



7, Stenson Close,
Thomondgate,
Limerick City.

5th March 2008

**Limerick Sinn Féin Submission to the Electoral Areas
Committee**

Secretary,
Dublin and Cities Electoral Area Boundary Committee,
Room 2.03,
Custom House,
Dublin 1

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Please find enclosed the Limerick City Sinn Féin submission to the
Dublin and Cities Electoral Area Boundary Committee.

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Submission to Electoral Areas Committee from Limerick City Sinn Féin

1. Introduction

In considering changes to local government boundaries in Limerick City due attention must be given to the recent transfer of territory from Limerick County Council on the north side of the city. This change, which occurred on March 1st 2008, involved a shift of more than 7,000 people into the City Council area.

The commission should also be careful to ensure that electoral areas are not created that have a significant imbalance between well off and less well off areas.

John Fitzgerald in his report dealing with disadvantaged areas in Limerick clearly saw the damage done when 3 parts of Moyross namely Delmege Park, Creavel Park and Pineview Gardens was left without any effective local representation. This is a point that was at the core of the Fitzgerald Report. It is essential that this mistake is not be repeated.

2. North side of Limerick City

For local election purposes this area is known as Limerick City Electoral Area No. 1. Currently it consists of areas as diverse as the affluent Ennis Road/North Circular Road and the predominantly working class areas of Moyross, Ballynanty, Kileely and Thomondgate (All these areas **Moyross (Corpus Christi Parish) Ballynanty (St Munchin's Parish) and Kileely /Thomondgate (St Munchins Parish)** are designated under the government RAPID's programme and make up the Northside RAPID area – see Note 1). With the recent boundary change most of the areas (such as Caherdavin) that have been added to the city would be generally considered to be in the well off bracket.

While it is recognised that the commission has been instructed to avoid increasing the number of councillors on any local authority, Sinn Féin believes that an exception should be made in Limerick City due to the unique situation created by the boundary extension. In order to make allowances for the new area within the city and ensure that the Limerick Northside RAPID area is not split between electoral areas - as it was in the past with disastrous consequences - we are of the firm view that a single six seat electoral area should be created on the north side of the city. If needs be the extra seat can be created by transferring a seat from Limerick County Council; this makes sense as the outgoing County Councillors who reside in the former county area will in all likelihood be seeking election to Limerick City Council in 2009.

3. South side of Limerick City

Previously in the course of electoral boundary reviews there has always been the temptation to split up the naturally contiguous and cohesive areas of Killalee and Garryowen and place them in different electoral areas. We believe this to be detrimental to the area. Sinn Féin would suggest that in relation to these areas the current situation remain and that they be left within the same electoral area. We are also of the opinion that if possible the Southside Regeneration area (See Note 2) be contained within a single electoral area. This would mirror the situation that pertains in relation to the Northside Regeneration area and would also be of assistance in ensuring the overall success of the regeneration programme. To facilitate this we would recommend that the existing Electoral Areas 2, 3 and 4 should be replaced by two new six seat electoral areas to cover the south side of the city.

4. Summary of Recommendations

- 1. That an extra seat be created on the North side of Limerick City by transferring a seat from Limerick County Council.*
- 2. That the following areas a) the Northside RAPID area, b) the Southside Regeneration area and c) the Garryowen/Killalee not be divided and they remain cohesive geographical entities within their respective electoral areas.*
- 3. That the existing four electoral areas be replaced by three six-seat areas.*

5. Appendices

Note 1:

The Northside RAPID area consists of parts of two parishes and three distinct communities: Moyross (Corpus Christi Parish), Ballynanty (St Munchin's Parish) and Kileely /Thomondgate (St Munchins Parish). For electoral purposes Kileely/ Thomondgate comprises the District Electoral Divisions (DEDs) of Kileely 'A' and Kileely 'B'. Moyross and Ballynanty make up the Ballynanty DED. Some parts of the RAPID community of Moyross were (until March 1st 2008) located outside the City boundary: Creavel Park, Delmage Park and Pineveiw Gardens are in the Limerick North Rural DED, although very much part of the local authority estate of Moyross.

Note 2:

Southside Regeneration area is comprised of O'Malley Park, Keyes Park, Kincora Park, Carew Park and Ballinacurra Weston.