

Cllr. Orla Leyden

SUBMISSION

Local Electoral Area Boundary Committees - Committee 1

Roscommon

That the revised local electoral boundary shall ensure that in the case of Roscommon that a local electoral area shall be designed around the urban centre of Roscommon County Town and encompass the surrounding villages and rural hinterland thus taking account of local and community identities and linkages.

And that the electoral areas are made more compact – to this effect there should be four electoral areas (either 4 electoral areas with 5 seats per area) or 4 electoral area (2 fives seaters and 2 four seaters)

Please see attached a map showing Roscommon County Town and its radius of linkage.

These linkages include shopping, services including doctors and dentists, Garda Station, hospital, local schools, after school activities, sports, Library.

At present people in the surrounding areas of Athleague DED, Fuerty, Castlecoote, Kilbegnet and Donamon continue to frequent Roscommon Town for all of the above. However they do not have ease of access to their Municipal District Office. The Roscommon Municipal District is a few minutes drive away however the Athlone Municipal District office is 40 minutes drive away. No other area in the County is so removed from an area office which is ironic considering it is just minutes from Roscommon Municipal district. The Roscommon MD has an area office in Roscommon and Castlerea. The Boyle MD has an area office in Boyle and Ballaghaderren and Strokestown. And the Athlone MD has one area office in Monksland. The structure is not servicing the people of Athleague, Fuerty, Castlecoote, Rosmoylan and Donamon. The simple solution is to reconnect them electorally with their local town, the County Town, Roscommon.

Over the past couple of years Roscommon County Council has pursued a policy of establishing Town Teams in six key areas within the county to develop, promote and regenerate the towns and surrounding areas. This has been achieved through a series of public consultation workshops and as a result Town Teams have been established in each of six towns, namely Boyle, Strokestown, Roscommon Town, Ballaghaderreen, Castlerea and Monksland. Membership of Town Teams represents the wide variety of interests from the community, voluntary business and statutory sectors that will influence the successful development of the towns and their hinterlands.

Roscommon Town Team is working very effectively servicing Roscommon Town and surrounding area however it cannot connect to its hinterland of Athleague, Fuerty, Castlecoote, Rosmoylan (Kilbegnet/Derryhippo) and Lisniskey (Donamon) as they are in the Athlone MD and their closest Town Team is in Monksland (40 minutes away). This is a huge disadvantage to this area and to the town.

These areas around Roscommon Town formed part of the Roscommon Electoral Area prior to the revision of the Local Electoral Area Boundary 2013 which resulted in people living 1 or 2 miles outside the town aligned to the Athlone MD with the Urban centre of Monksland.

At present the physicality of the Athlone Municipal District is unwieldy spreading as it does from Shannonbridge to Derryhippo

I am proposing through this submission that Roscommon Town be reconnected to the villages adjoining the Town to the west which were severed from the town in 2013 Boundary Commission.

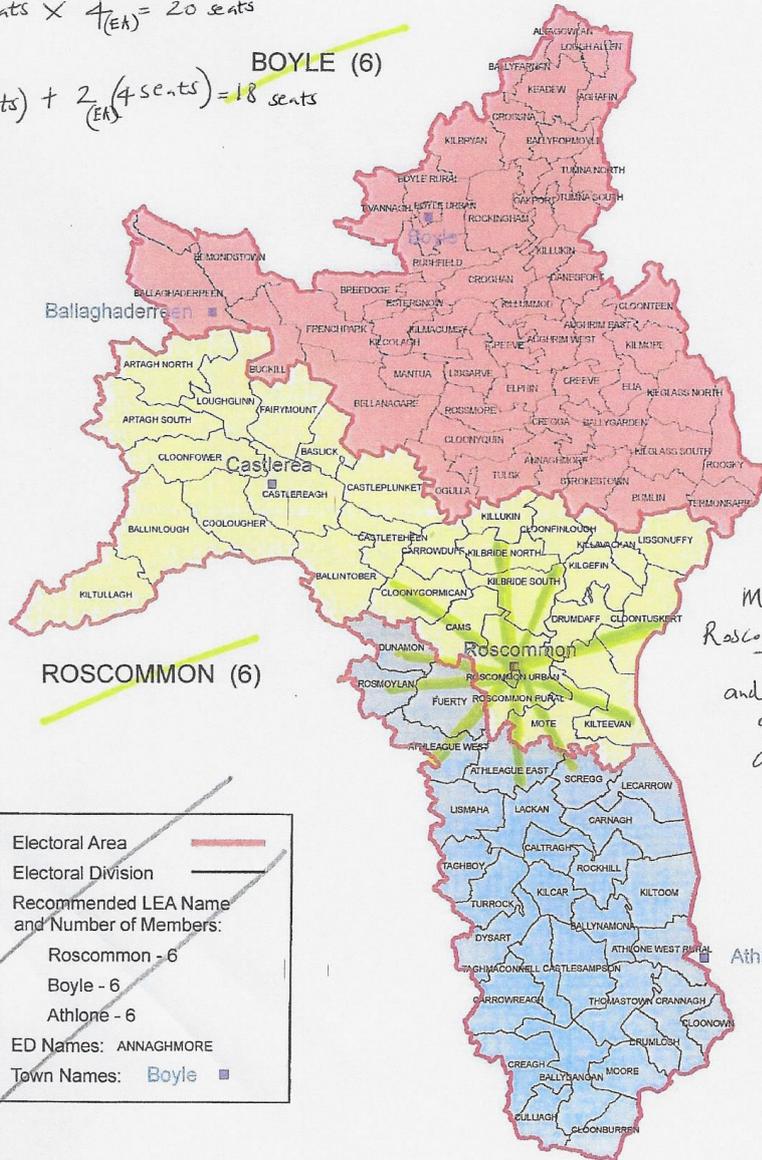
At present residents living less than a mile from Roscommon town are being served by the Athlone MD with its municipal base in Monksland (40 minute drive away)... historically the villages surrounding the town namely Athleague, Fuerty, Castlecoote, Rosmoylan and Lisniskey (Donamon) have been served by the area office in Roscommon Town. In recent times prior to the 2013 Local Boundary review this area formed part of Mid Roscommon Electoral area which was formed by Roscommon Town and the villages surrounding it in all directions. Now they have to pass the Roscommon MD Office and indeed Aras an Chontae, Ros Comain and travel to Monksland to access the area office that serves their geographic area. This is disempowering civic engagement and creating a disconnect between citizens and local government.

Proposing 4 Electoral Areas (EA) County Roscommon - 4 Electoral Areas.

with 5 seats x 4 (EA) = 20 seats

or

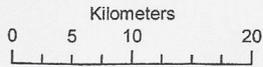
$$2 \binom{5 \text{ seats}}{\text{(EA)}} + 2 \binom{4 \text{ seats}}{\text{(EA)}} = 18 \text{ seats}$$



Map showing Roscommon County Town and its radius of Linkage Community identity access to services

4 Electoral Areas

Electoral Area	—
Electoral Division	—
Recommended LEA Name and Number of Members:	
Roscommon - 6	
Boyle - 6	
Athlone - 6	
ED Names: ANNAGHMORE	
Town Names: Boyle	■



ATHLONE (6)