

### **Comhairle Chontae na Mí**

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### **Meath County Council**

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18.337

19<sup>th</sup> February, 2018

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

#### **Re: Submission to the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee**

Dear Madam,

With reference to the above, I wish to make the following submission on behalf of Meath County Council.

Meath County Council welcomes the review of local electoral areas announced recently by the Minister for Local Government and Electoral Reform and, in particular, the proposal that towns with a population greater than 30,000 as ascertained at Census 2016 shall be designated as a distinct Municipal Borough District.

I have set out in the Appendix attached the present configuration in Meath on foot of the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee Report 2013 and the scenario now as a result of the Census 2016 population statistics.

You will note that the population of Meath has increased from 184,135 to 195,044 overall giving an average population per Member of 4,876 which is only marginally greater than the requirement for one member for every 4,830 population outlined in the Terms of Reference for the 2013 report.

You will also note that in keeping with the recommendation outlined in the current Terms of Reference that there should be no change in the configuration of Municipal Districts generally, the requirement to achieve variance of representation within the range of plus or minus 10% has been maintained.

I wish to advise that the "census town" population of Navan is now 30,097 per Census 2016 and would thus qualify to be designated as a distinct Municipal Borough District. Meath County Council would welcome this proposed designation for Navan as its county town and given its strategic role as the primary growth centre in the county. You will note that the overall population of Navan Local Electoral Area/Navan Municipal District is now 34,931 which indicates that a population 4,834 or 14% live outside the census town boundary while 86% live within the census town boundary.

On this basis Navan Local Electoral Area is currently acting as an urban focused Local Electoral Area and the Council would be concerned if the local electoral area is to be reduced in size as a consequence of this new designation. You will note in the Appendix the existing configuration of Navan Local Electoral Area/Navan Municipal District which in terms of area is the smallest in size of the six Local Electoral Areas/Municipal Districts in the county. You will also note in the Appendix the configuration of the Navan "census town" boundary. Any reduction in size of the Navan Local

Electoral Area/Navan Municipal District would necessitate the remainder of the existing Navan Local Electoral Area being divided between adjoining local electoral areas.

Meath County Council would not favour this approach as this re-configuration would not take account of the local and community identities and linkages associated with Navan and also the need to facilitate the effectiveness of the governance and representational roles of elected members in Navan Municipal District. In particular, the need to avoid designating local electoral areas which are territorially very large or extend over very long distances as outlined in the Terms of Reference, would be compromised.

With the establishment of Municipal Districts under the Local Government Reform Act 2014, Meath County Council centralised many of its functions and aligned its operational functions with the newly created Municipal Districts. This was undertaken to improve the efficiency of service delivery and to achieve consistency with the democratic structure at Municipal District level. The Council would not favour any local electoral area boundary changes which would impact on the efficiencies derived by implementing this operational alignment with the existing Municipal District structure or would cause additional costs associated with the reorganisation of service delivery.

In conclusion, Meath County Council does not consider that a re-configuration of the Navan Local Electoral Area is required. As mentioned above and detailed in the Appendix, Navan Local Electoral Area/Navan Municipal District is already the smallest in size in the county and based on the population statistics outlined, Navan Municipal District is already operating as an urban focused Municipal District and its designation as a Municipal Borough District can be achieved while retaining Navan Local Electoral Area in its present configuration.

Yours sincerely,



Des Foley,  
Director of Services.

Designated Public Official under Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015. [www.lobbying.ie](http://www.lobbying.ie)

Encl. Appendix 1

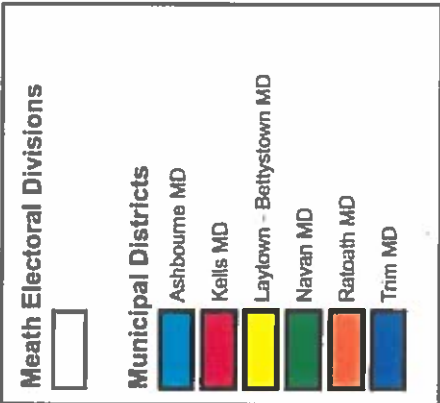
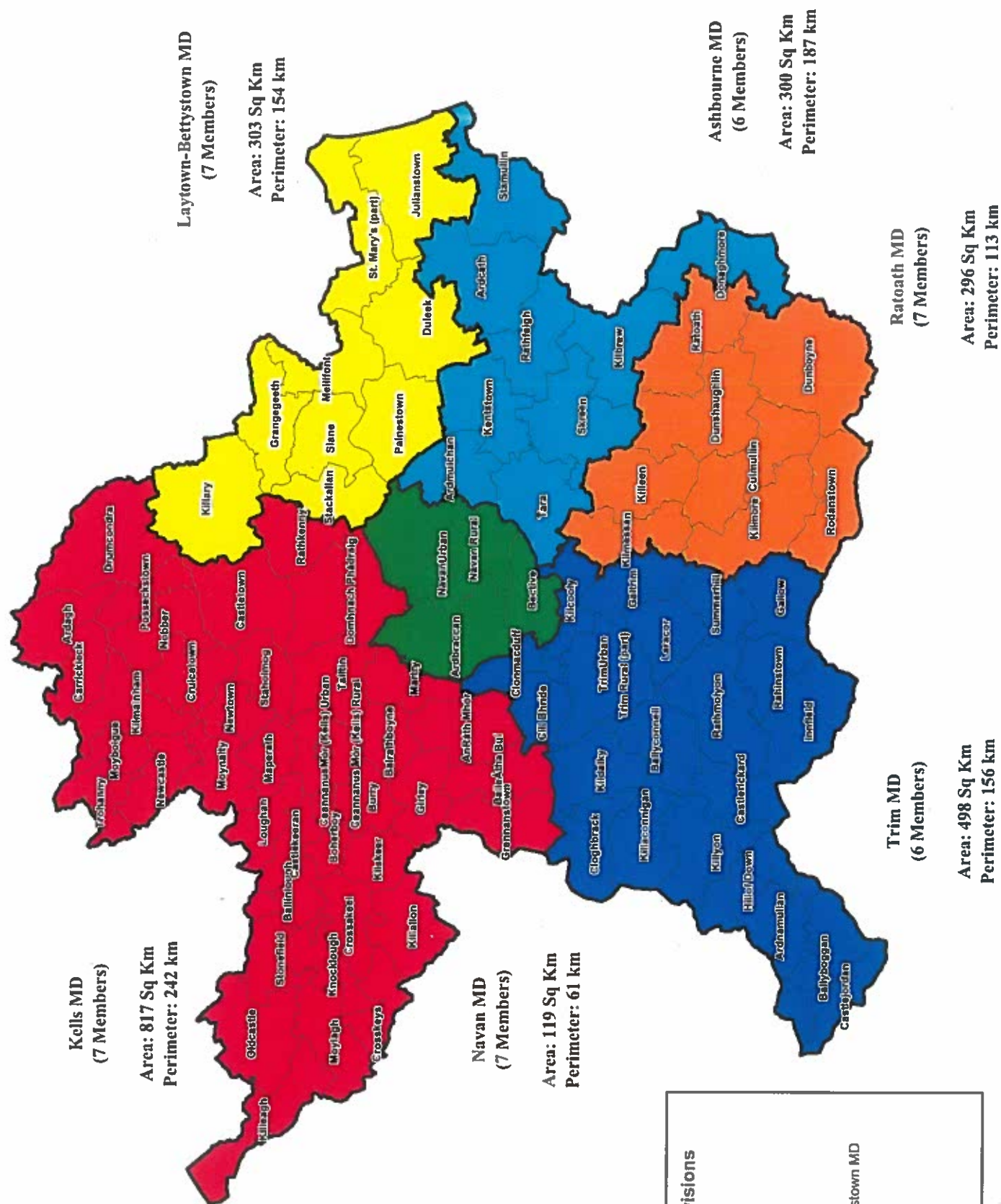
# Meath Population Statistics per MD

2011				
Local Electoral Area	Number of Members	Population	Population per Member	Percentage Variance from County Average +/- %
Ashbourne	6	27,164	4,527	-1.7
Ratoath	7	31,894	4,556	-1.0
Kells	7	31,534	4,505	-2.1
Navan	7	32,934	4,705	2.2
Laytown-Bettystown	7	31,557	4,508	-2.1
Trim	6	29,052	4,842	5.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>184,135</b>		

2011 Population for Meath	<b>184,135</b>
1 Member per 4830 of the population	<b>38</b>
184,135/4830 = 38.12	
Additional Members: 1 per town council, subject to a maximum of 4	<b>3</b>
New Number of Councillors	<b>40</b>

2016				
Local Electoral Area	Number of Members	Population	Population per Member	Percentage Variance from County Average +/- %
Ashbourne	6	29,178	4863	-0.27
Ratoath	7	33,590	4799	-1.58
Kells	7	32,398	4628	-5.09
Navan	7	34,931	4990	2.30
Laytown-Bettystown	7	33,752	4822	-1.11
Trim	6	31,195	5199	6.62
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>195,044</b>		

2016 Population for Meath	<b>195,044</b>
1 Member per 4876 of the population	<b>4876</b>
195,044/40 = 4876	
Plus/Minus 10%	<b>487.6</b>
Range for Meath	<b>4388.4 - 5363.6</b>
Percentage Variance from County e.g. 4863-4876/ 4876 *100	



Municipal District	ED Name	ED Code	Total Population 2016
Kilbourns	Donaghmore	8	11750
	Kilbrew	11	3635
	Rathfeigh	15	988
	Skreen	18	1481
	Ardcath	43	1949
	Stamulish	48	5009
	Ardmulchan	50	979
	Kentstown	54	2152
TOTAL	Tara	60	1227
TOTAL			21179
Kesh	CeannanusMór (Kesh) Urban	1	2133
	Drumcondra	4	1305
	Ardagh	19	644
	Ballinlough	20	213
	Salraihboyne	21	526
	Boherboy	22	317
	Burry	23	272
	Carricleck	24	458
	Castlekeeran	25	488
	Ceannanus Mór (Kesh) Rural	26	4653
	Cruicetown	27	402
	Girley	28	364
	Kilmanham	29	778
	Kiliskeer	30	427
	Loughan	31	399
	Masperath	32	472
	StMartry	33	708
	Mynybolgue	34	245
	Monymalty	35	635
	Newcastle	36	447
	Newtown	37	913
	Nobber	38	763
	Posseckstown	39	223
	Staholmog	40	408
	Tailtin	41	913
	Trohanney	42	323
	Castletown	52	995
	Domhnach Phádraig	53	1800
	Rathbenny	57	635
	Crossakeel	61	511
	Crosskeys	62	325
	Killallon	63	301
	Killegagh	64	427
	Knocklough	65	212
	Maylagh	66	395
	Oldcastle	67	2297
	Stonefield	68	216
	Baleatha Bui	70	2588
	Grennanstown	79	1259
	Anríth Mhór	90	1074
TOTAL			31441
Laytown - Bettystown	Grangeeeth	5	659
	Killary	6	1248
	Duleek	44	5563
	Jullinstown	45	10176
	Meallfont	46	541
	St. Mary's (part)	47	11864
	Painestown	56	1185
	Slane	58	1853
TOTAL	Stackallen	59	661
TOTAL			33752
Navan	NavanUrban	2	3619
	Ardbraccan	49	2076
	Bective	51	1119
	Navan Rural	55	28117
TOTAL			34931
Ratoath	Culmulin	7	1142
	Dunboyne	9	10094
	Dunshaughlin	10	5845
	Killgeen	12	1164
	Kilmessen	13	1560
	Kilmore	14	1589
	Ratoath	16	11082
	Rodanstown	17	1123
TOTAL			33590
Trim	TrimUrban	3	1386
	Ardnamullan	69	864
	Ballyboggan	71	528
	Ballyconnell	72	743
	Castlejordan	73	427
	Castlenckard	74	2122
	Cloghbrack	75	502
	Clonmacduff	76	485
	Gallow	77	961
	Galtrim	78	736
	Hill of Down	80	550
	Innfield	81	4343
	Old Bhríde	82	468
	Kilcooly	83	359
	Kildelhy	84	1299
	Kilacohygan	85	2234
	Killyon	86	532
	Laracor	87	631
	Rahinstown	88	496
	Rathmolyon	89	1407
	Summerhill	91	1334
	Trim Rural (part)	92	8793



