

Fingal

Population and membership

The population of Fingal increased substantially from 167,683 in 1996 to 239,992 in 2006 (a gain of 72,309 or 43.13%). However, this increase has not been evenly spread throughout the county. Exceptional population growth occurred in the electoral areas of Mulhuddart (+84.26%) and Swords (+64.89%). The growth in the electoral areas of Balbriggan (+47.93%) and Castleknock (+40.76%) is in line with the average for the county. More modest growth occurred in Malahide electoral area (+11.33%) while the population of Howth electoral area fell from 22,257 to 20,052 (-9.91%).

The present population and electoral area arrangements for Fingal are as follows:

	Population	Number of members	Population per member	% variation from the county average
Fingal	239,992	24	10,000	
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

Four of the electoral areas, Howth, Malahide, Mulhuddart and Swords have variations outside of the + or -10% range.

Analysis

The North Road (N2) acts as an east/west divide in the county and the Blanchardstown area (incorporating the existing Castleknock and Mulhuddart electoral areas) provides the urban focus for the area south-west of that road. The main focal point to the north-east of the road is Swords. To the north of the county, Balbriggan is another centre with significant potential for development. There are four Dáil constituencies in Fingal, i.e. Dublin North-East, Dublin North-West, Dublin West and Dublin North. The Report of the Constituency Commission recommended the

transfer of certain areas in the vicinity of Swords and Dublin Airport to Dublin West constituency, and the transfer of certain areas in the vicinity of Balgriffin and Portmarnock to Dublin North-East constituency. With these changes, Swords electoral area now contains all four constituencies. Accordingly, the Committee considers that full alignment between the boundaries of electoral areas and Dáil constituencies would not be in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

Recommendations

The Committee considered it appropriate to retain the North Road as an east/west divide in the county.

The Committee considers that the population in the Mulhuddart electoral area warrants an increase of one member, thereby bringing its membership to five. The Committee also considered it appropriate that the electoral divisions of Lucan North and Blanchardstown-Blakestown (part of) be transferred to Mulhuddart electoral area. Mulhuddart electoral area thus extended would have a total population of 47,782, which with five members would have a variation from the average population per member in the county of -4.43%.

The Committee recommends that part of the electoral division of Blanchardstown-Coolmine be transferred to Castleknock electoral area. With an increased population of 43,192 and a membership of four, Castleknock electoral area would have a variation from the county average population per member of 7.98%.

To the east of the North Road, the four existing electoral areas (Swords, Howth, Malahide and Balbriggan) have a combined total of sixteen members. However, a combined membership of fifteen between the four areas is now more appropriate. In view of the importance of Swords as the administrative capital of the county, the Committee recommends that Swords electoral area retains its five members. However, the Committee also considers it appropriate to recommend a transfer of part of the electoral division of Lusk to Balbriggan electoral area. As a result, Swords electoral area would have a decreased population of 51,803, which with five members would create a variation from the average population per member in the county of +3.61%.

The Committee recommends that Balbriggan electoral area, with the part of the electoral division of Lusk transferred from Swords electoral area, be assigned five members, i.e. an increase of one member. With a population of 47,411, Balbriggan would have a variation from the county average population per member of -5.17%.

In view of the decline in population that they have experienced, the Committee recommends that the electoral areas of Howth and Malahide be combined and be assigned a membership of five. With a population of 49,804, Howth-Malahide electoral area would have a variation from the average population per member in the county of -0.39%.

A summary of the recommended electoral areas is set out below and a formal specification of those areas is contained in Appendix I. The boundaries of the electoral areas are also illustrated in Map B at the back of the report.

	Population	Number of members	Population per member	% variation from the county average
Fingal	239,992	24	10,000	
Balbriggan	47,411	5	9,482	-5.17
Castleknock	43,192	4	10,798	7.98
Howth-Malahide	49,804	5	9,961	-0.39
Mulhuddart	47,782	5	9,556	-4.43
Swords	51,803	5	10,361	3.61

Fingal

- Local Electoral Area Boundary
- Electoral Division Boundary



Galway City

Population and membership

The population of Galway City increased from 57,241 in 1996 to 72,414 in 2006 (+26.51%). Increases in population ahead of the city average occurred in two of the three local electoral areas; the population of Galway No. 1 increased from 26,197 to 35,343 (+34.92%) during the ten-year period, while the population of Galway No. 3 increased from 15,579 to 22,023 (+41.37%) during the same period. In contrast to these increases, the population in Galway No. 2 electoral area decreased from 15,465 in 1996 to 15,048 in 2006 (-2.70%).

The present population and electoral area arrangements for Galway City are as follows:

	Population	Number of members	Population per member	% variation from the city average
Galway City	72,414	15	4,828	
Galway No. 1	35,343	7	5,049	4.59
Galway No. 2	15,048	4	3,762	-22.07
Galway No. 3	22,023	4	5,506	14.05

Two electoral areas (Galway No. 2 and Galway No. 3) have variations outside of the + or -10% range.

Analysis

As present, Galway No. 2 electoral area has a population that would justify just three members, based on the average population per member in the city. On the other hand, a membership of five would be more appropriate to the current population in Galway No. 3 electoral area.

The major growth areas in the city are Knocknacarra in Galway No. 3 electoral area and Ballinfoyle/Castlegar and Doughiska/Roscam in Galway No. 1 electoral area.

As the entire area of Galway City lies within Galway West Dáil constituency, the issue of alignment between the boundaries of electoral areas and the Dáil constituency is assured.

Recommendations

The Committee considers that the present three electoral area structure should be maintained, but recommends changes in the membership and boundaries of those areas.

The Committee recommends that Galway No. 3 electoral area be extended to include Taylors Hill electoral division. The resulting enlarged population of 24,736 would support an increased membership of five, which would give the area a variation from the population per member for the city of 2.48%.

The Committee considers it appropriate that Galway No. 2 electoral area should be enlarged to enable it to support a membership of four. Accordingly, it recommends that the electoral divisions of Eyre Square and St Nicholas be included in that electoral area. That would give Galway No. 2 electoral area an increased population of 19,117, which with four members would have a variation from the average population per member of -1%.

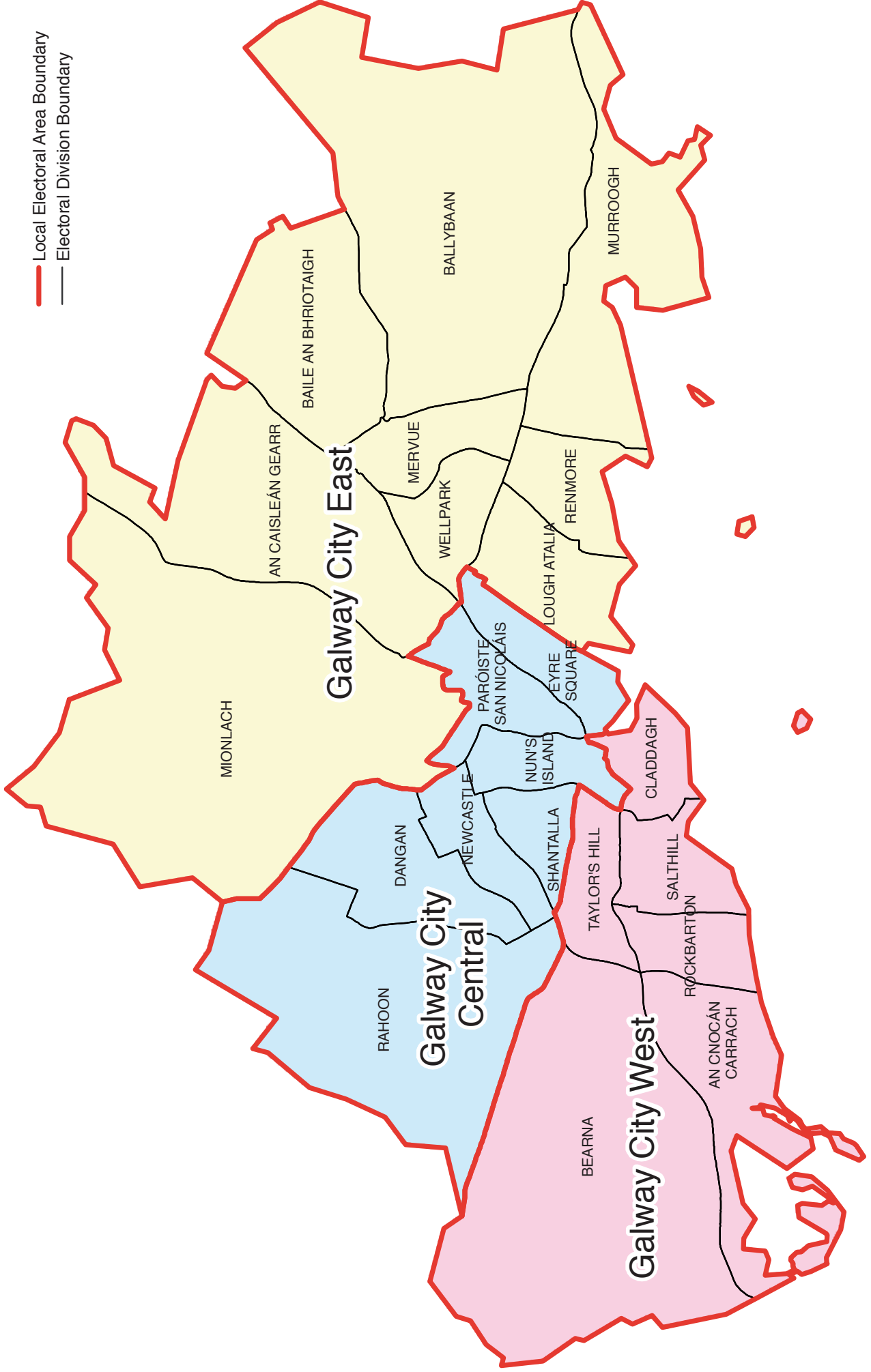
With the transfer of the electoral divisions of Eyre Square and St Nicholas to Galway No. 2 electoral area, Galway No. 1 electoral area would have a population of 28,561. The Committee considers that this area should have a membership of six, giving a variation from the population per member for the city of -1.40%.

Finally, the Committee recommends that the electoral areas be renamed Galway City East (from Galway No. 1 at present), Galway City Central (from Galway No. 2) and Galway City West (from Galway No. 3).

A summary of the recommended electoral areas is set out below and a formal specification of those areas is contained in Appendix I.

	Population	Number of members	Population per member	% variation from the city average
Galway City	72,414	15	4,828	
Galway City Central	19,117	4	4,779	-1.01
Galway City East	28,561	6	4,760	-1.40
Galway City West	24,736	5	4,947	2.48

Galway City



Limerick City

Population and membership

The population of Limerick City recorded marginal growth between 1996 and 2006, increasing from 52,039 by just 500 (0.96%) to 52,539. There were reductions in population in two of the four electoral areas; Limerick No. 1 (-12.74%) and Limerick No. 3 (-12.58%). In contrast, there were increases in population in Limerick No. 2 (+13.45%) and in Limerick No. 4 (+21.09%).

In March 2008, an order of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government became effective transferring Limerick North Rural electoral division (population 7,251) from Limerick County to Limerick City. The added area is contiguous to Limerick No. 1 electoral area. The extension of the city boundary increased the local authority population per member from 3,091 to 3,517 and gives rise to the following revised population and electoral area arrangements for the Limerick City, assuming the incorporation of the newly added area to the Limerick No. 1 electoral area:

	Population	Number of members	Population per member	% variation from the city average
Limerick City	59,790	17	3,517	
Limerick No. 1	21,020	5	4,204	19.53
Limerick No. 2	13,217	4	3,304	-6.05
Limerick No. 3	11,026	4	2,757	-21.62
Limerick No. 4	14,527	4	3,632	3.26

Therefore, two of the electoral areas have variations outside of the + or -10% range, with Limerick No. 1 electoral area having a population closer to that of a six-member area, and Limerick No. 3 having a population closer to that of a three-member area.

Analysis

The River Shannon forms a natural boundary between Limerick No. 1 electoral area and the rest of the city.

As the entire area of Limerick City lies within the Dáil constituency of Limerick City recommended in the Report of the Constituency Commission, the issue of alignment

between the local electoral areas and Dáil boundaries is assured. The Committee took note of the areas covered by the Limerick Northside and Limerick Southside Regeneration Agencies. The work of both agencies involves a number of regeneration committees, the membership of which includes elected members from the respective electoral areas. Areas being regenerated are contained in each of the four electoral areas.

Recommendations

The Committee's recommendation is to merge two of the existing electoral areas, thereby reducing the number of electoral areas from four to three.

In view of the effective increase in population in Limerick No. 1 electoral area (as a result of the extension of the boundary of the city), the Committee considers it appropriate that the number of members for that area be increased by one. With a population of 21,020 and a membership of six, the area would have a variation from the population per member for the city of -0.39%.

The Committee also considers that no change should be made to the boundary or membership of Limerick No. 2 electoral area.

The Committee recommends that the electoral areas of Limerick No. 3 and Limerick No. 4 be merged and be assigned seven members. With a combined population of 25,553, this would give that new electoral area a variation from the population per member for the city of +3.79%. As the new electoral area encompasses all of the areas under the remit of Limerick Southside Regeneration Agency, it will maintain a coherent basis for interaction between members of the electoral area, the Agency and the City Council.

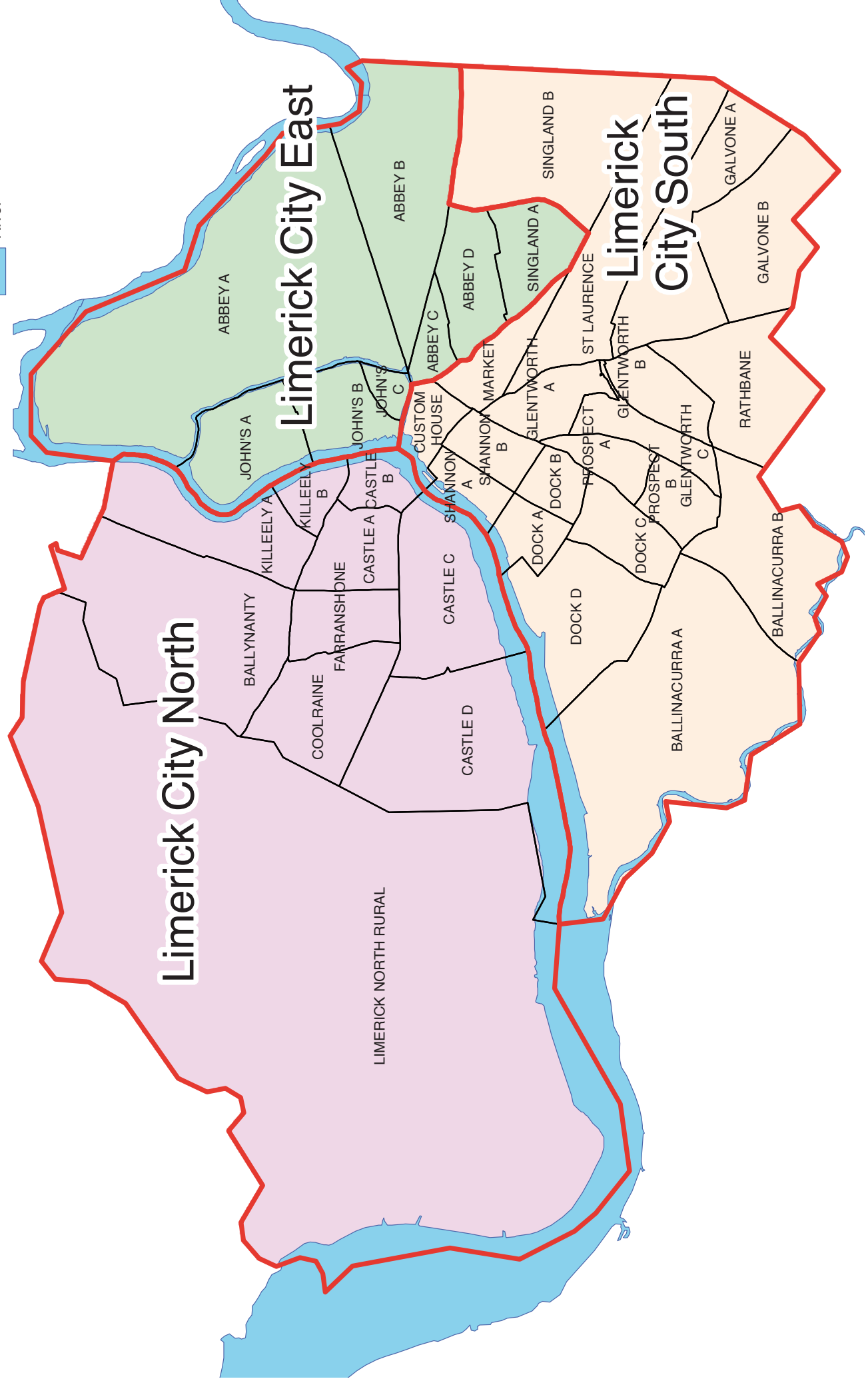
The Committee also recommends that the local electoral areas should be renamed as Limerick City North (from Limerick No. 1 at present), Limerick City East (from Limerick No. 2) and Limerick City South (the electoral area formed by the merger of Limerick No. 3 and Limerick No. 4).

A summary of the recommended electoral areas is set out below and a formal specification of those areas is contained in Appendix I.

	Population	Number of members	Population per member	% variation from the city average
Limerick City	59,790	17	3,517	
Limerick City East	13,217	4	3,304	-6.05
Limerick City North	21,020	6	3,503	-0.39
Limerick City South	25,553	7	3,650	3.79

Limerick City

- Local Electoral Area Boundary
- Electoral Division Boundary
- River



South Dublin

Population and membership

The population of South Dublin increased from 218,728 in 1996 to 246,935 in 2006 (a gain of 28,207 or 12.9%). The rate of population growth was exceptionally high in the electoral areas of Lucan (+50.09%) and Tallaght South (+40.49%). Clondalkin electoral area experienced a modest increase (+5.85%). In contrast, there were reductions in population in the electoral areas of Tallaght Central (-11.08%) and Terenure-Rathfarnham (-3.77%).

The present population and electoral area arrangements for South Dublin are as follows:

	Population	Number of members	Population per member	% variation from the county average
South Dublin	246,935	26	9,498	
Clondalkin	43,991	5	8,789	-7.36
Lucan	49,845	4	12,461	31.21
Tallaght Central	36,536	5	7,307	-23.06
Tallaght South	55,767	5	11,153	17.44
Terenure-Rathfarnham	60,173	7	8,685	-8.55

Three electoral areas (Lucan, Tallaght Central and Tallaght South) have variations outside of the + or –10% range.

Analysis

At present, the electoral areas of Lucan and Tallaght South have populations that could support one additional member each, while the population of Tallaght Central would indicate a membership of four, i.e. a reduction of one member.

The County Development Plan identifies the county town at Tallaght, with town centres at Clondalkin and Liffey Valley. The major retail centres in the county are in Tallaght and Liffey Valley, while Adamstown and Clonburris, which are in Lucan and Clondalkin electoral areas, have the biggest potential for population growth in the county.

There are four Dáil constituencies in the county, i.e. Dublin Mid-West, Dublin South-West, Dublin South and Dublin South-Central. Substantial non-alignment between the boundaries of these constituencies and the electoral areas exists at present. Tallaght South electoral area is divided between three constituencies, i.e. Dublin Mid-West, Dublin South-West and Dublin South, while Terenure-Rathfarnham electoral area includes parts of Dublin South-West, Dublin South and Dublin South-Central constituencies.

Recommendations

The Committee's recommendation is to maintain the present five electoral area structure. However, given the variations that exist between the populations per member in the electoral areas and the extent of non-alignment between the boundaries of those areas and Dáil constituencies, substantial changes in electoral area boundaries and memberships are required.

The Committee recommends that Lucan electoral area be assigned one additional member. It also recommends that part of the electoral division of Palmerston West close to Liffey Valley and comprising a population of 2,608 be transferred to the neighbouring electoral area of Clondalkin. With a reduced population of 47,237 and five members, Lucan electoral area would have a variation from the population per member for the county of -0.53%.

To improve the alignment between Clondalkin electoral area and Dáil constituency boundaries, the Committee considers that the electoral divisions of Rathcoole and Saggart should be transferred from Tallaght South to Clondalkin electoral area. Together with the area close to Liffey Valley that is being transferred from Lucan electoral area, the population of Clondalkin electoral area would increase to 53,173. A membership of six would be appropriate to this population, giving a variation from the county average population per member of -6.69%.

With a view to further improving the alignment with between the boundaries of electoral areas and Dáil constituencies, the Committee recommends that the part of Terenure-Rathfarnham electoral area that lies within Dublin South Dáil constituency should constitute a separate electoral area. This new electoral area, to be known as Rathfarnham, would have a population of 38,832 and a membership of four, thereby giving it a variation from the county average population per member of 2.22%.

The Committee considers that the remainder of the present Terenure-Rathfarnham electoral area should be amalgamated with the electoral divisions in the present Tallaght Central electoral area that lie to the north of the N81 roadway through Tallaght and with Tallaght-Fettercairn electoral division (at present part of Tallaght South electoral area). This area, to be known as Tallaght Central electoral area, would have a population of 59,306 and a membership of six, thereby creating a variation from the county average population per member of 4.07%.

In view of the above recommendations, the Tallaght South electoral area would henceforth not include the electoral divisions of Rathcoole and Saggart (which are being transferred to Clondalkin electoral area), Tallaght-Fettercairn electoral division (which is to be part of Tallaght Central electoral area) and parts of three electoral divisions (Edmondstown, Firhouse-Ballycullen and Firhouse-Knocklyon) that will transfer to the new Rathfarnham electoral area. The Committee considers that Tallaght South electoral area should include the electoral divisions that lie to the south of the N81 roadway that are currently part of Tallaght Central electoral area. The population of Tallaght South would therefore become 48,387. With a membership of five, the electoral area would have a variation of 1.89% from the county's average population per member.

A summary of the recommended electoral areas is set out below and a formal specification of those areas is contained in Appendix I. The boundaries of the electoral areas are also illustrated in Map B at the back of the report.

	Population	Number of members	Population per member	% variation from the county average
South Dublin	246,935	26	9,498	
Clondalkin	53,173	6	8,862	-6.69
Lucan	47,237	5	9,447	-0.53
Rathfarnham	38,832	4	9,708	2.22
Tallaght Central	59,306	6	9,884	4.07
Tallaght South	48,387	5	9,677	1.89

Waterford City

Population and membership

The population of Waterford City increased from 42,540 in 1996 to 45,748 in 2006 (a gain of 3,208 or 7.5%). However, this rate of population change has not occurred evenly across the city. Exceptional growth (from 14,916 to 19,673 – an increase of 4,757 or 31.9%) was experienced in Waterford No. 2 electoral area. In contrast, the population declined in the other two electoral areas: in Waterford No. 1 by 6.24% and in Waterford No. 3 by 5.18%.

The present population and arrangement of electoral areas for Waterford City are as follows:

	Population	Number of members	Population per member	% variation from the city average
Waterford City	45,748	15	3,050	
Waterford No. 1	10,486	4	2,622	-14.05
Waterford No. 2	19,673	5	3,935	29.01
Waterford No. 3	15,589	6	2,598	-14.81

All three electoral areas have variations outside of the + or –10% range.

Analysis

At present, Waterford No. 2 electoral area has a population closer to that of a six-member area, while Waterford No. 3 area has a population closer to that of a five-member area.

As the entire area of Waterford City lies within the Dáil constituency of Waterford, alignment between the electoral areas and Dáil constituency boundaries is assured.

Recommendations

The Committee's recommendation is to maintain the present three electoral area structure with a minimal change in boundaries and a change in membership in two of the areas.

In view of the decline in population in Waterford No. 3 electoral area, the Committee considers it appropriate that the membership of this area be reduced by one. The population of 15,589 and a membership of 5 would give it a variation from the average population per member for the city of 2.23%.

The Committee recommends that three electoral divisions (i.e. Centre A, Custom House A and Custom House B) be moved from Waterford No. 2 electoral area to Waterford No. 1 area. The resulting increased population of 11,823 in Waterford No. 1 area would, with its four members, give that area a variation from the city average population per member of -3.09%.

With the transfer from it of the three electoral divisions, Waterford No. 2 electoral area would have a reduced population of 18,336, which is sufficient to justify a membership of six. This would give the electoral area a variation from the average population per member of 0.20%.

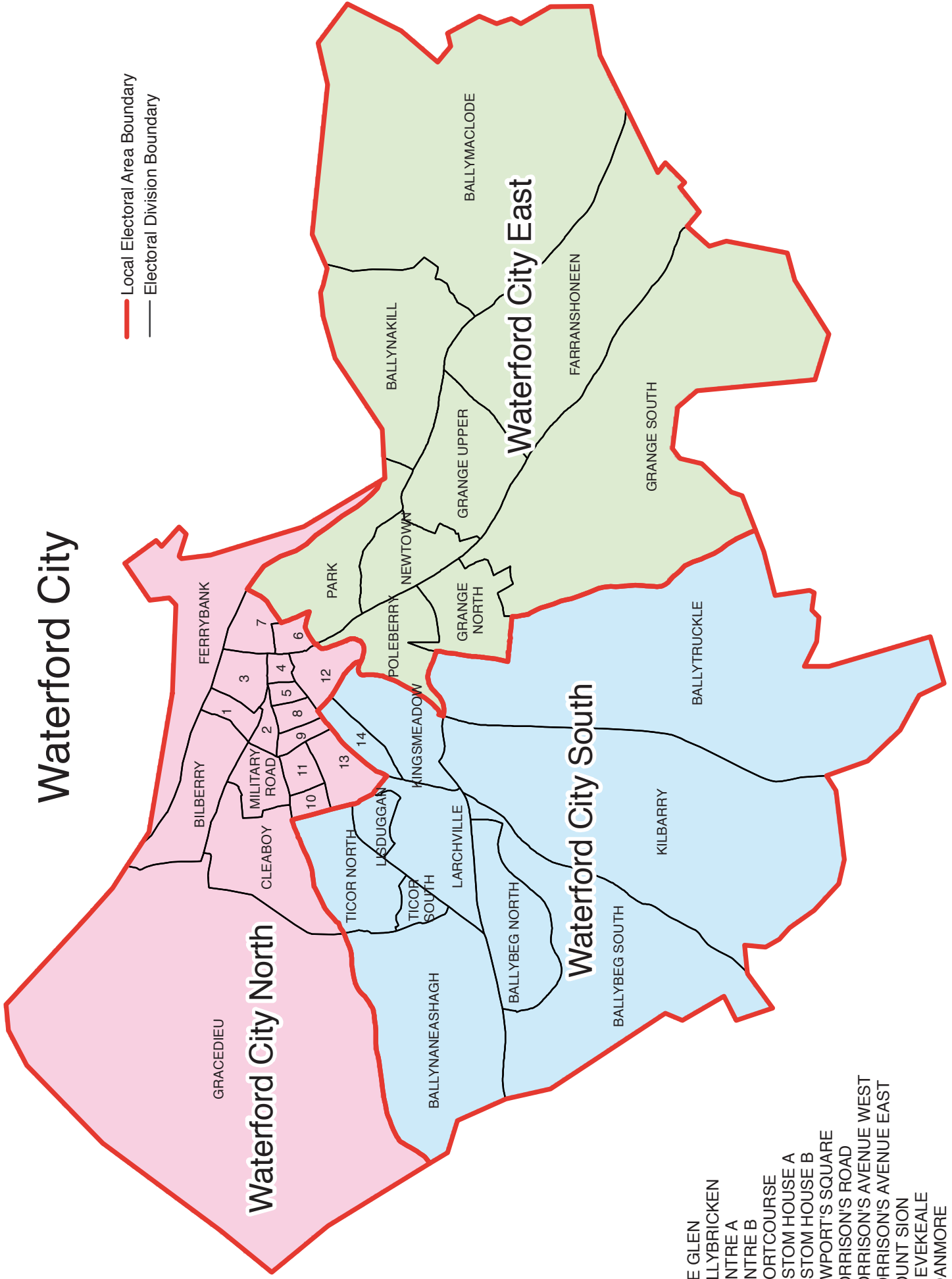
The Committee also recommends that the local electoral areas should be renamed as Waterford City North (from Waterford No. 1 at present), Waterford City South (from Waterford No. 3) and Waterford City East (from Waterford No. 2).

A summary of the recommended electoral areas is set out below and a formal specification of those areas is contained in Appendix I.

	Population	Number of members	Population per member	% variation from the city average
Waterford City	45,748	15	3,050	
Waterford City East	18,336	6	3,056	0.20
Waterford City North	11,823	4	2,956	-3.09
Waterford City South	15,589	5	3,118	2.23

Waterford City

- Local Electoral Area Boundary
- Electoral Division Boundary



Waterford City North

Waterford City South

Waterford City East

- 1 THE GLEN
- 2 BALLYBRICKEN
- 3 CENTRE A
- 4 CENTRE B
- 5 SHORTCOURSE
- 6 CUSTOM HOUSE A
- 7 CUSTOM HOUSE B
- 8 NEWPORT'S SQUARE
- 9 MORRISON'S ROAD
- 10 MORRISON'S AVENUE WEST
- 11 MORRISON'S AVENUE EAST
- 12 MOUNT SION
- 13 SLIEVEKEALE
- 14 ROANMORE