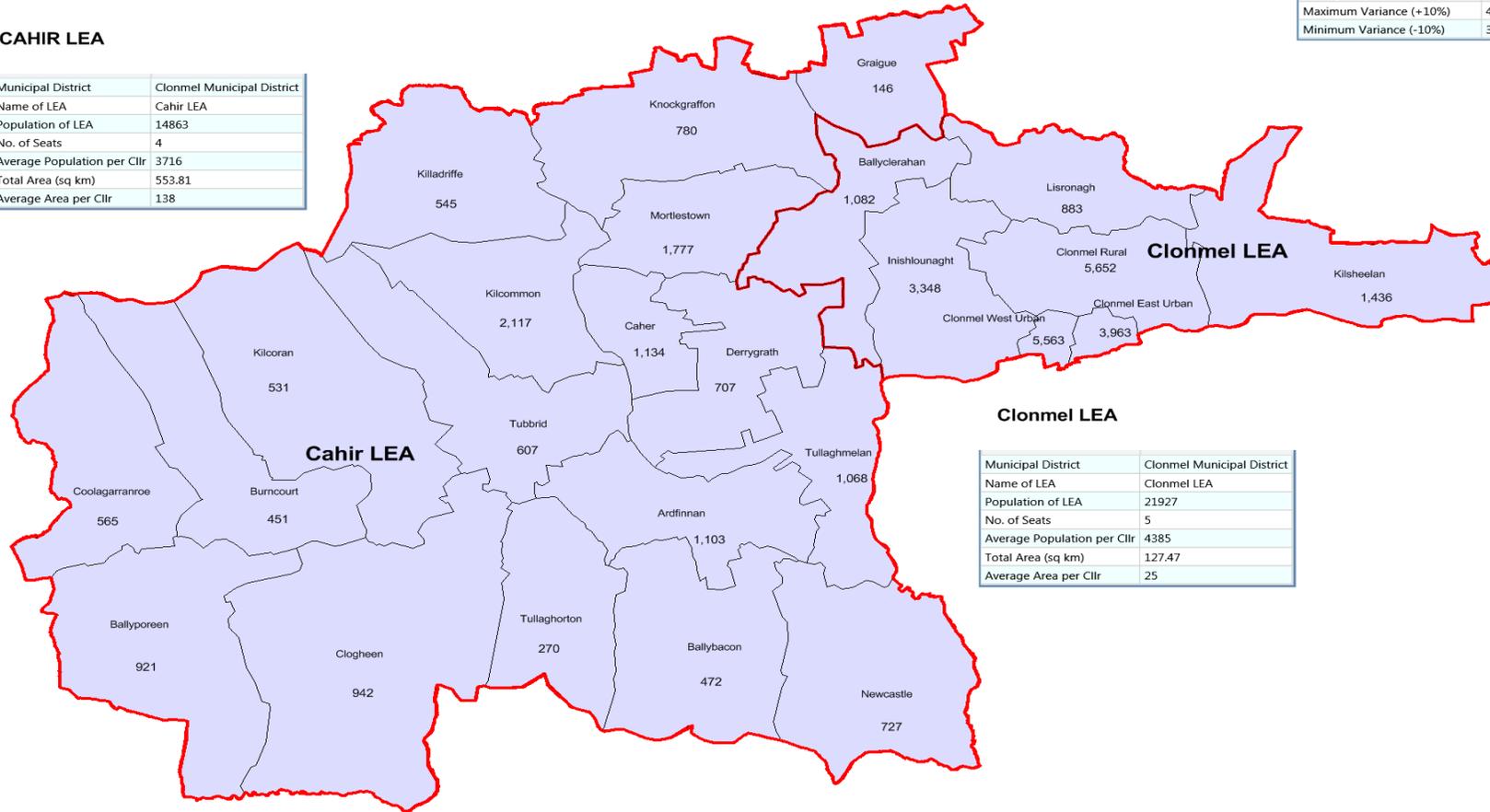
Recommended Option Clonmel Municipal District

Tipperary County Data

Tipperary	159,553
No. of Cllrs	40
Average Representation per Cllr	3,989
Maximum Variance (+10%)	4388
Minimum Variance (-10%)	3590

CAHIR LEA

Municipal District	Clonmel Municipal District
Name of LEA	Cahir LEA
Population of LEA	14863
No. of Seats	4
Average Population per Cllr	3716
Total Area (sq km)	553.81
Average Area per Cllr	138



Clonmel LEA

Municipal District	Clonmel Municipal District
Name of LEA	Clonmel LEA
Population of LEA	21927
No. of Seats	5
Average Population per Cllr	4385
Total Area (sq km)	127.47
Average Area per Cllr	25



Appendix 4

Nenagh Municipal District

Nenagh Local Electoral Area

Municipal District	Nenagh
Name of LEA	Nenagh LEA
Population of LEA	21,373
No. of Seats	5
Average Population per Cllr	4,275
Total area (Sq km)	598
Average Area per Cllr	120

- It is recommended that Nenagh as a former County Town be designated as a “distinct Local Electoral Area”;
- A 5 seat Local Electoral Area is recommended for Nenagh as the major centre of population;
- Average Representation is within the range of plus or minus 10% of 3,989 i.e. $\leq 4,388$ and $\geq 3,590$
- Average Area per Cllr = 120 sq km compared to the County Average 106 sq km per Cllr;
- Appendix 4 attached shows the recommended boundary for the Nenagh LEA;

Newport Local Electoral Area

Municipal District	Nenagh
Name of LEA	Newport LEA
Population of LEA	17,039
No. of Seats	4
Average Population per Cllr	4,260
Total area (Sq km)	577
Average Area per Cllr	144

- A four (4) seat Local Electoral Area is recommended for Newport;
- Average Representation is within the range of plus or minus 10% of 3,989 i.e. $\leq 4,388$ and $\geq 3,590$
- Average Area per Cllr = 144 sq km compared to the County Average 106 sq km per Cllr;
- Appendix 4 attached shows the recommended boundary for the Newport LEA;

Having regard to Article 3 of the terms of reference, a 6/3 arrangement was considered however having regard to the terms of reference and the fact that a 3 seat arrangement should only be considered where geographically the area would be disproportionately large, the 5/4 arrangement as set on attached map is the recommended option;



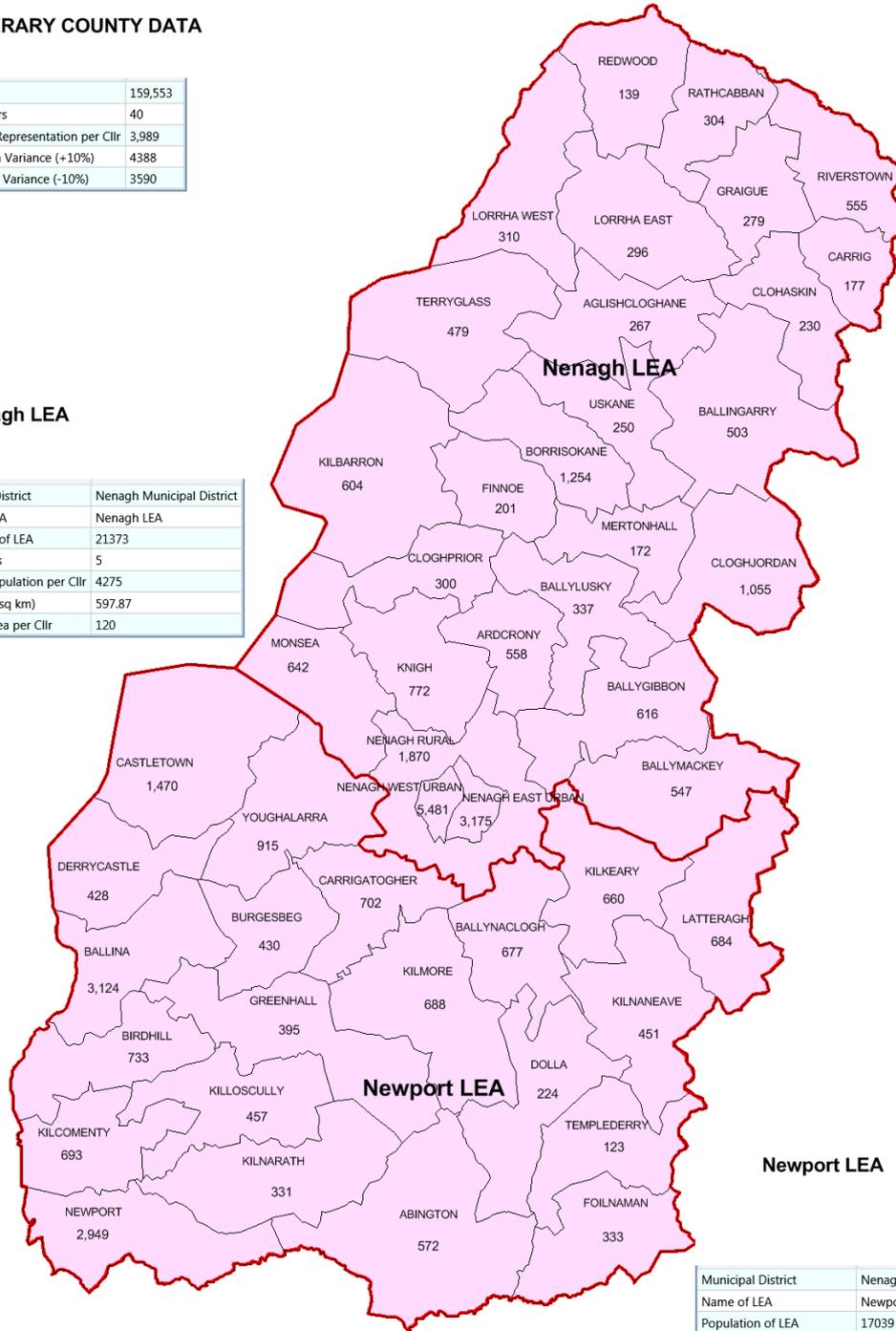
Recommended Option Nenagh Municipal District

TIPPERARY COUNTY DATA

Tipperary	159,553
No. of Cllrs	40
Average Representation per Cllr	3,989
Maximum Variance (+10%)	4388
Minimum Variance (-10%)	3590

Nenagh LEA

Municipal District	Nenagh Municipal District
Name of LEA	Nenagh LEA
Population of LEA	21373
No. of Seats	5
Average Population per Cllr	4275
Total Area (sq km)	597.87
Average Area per Cllr	120



Newport LEA

Newport LEA

Municipal District	Nenagh Municipal District
Name of LEA	Newport LEA
Population of LEA	17039
No. of Seats	4
Average Population per Cllr	4260
Total Area (sq km)	576.65
Average Area per Cllr	144



Appendix 5

Templemore-Thurles Municipal District

Thurles Local Electoral Area

A five (5) seat Local Electoral area for the Thurles area and a four (4) seat Local Electoral Area for Templemore-Roscrea area is achievable having regard to the District's DED population. Other 5/4 variances that are possible involve the inclusion of both Moyne and Glenkeen in either the Thurles LEA or the Templemore LEA or separately in each Local Electoral Area, however the inclusion of both Glenkeen and Moyne in the Templemore-Roscrea Local Electoral Area is the recommended option based on population average;

Municipal District	Templemore-Thurles
Name of LEA	Thurles LEA
Population of LEA	19,382
No. of Seats	5
Average Population per Cllr	3,876
Total area (Sq km)	451
Average Area per Cllr	90

- A 5 seat Local Electoral Area is recommended for Thurles as the major centre of population in the district;
- Average Representation within the range of plus or minus 10% of 3,989 i.e. $\leq 4,388$ and $\geq 3,590$;
- Average Area per Cllr = 90 sq km compared to the County Average 106 sq km per Cllr;
- Appendix 5 attached shows the recommended boundary for the Thurles LEA;

Municipal District	Templemore-Thurles
Name of LEA	Templemore LEA
Population of LEA	15,910
No. of Seats	4
Average Population per Cllr	3,978
Total area (Sq km)	461
Average Area per Cllr	115

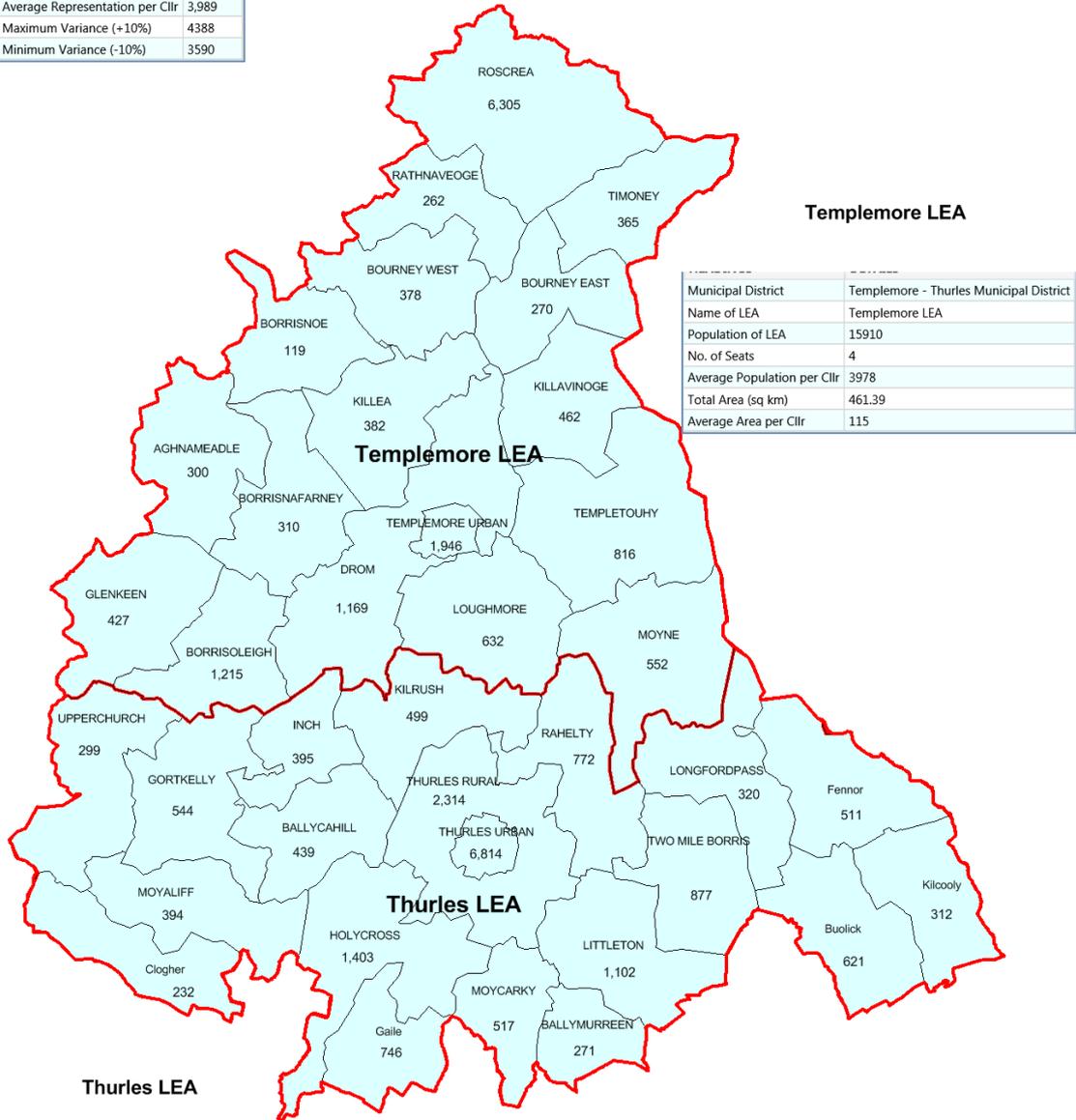
- A 4 seat Local Electoral Area is recommended for the Templemore-Roscrea area;
- Average Representation within the range of plus or minus 10% of 3,989 i.e. $\leq 4,388$ and $\geq 3,590$
- Average Area per Cllr = 115 sq km compared to the County Average 106 sq km per Cllr;
- Appendix 5 attached shows the boundary of the recommended Templemore LEA;



Recommended Option Templemore Thurles Municipal District

TIPPERARY COUNTY DATA

Tipperary	159,553
No. of Cllrs	40
Average Representation per Cllr	3,989
Maximum Variance (+10%)	4388
Minimum Variance (-10%)	3590



Municipal District	Templemore - Thurles Municipal District
Name of LEA	Thurles LEA
Population of LEA	19382
No. of Seats	5
Average Population per Cllr	3876
Total Area (sq km)	450.83
Average Area per Cllr	90