

**Fine Gael Submission to Committee No. 1 re Local Electoral Areas in County Cork**

We welcome the opportunity to make a submission.

Having reviewed the Terms of Reference, we support and welcome the move to smaller LEAs; one of the outcomes of the last review was a number of LEAs which covered enormous areas, to the extent that some were almost as big as Dáil constituencies i.e. West Cork (8) - over 100km wide, covering 4000km<sup>2</sup>

The scale of some of these areas has had a detrimental effect on the capacity of elected representatives to service their area adequately, and as a consequence, the public suffer.

In addition, we welcome in particular, the provision for areas with three or four seats, to address this issue, particularly in rural areas with low population density, and also areas where communities are separated by significant physical/geographic features, and specifically in the case of Cork, where some degree of flexibility may be required to meet other objectives included in the Terms of Reference.

We note that the Terms of Reference include the stated aim of *'taking due account of local and community identities and linkages as well as natural boundaries'*. It is our strong recommendation that due regard should be had towards local communities, and that no community should find itself split by LEA boundaries; in the past, residents in Watergrasshill have fallen foul of this practice, and on one occasion, the community was split three ways.

It is also suggested that *'there should be no change in the configuration of Municipal Districts generally, save in such limited circumstances where the Committee considers it necessary to recommend such a change.'* That being the case, we suggest that the Boundary Committee will have to adopt some flexibility in relation to the configuration of Municipal Districts, to the extent of increasing the scope and scale of such Districts, to encompass two LEAs, and possibly considering the inclusion of LEAs with fewer than five seats, to achieve the objective of maintaining continuity.

The revised City/County Boundary in Cork has a number of consequences; the existing arrangement regarding the three administrative divisions within the county, in particular, is challenged by the revised boundary – and this arrangement may need to be reviewed in due course. However, for the purposes of this submission, we propose to observe the existing arrangements.

We understand that Cork County Council will make a submission, which reflects discussions with all Members of the Council. We have taken that into account, but have some alternative proposals to be considered in conjunction with that submission.

The Northern Division comprises of two LEAs - Kanturk-Mallow, and Fermoy, with a combined 12 seats; the population is sufficient to warrant 15 seats, which means there has to be three LEAs.

We considered an arrangement of three LEAs, each with 5 seats – but this runs counter to the requirement that each Municipal District should have a minimum of six seats.

It is proposed that Fermoy should retain 6 seats – with the following transfers:

- Milltown, Rathluirc (Charleville) and Newtown to Kanturk or Mallow
- Watergrasshill to Cobh
- Imphrick and Springfort to Mallow

Splitting Kanturk-Mallow into two component LEAs, Kanturk and Mallow is problematic. Returning Milltown, Rathluirc and Milltown to Kanturk, where they were previously, generates a variance from the average ratio of population to councillor in excess of 10% - coming in at +12%.

The alternative is to transfer that area to Mallow, and to include some additional rural areas in Kanturk – to justify five seats, and address the variance. The benefit of such a proposition is that the Mallow LEA would include Charleville, which is essentially an industrial town, to support the Mallow Urban area at the other end; the new M20 will link to the towns, resulting in a journey of 15 minutes.

Kanturk, on the other hand, retains a more rural profile, comprising the market towns of Kanturk, Newmarket and Millstreet.

Our recommendation results in a Kanturk with 5 seats, and Mallow with 4 – comprising one Municipal District – resulting in a variance of +4% in both Kanturk and Mallow, and +1% in Fermoy.

The Southern division is the area most challenged by the extension of the City Boundary. The proposal is to maintain four electoral areas: Macroom, Carrigaline and Cobh with six seats each, and 7 seats in East Cork.

The transfer of Ballincollig into Cork City, breaking up the existing Ballincollig-Carrigaline, leaves Carrigaline in need of additional population to justify six seats. On this basis, it is proposed that territory stretching from Crosshaven to Nohoval be included; however, there is also a risk that a number of parishes would be split (Tracton etc.), so we suggest including Ballyfeard and Nohoval, and as a consequence, Dunderrow might be included in Bandon-Kinsale, to compensate, in terms of population.

Each of these LEAs has a minimum of 6 seats, and so – should facilitate minimal disruption in terms of Municipal Districts. The variances range from +6% to -6%. The combined seats/population for the division results in a variance of 0%.

The Western Division, currently comprises Bandon-Kinsale and West Cork. We support the proposition of three LEAs – retaining much of Bandon-Kinsale (6 seats) and creating two separate LEAs in the remaining West Cork. The split envisaged by the Council, viz. West Cork-Bantry (4) and West Cork-Skibbereen (5), results in a variance of -17% in the westernmost area.

A Municipal District comprising both areas is eminently sensible, incorporating two LEAs, one with five seats, and the other four. One possible way of dealing with the high variance, is to include Skibbereen and surrounding areas (bounded by the N71 to the north, and estuary at Union hall, to the east) in the western LEA; that would lead to a more even distribution of urban areas/towns – with the western area comprising Bantry and Skibbereen, the area in the middle including Clonakilty and Dunmanway, the final area incorporating Bandon and Kinsale.

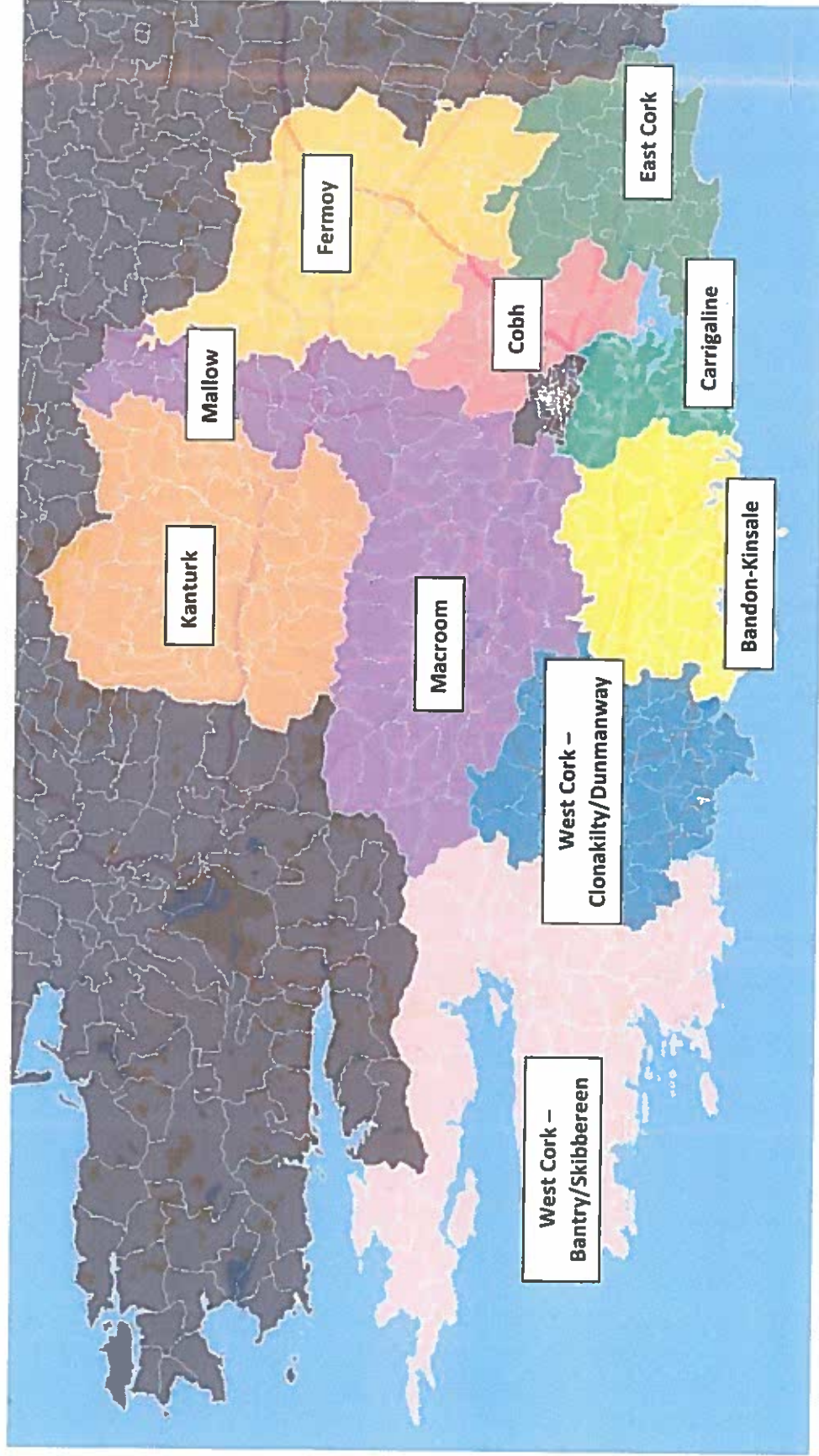
The variances range from +1% to -8% - but the revised configuration would be a vast improvement on the previous (and current) West Cork in terms of providing meaningful local representation.

In conclusion, our suggested configuration means that no individual variance breaches the +/- 10% range; we are attempting to avoid splitting communities, whilst at the same time, taking into account natural boundaries, and grouping areas with similar profiles and interests.

Proposed LEAs	Seats	Pop.	Pop/Cllr	Variance
Fermoy	6	36,835	6,139	1%
Kanturk	4	25,416	6,354	4%
Mallow	5	31,621	6,324	4%
	<b>15</b>	<b>93,872</b>	<b>6,258</b>	<b>3%</b>
Carrigaline	6	34,466	5,744	-6%
Cobh	6	36,157	6,026	-1%
East Cork	7	45,441	6,492	6%
Macroom	6	36,234	6,039	-1%
	<b>25</b>	<b>152,298</b>	<b>6,092</b>	<b>0%</b>
Bandon-Kinsale	6	36,916	6,153	1%
West Cork - Bantry/Skibbereen	5	28,192	5,638	-8%
West Cork - Clonakilty/Dunmanway	4	24,513	6,128	0%
	<b>15</b>	<b>89,621</b>	<b>5,975</b>	<b>-2%</b>
	<b>55</b>	<b>335,791</b>	<b>6,105</b>	

We are attaching details of the suggested configuration.

Fine Gael submission re Cork County Council area



\* Note – it has not been possible to map properly, those EDs which are split between City and County

Fermoy (6)	
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<i>Electoral Division</i>	<i>Pop.</i>
Aghern	245
Ardskeagh	429
Ballyarthur	308
Ballyhooly	843
Ballynoe	693
Carrig	159
Castle Hyde	816
Castlecooke	204
Castlelyons	1,124
Castletownroche	894
Clenor	340
Coole	1,153
Curraglass	382
Derryvillane	492
Doneraile	1,403
Farahy	443
Fermoy Rural	4,859
Fermoy Urban	2,289
Glanworth East	424
Glanworth West	1,113
Glenville	674
Gortnaskehy	320
Gortroe	761
Kilcor	392
Kilcummer	257
Kildinan	605
Kildorrery	744
Kilgullane	152
Killathy	377
Kilphelan	516
Kilworth	1,658
Knockmourne	1,230
Leitrim	356
Marshallstown	387
Mitchelstown	5,135
Monanimy	812
Rathcormack	2,387
Shanballymore	630
Skahanagh	162
Streamhill	94
Templemolaga	307
Wallstown	266

<i>Population</i>	<b>36,835</b>
<i>Seats</i>	<b>6</b>
<i>Population/Seat</i>	<b>6,139</b>
<i>Variance</i>	<b>1%</b>

Kanturk (4)	
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<i>Electoral Division</i>	<i>Pop.</i>
Allow	469
Ballyhoolahan	275
Banteer	725
Barleyhill	517
Barnacurra	211
Bawncross	345
Boherboy	619
Caherbarnagh	514
Castlecor	433
Castlemagner	623
Clonfert East	381
Clonfert West	161
Clonmeen	285
Coolclogh	415
Coomlogane	905
Crinnaloo	207
Cullen	423
Derragh	215
Doonasleen	474
Drishane	1,955
Dromina	626
Glenlara	410
Gortmore	220
Greenane	1,283
Kanturk	1,935
Keale	349
Kilbrin	330
Kilcorney	337
Kilmeen	350
Kilshannig	1,081
Knockatooan	310
Knocknagree	598
Knocktemple	476
Liscarroll	593
Meens	461
Milford	680
Nad	86
Newmarket	1,518
Rathcool	554
Roskeen	458
Rosnalee	358
Rowls	156
Skagh	374
Templemary	326
Tincoora	489
Tullylease	407
Williamstown	499

<i>Population</i>	<b>25,416</b>
<i>Seats</i>	<b>4</b>
<i>Population/Seat</i>	<b>6,354</b>
<i>Variance</i>	<b>4%</b>

Mallow (5)	
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<i>Electoral Division</i>	<i>Pop.</i>
Ballyclogh	700
Ballynamona	990
Blackpool	972
Buttevant	1,744
Caherduggan	619
Carrig	244
Churchtown	1,165
Dromore	2,706
Imphrick	344
Kilmaclenine	725
Knockantota	970
Mallow North Urban	6,055
Mallow Rural	4,615
Mallow South Urban	2,738
Milltown	374
Newtown	906
Rahan	884
Rathluirc	4,253
Springfort	617

<i>Population</i>	<b>31,621</b>
<i>Seats</i>	<b>5</b>
<i>Population/Seat</i>	<b>6,324</b>
<i>Variance</i>	<b>4%</b>

**Bandon-Kinsale (6)**

<i>Electoral Division</i>	<i>Pop.</i>
Abbeymahon	629
Ballinadee	531
Ballinspittle	659
Ballymackean	373
Ballymartle	1,226
Ballymodan	4,489
Ballymurphy	1,024
Bandon	1,997
Baurleigh	362
Boulteen	664
Brinny	652
Butlerstown	411
Cashel	421
Coolmain	456
Courtmacsherry	862
Cullen	495
Dunderrow	1,656
Inishannon	1,962
Kilbrittain	621
Kilbrogan	2,385
Kilmaloda East	339
Kilmaloda West	217
Kilmonoge	1,329
Kinsale Rural	4,913
Kinsale Urban	2,417
Kinure	356
Knockavilly	458
Knockroe	702
Laherne	576
Leighmoney	782
Rathclarin	710
Templemichael	741
Templeomalus	761
Timoleague	740

<b>Population</b>	<b>36,916</b>
<b>Seats</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Population/Seat</b>	<b>6,153</b>
<b>Variance</b>	<b>1%</b>

**West Cork -  
Bantry/Skibbereen (5)**

<i>Electoral Division</i>	<i>Pop.</i>
Adrigole	452
Aghadown North	288
Aghadown South	574
Ahil	208
Ballybane	267
Ballydehob	846
Bantry Rural	1,073
Bantry Urban	3,225
Bear	167
Caheragh	311
Castlehaven North	806
Castlehaven South	498
Cléire	342
Cloghdonnell	354
Coolagh	191
Coulagh	536
Crookhaven	225
Curryglass	434
Douce	225
Dromdaleague North	295
Dromdaleague South	630
Dunbeacon	173
Dunmanus	238
Durrus East	278
Durrus West	610
Glanlough	201
Glengarriff	1,082
Goleen	229
Gortnascreeny	502
Kealkill	582
Kilcaskan	755
Kilcatherine	804
Kilcoe	441
Killaconenagh	1,483
Killeenleagh	365
Kilnamanagh	342
Lowertown	228
Mealagh	373
Myross	747
Scart	336
Seefin	298
Sheepshead	177
Skibbereen Rural	1,300
Skibbereen Urban	2,706
Skull	1,053
Toormore	186
Tullagh	738
Whiddy	18

<b>Population</b>	<b>28,192</b>
<b>Seats</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Population/Seat</b>	<b>5,638</b>
<b>Variance</b>	<b>-8%</b>

**West Cork -  
Clonakilty/Dunmanway (4)**

<i>Electoral Division</i>	<i>Pop.</i>
Ardfield	747
Argideen	363
Aultagh	357
Ballingurteen	688
Ballymoney	775
Bengour	292
Bredagh	582
Cahermore	381
Carrigbaun	344
Castletown	469
Castleventry	290
Clonakilty Rural	1,938
Clonakilty Urban	4,061
Cloonkeen	348
Coolcraheen	675
Coolmountain	430
Derry	551
Drinagh	239
Drinagh	360
Dunmanway North	1,050
Dunmanway South	1,447
Garranes	351
Garrown	275
Kilfaughnabeg	538
Kilkerranmore	512
Kilmoylerane	309
Kilnagross	582
Kinneigh	456
Knocks	333
Knockskagh	544
Manch	583
Milane	161
Rathbarry	480
Rosscarbery	992
Rossmore	343
Shreelane	378
Teadies	915
Woodfort	374

<b>Population</b>	<b>24,513</b>
<b>Seats</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Population/Seat</b>	<b>6,128</b>
<b>Variance</b>	<b>0%</b>

Carrigaline (6)		Cobh (6)		East Cork (7)		Macroom (6)	
Electoral Division	Pop.	Electoral Division	Pop.	Electoral Division	Pop.	Electoral Division	Pop.
Ballyfeard	374	Ballynaglogh	429	Ardagh	667	Aghinagh	478
Ballyfoyle	362	Caherlag	4,159	Ballintemple	550	Aglish	1,453
Ballygarvan	1,741	Carrignavar	1,225	Ballycotton	1,692	An Sliabh Riabhach	851
Carrigaline	12,118	Carrigtohill	7,334	Ballyspillane	352	Ballincollig	2,336
Douglas	2,462	Cobh Rural	8,353	Castlemartyr	1,041	Ballygroman	1,673
Farranbrien	268	Cobh Urban	6,525	Clonmult	213	Béal Átha an Ghaorthaidh	218
Inishkenney	540	Killeagh	659	Clonpriest	1,073	Béal Átha an Ghaorthaidh	534
Kilpatrick	1,107	Knockraha	1,462	Cloyne	4,374	Bealock	290
Lisclery	526	Rathcooney (Part Rural)	1,173	Corkbeg	2,601	Blarney	928
Monkstown Rural	4,641	Riverstown	1,307	Dangan	254	Canaway	626
Monkstown Urban	1,014	Watergrasshill	1,470	Dungourney	755	Carrigboy	494
Nohaval	5,219	Whitechurch	2,061	Garryvoe	619	Carrigrohane Beg	558
Templebreedy	316			Ightermurragh	2,757	Ceann Droma	329
	3,778			Inch	525	Cill na Martra	673
				Kilcronat	181	Claonraith	225
				Killeagh	1,539	Clondrohid	873
				Kilmacdonogh	954	Clonmoyle	553
				Lisgoold	996	Doire Fhinín	243
				Midleton Rural	8,922	Dripsey	1,495
				Midleton Urban	3,881	Firmount	690
				Mogeely	691	Gort na Tribratan	451
				Rostellan	1,243	Gowlane	1,182
				Templebodan	626	Greenfort	789
				Templenacarriga	596	Greenville	281
				Youghal Rural	1,264	Inchigeelagh	538
				Youghal Urban	7,075	Kilberrihert	713
						Kilbonane	1,267
						Kilcullen	843
						Macloneigh	870
						Macroom Urban	3,961
						Magourney	1,049
						Mashanaglass	447
						Matehy	1,379
						Mountrivers	694
						Moviddy	1,419
						Murragh	521
						Na hUláin	597
						Ovens	975
						Rahalisk	574
						Teerelton	593
						Templemartin	798
						Warrensourt	773
Population	34,466	Population	36,157	Population	45,441	Population	36,234
Seats	6	Seats	6	Seats	7	Seats	6
Population/Seat	5,744	Population/Seat	6,026	Population/Seat	6,492	Population/Seat	6,039
Variance	-6%	Variance	-1%	Variance	6%	Variance	-1%