

Michael Burke  
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10<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

Mr. Martin Vaughan,  
Secretary,  
Electoral Areas Boundary Committee  
Room 203  
Dept of The Environment, Heritage & Local Government  
Customs House  
Dublin 1.

**Re: Electoral Areas - Submission**

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A Chara,

I wish to submit for your consideration the following submission, with regard to the **Ballinrobe Electoral Area:-**

- That Ballinrobe Electoral Area should be extended to a 4 seat county council area
- Until 1999 it was a 7 seater,( included within the Claremorris to Ballyhaunis boundaries) - but during that period the area remained stagnant. Since the changes in 1999, bring it to a 3 seater, the town has benefited greatly from that reform
- The present increased population, expansion in housing & improved infrastructure would be best served by Ballinrobe having 4 representatives to serve its community and to deal with operational matters within the area.
- Huge investment regarding county council services is already underway in Ballinrobe, with new council offices under construction - and by having 4 local representative to compliment the working of this office would not only best serve the area, but promote positively the image of the county council.
- The extention of the boundaries, so as to include Tourmakeady/Finney and part of Castlebar & Claremorris within the Ballinrobe Electoral Area would make up the 10% variance of population required for changing from a 3 to a 4 seater - but it should be noted that these areas ie: Tourmakeady & Finney are already served by the local county council office in Ballinrobe BUT NOT by the local representatives of Ballinrobe. The areas mentioned are a natural hinterland of

Ballinrobe, just like Cong, Cross, The Neale & Kilmaine are - and therefore would be best represented by being included within the Ballinrobe Electoral Area Boundary

- Ballinrobe & District does not enjoy the representation afforded to other areas in the county ie: Castlebar, Ballina, Westport as an example - because Ballinrobe does not have any Town Councillor, T.D., or Senator and by making Ballinrobe a 4 seater it would in some way go to addressing the inbalance with the representation for Ballinrobe
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- *Signed*

MICHAEL BURKE, Businessman  
Convent Road, Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo