

The following is a submission to the Electoral Area Committee from Comhairle Ceantair Lugháí Shinn Féin

Current situation in County Council

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| Dundalk Carlingford | 6 seats |
| Dundalk South | 6 seats |
| Ardee | 5 seats |
| Drogheda West | 4 seats |
| Drogheda East | 5 seats |

Drogheda Area

There is an argument that the southern end of the county should have 10 seats and not 9. At the minute, Drogheda East is the natural candidate to go up to 6. However, would this leave Drogheda West with 4 seats to a neighboring 6.

Propose: Drogheda West to gain Collon (1380 on register) from Ardee and some urban area from Drogheda East along with part of Mullary. This will reduce the population in Drogheda East, increase the pop in Drogheda West, bring them closer to one another, and bring the 2 Drogheda areas to 5 and 5 = 10. Adding the new areas to Drogheda West will improve the ratio in that area and include a rural element to the area.

Dundalk Area

Dundalk Carlingford is well represented with 6. Dundalk will see heavy development and population growth in the near future. Therefore, reducing the total number of seats in Dundalk from 12 would only create an anomaly very soon. 12 seats in DLK areas seems high to the 10 in Drogheda, but the Louth -Culloville - Greenore hinterland is very expansive.

Propose; Dundalk/Carl to gain part of Castlerring (Knockbridge has 935 voters). Dundalk South will see massive growth in Haggardstown. So it is OK to take the above areas off it. In order to maintain some mix of urban/rural in each area, we should propose to put Louth (1308) and Killany (683) into Dundalk South. We propose that both Dundalk areas to remain on 6 seats.

Ardee Area

Ardee/ Mid Louth. The above proposals would take 3,400 voters out of the Ardee electoral area. This area will see less growth than all the other 4 areas. Therefore we are proposing to take a seat off Ardee area to compensate for the extra seat in Drogheda West.

In Summary:

| | | | |
|--------------|---|-------|-----------------|
| Dundalk/Carl | ... gain Catleryn plus urban | | remain 6 seats |
| Dundalk Sth | ... lose above, gain Louth Killany | | remain 6 seats |
| Ardee | ... lose Louth/Killany/Collon | | drop to 4 seats |
| Drogheda W | ... gain Collon, Mullary, some urban area | | increase to 5 |
| Drogheda E | ... lose Mullary, some urban area | | remain at 5 |

Total of seats remains the same.

Electoral areas remain as natural community focus.

Future population trends taken into account, hopefully these changes would keep us in the +/- bracket for some time.

We in Sinn Féin believe it is important to have a mix of Rural/Urban in each electoral area. This lends itself to balanced representation and understanding amongst elected reps of rural and urban issues.

Dundalk Town Council

In respect of this Council, we propose that DTC remain as 3 x 4 seat constituencies. This gives balanced representation to all voters in the urban area.

Drogheda Town Council

Currently this is a 1 x 6 seater and 2 x 3 seaters. In respect of this Council, we propose a new configuration 3 x 4 seat constituencies similar to the Dundalk model. This gives balanced representation to all voters in the urban area.