

**Submission to the Dublin and Cities Electoral Area Boundary Committee**

*Re: Fingal County Council.*

**Fianna Fail Dublin West Comhairle Dailcheantaire.**

**Fingal County Council**

At present Fingal County Council is represented by 24 members. Under the terms of reference the Committee is to assume no change in the total membership of the Council. The population of Fingal ascertained at the 2006 Census of Population was 239,992. Thus the population per member is 10,000.

The present position, based on the 2006 Census, in relation to each of the six electoral areas is as follows:

<i>Electoral Area</i>	<i>Population 2006</i>	<i>No. of Members</i>	<i>Population per Member</i>	<i>% Variance from Council average</i>
<b>Fingal</b>	<b>239,992</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>10,000</b>	
Balbriggan	40,786	4	10,197	+1.97
Castleknock	37,668	4	9,417	-5.83
Howth	20,052	3	6,684	-33.16
Malahide	29,752	4	7,438	-25.62
Mulhuddart	53,306	4	13,327	+33.27
Swords	58,428	5	11,686	+16.86

Aside from the Balbriggan LEA and the Castleknock LEA, the other four electoral areas have variances in excess of 10%, ranging from +33.27 (Mulhuddart LEA) to -33.16% (Howth LEA).

**Analysis / Proposals**

While the Balbraggin LEA and the Castleknock LEA are within the 10% variance, the population increases in the Mulhuddart and Swords electoral areas since the 1996 Census have given rise to levels of under representation in both these areas and over representation in the Howth and Malahide electoral areas which need to be addressed.

**Howth LEA & Malahide LEA**

Combining the Howth and the Malahide LEAs will keep this area contiguous and will maintain continuity. These combined electoral areas give a total population of 49,804. Allocating 5 members to this area gives a population per member of 9,961 (-0.39%). A reduction of two members, from 7 to 5, is proposed in respect of this combined area. One of these members could be transferred to the Swords LEA or the Balbriggan LEA while the other could be transferred to the Mulhuddart LEA.

## Swords LEA & Balbriggan LEA

### Approach A

The Dublin Electoral Area Boundary Committee Report 1998 stated:

“The Committee examined a number of options with a view to rationalising the difference in variations between the Swords and Balbriggan electoral areas. In view of the importance of Swords as the proposed administrative centre of the County, with obvious implications for the service area delivery, and as a focus for the future population growth, it is recommended that the northern boundary of the existing electoral area of Swords be extended northwards to include the bulk of the Lusk electoral division and that the number of members be increased from 4 to 5. .... The consequences for Balbriggan is .... a reduction from 5 to 4 members.”

With the population of the Swords LEA now at 58,428 (+16.86%) it is now appropriate to return the portion of the Lusk electoral division that is currently in the Swords LEA back to the Balbriggan LEA. This would bring the population of the Balbriggan LEA to 47,411. An increase of one member, from 4 to 5, will give a population per member of 9,482 (-5.18%) in the Balbriggan LEA. The population of the Swords LEA would be reduced to 51,803. Retaining 5 members would give a population per member of 10,361 (+3.61%) in the Swords LEA. These details are shown in the table below:

<i>Electoral Area</i>	<i>Population 2006</i>	<i>No. of Members</i>	<i>Population per Member</i>	<i>% Variance from Council Average</i>
Balbriggan	47,411	5	9,482	-5.18
Swords	51,803	5	10,361	+3.61

### Approach B

An alternative proposal is to leave the boundaries of both the Balbriggan LEA and the Swords LEA unchanged. There would just be the need to increase the number of members in the Swords LEA from 5 to 6. Details of this proposal are shown in the table below:

<i>Electoral Area</i>	<i>Population 2006</i>	<i>No. of Members</i>	<i>Population per Member</i>	<i>% Variance from Council Average</i>
Balbriggan	40,786	4	10,197	+1.97
Swords	58,428	6	9,738	-2.62

The electoral divisions of Kilsallaghan, Swords - Forrest, Airport and Dubber are part of the Swords LEA. These electoral divisions also account for part of the constituency of Dublin West. In keeping in line with the committee's term of reference, it is proposed in this submission that these electoral divisions are kept together as part of the Swords LEA when making the recommendation with regards to these electoral areas.

**Mulhuddart LEA & Castleknock LEA**

The vast majority of the Mulhuddart LEA and the Castleknock LEA are in the Constituency of Dublin West and hence are of significant importance in this submission.

The population of Mulhuddart (53,306) and Castleknock (37,668) give a combined population of 90,974. Allocating nine seats to the area would give a population per member of 10,108 (+1.08%). There are a number of approaches which can be considered:

**Approach A**

Increasing the number of members from 4 to 5 in the Mulhuddart LEA and leaving the boundaries of both the Mulhuddart LEA and the Castleknock LEA unchanged would fall within the 10% variance allowed as shown in the table below:

<i>Electoral Area</i>	<i>Population 2006</i>	<i>No. of Members</i>	<i>Population per Member</i>	<i>% Variances from Council average</i>
Castleknock	37,668	4	9,417	-5.83
Mulhuddart	53,306	5	10,661	+6.61

The present breakdown of each electoral area in EDs is shown below:

<b>Electoral Area</b>	<b>ED</b>	
Castleknock	008	BLANCHARDSTOWN-ABBOTSTOWN 4,122
	009	BLANCHARDSTOWN-BLAKESTOWN 896
	010	BLANCHARDSTOWN-COOLMINE 3,191
	012	BLANCHARDSTOWN-DELWOOD 4,955
	014	BLANCHARDSTOWN-ROSELAWN 1,831
	016	CASTLEKNOCK-KNOCKMAROON 17,115
	017	CASTLEKNOCK-PARK 4,395
	027	LUCAN NORTH 1,163
		37,668
Mulhuddart	009	BLANCHARDSTOWN-BLAKESTOWN 31,392
	010	BLANCHARDSTOWN-COOLMINE 7,583
	011	BLANCHARDSTOWN-CORDUFF 4,806
	013	BLANCHARDSTOWN-MULHUDDART 2,785
	015	BLANCHARDSTOWN-TYRRELSTOWN 1,559
	041	THE WARD 5,181
		53,306

(Source: 2006 Census, CSO)

### Approach B

Approach A above leaves variances of +6.61% in the Mulhuddart LEA and – 5.83% in the Castleknock LEA. The Mulhuddart electoral area is one of the most challenging areas in Fingal County Council. It does not seem appropriate that this area remains with a negative ratio after the revision. Transferring 2,927 of the population from the Mulhuddart LEA to the Castleknock LEA would address this imbalance as shown in the table below:

<i>Electoral Area</i>	<i>Population 2006</i>	<i>No. of Members</i>	<i>Population per member</i>	<i>% Variances from Council average</i>
Castleknock	40,595	4	10,149	+1.49
Mulhuddart	50,379	5	10,076	+0.76

Using part of the new Ongar Road as a boundary between the two electoral areas instead of the Clonsilla Road which results in the division of Clonsilla Village could provide the solution. One of the Committee's terms of reference states:

“In carrying out its review, the Committee shall have as an objective the drawing up of the electoral areas which (alone or in combination) would, as far as practical, have an urban or neighbourhood focal point (or points).”

The division of Clonsilla Village, one of the oldest neighbourhood focal points in Dublin 15, between electoral areas breaches the above terms of reference. Of the four villages in Dublin 15 (Castleknock, Blanchardstown, Clonsilla and Mulhuddart) Clonsilla is the only one to be divided. None of the new neighbourhoods are divided between local electoral areas. The transfer from the Mulhuddart LEA to the Castleknock LEA of the following areas would achieve the population required to address the imbalance:

1. From the Electoral Division of Blanchardstown – Coolmine (*Polling District EF – Mountview 2*) the following areas: Aspen Avenue, Lawn (Aspenwoods), Limelawn Estate, Shelerin Rd, Sorrell Estate and Weaver's Row.

	Population 2006
ASPEN AVENUE	114
ASPEN LAWN	67
ASPEN WOOD	44
LIMELAWN COURT	104
LIMELAWN GLADE	66
LIMELAWN GREEN	58
LIMELAWN HILL	86
LIMELAWN RISE	95
LIMELAWN ROW	48
LIMELAWN WOOD	118
SHELERIN ROAD	13
SORREL DALE	104
SORREL DRIVE	50

SORREL HEATH	171
SORREL PARK	51
WEAVERS ROW - CLONSILLA ROAD	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>1207</b>

*(Source: 2006 Census, CSO)*

2. From the Electoral Division of Blanchardstown – Blakestown (*Polling District EE – Mountview 1*), the following estates: Castlefield and Charnwood.

	Population 2006
CASTLEFIELD COURT	82
CASTLEFIELD COURT	281
CASTLEFIELD PARK	58
CASTLEFIELD PARK	45
CASTLEFIELD PARK	120
CASTLEFIELD WOODS	252
CASTLEFIELD WOODS	41
CHARNWOOD COURT	84
CHARNWOOD AVENUE	17
CHARNWOOD DALE	83
CHARNWOOD GARDENS	85
CHARNWOOD GREEN	63
CHARNWOOD GROVE	116
CHARNWOOD HEATH	122
CHARNWOOD LAWNS	34
CHARNWOOD MEADOWS	91
CHARNWOOD PARK	146
<b>Total</b>	<b>1720</b>

*(Source: 2006 Census, CSO)*

***Total: 1207 + 1720 = 2927***

This area extends the boundary of the Castleknock LEA to the new Ongar Road and the link road between Cunningham's Funeral Home, Clonsilla & the new Ongar Road and contains the required population of 2,927. The proposed change in the boundary is illustrated in red on Map 1 attached to this submission.

**Approach C**

As mentioned above the division of Clonsilla Village breaches the Committee’s terms of reference. However, Approach B causes further splits in electoral divisions. Approach C proposes to reunite the Blanchardstown - Blakestown ED. According to the 2006 Census there is a population of 896 in the Blanchardstown - Blakestown ED that is in the Castleknock LEA. The rest of the population (31,392) in this ED is in the Mulhuddart LEA. Returning the Castleknock LEA part of the ED to the Mulhuddart LEA would reunite Clonsilla Village and bring the population of Mulhuddart LEA to 54,202 (53,306 + 896).

There would now be a need to move the Blanchardstown - Corduff ED (population of 4,806) from the Mulhuddart LEA to the Castleknock LEA to address the variance issue. At present this ED bounds the Castleknock LEA on two sides. Using another of it’s boundaries – the Blanchardstown Road North, would extend the Castleknock LEA boundary north-westwards giving the area a more focal point with the Blanchardstown Shopping Centre area and Blanchardstown Village. This boundary would provide a continuous boundary for the Castleknock LEA boundary along the Blanchardstown Road North & South.

The result of the proposed adjustments in the Blanchardstown - Blakestown ED and the Blanchardstown - Corduff ED are shown in the table below:

<i>Electoral Area</i>	<i>Population 2006</i>	<i>No. of Members</i>	<i>Population per Member</i>	<i>% Variances from Council average</i>
Castleknock	41,598	4	10,395	+3.95%
Mulhuddart	49,396	5	9,879	-1.21%

The proposed breakdown of each electoral area in EDs is shown below:

<b><u>Electoral Area</u></b>	<b><u>ED</u></b>		
Castleknock	008	BLANCHARDSTOWN-ABBOTSTOWN	4,122
	010	BLANCHARDSTOWN-COOLMINE	3,191
	011	BLANCHARDSTOWN-CORDUFF	4,806
	012	BLANCHARDSTOWN-DELWOOD	4,955
	014	BLANCHARDSTOWN-ROSELAWN	1,831
	016	CASTLEKNOCK-KNOCKMAROON	17,115
	017	CASTLEKNOCK-PARK	4,395
	027	LUCAN NORTH	1,163
			41,578
Mulhuddart	009	BLANCHARDSTOWN-BLAKESTOWN	32,288
	010	BLANCHARDSTOWN-COOLMINE	7,583
	013	BLANCHARDSTOWN-MULHUDDART	2,785
	015	BLANCHARDSTOWN-TYRRELSTOWN	1,559
	041	THE WARD	5,181
			49,396

This proposal would also provide a better social balance between the two electoral areas and would address the imbalances between the areas over the past number of years. The Mulhuddart LEA members deal with more issues associated with new housing developments, a younger population and a larger proportion of New Irish than members in the Castleknock LEA. Hence, the slight under representation (-1.21%) in the Mulhuddart LEA and the over representation (+3.95%) in the Castleknock LEA is justified. The proposed changes in the boundaries are illustrated in red on Map 2 attached to this submission.

### **Conclusion**

- It is proposed a reduction of two members, from 7 to 5, in a combined Howth and Malahide LEA.

**5 MEMBERS**

- It is proposed an increase of one member in either the Swords LEA or the Balbriggan LEA giving a combined total of 10 members for the area. It is also proposed that the EDs that are part of both the Swords LEA and the constituency of Dublin West are kept united in the Swords LEA.

**10 MEMBERS**

- It is proposed an increase of one member, from 4 to 5, in the Mulhuddart LEA with the Castleknock LEA retaining 4 members. Possible adjustments between these two electoral area boundaries are proposed in this submission.

**9 MEMBERS**

**Total: 24 MEMBERS**

Danny Reilly (Runai)

**Fianna Fail Dublin West Comhairle Dailcheantaire.**



Map 2

Mulhuddart LEA & Castleknock LEA

Approach C

