

## 1. Terms of reference, policy context and summary of recommendations

### 1.1. Terms of reference

The Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government appointed the Committee on 15 November 2012 to review and make recommendations on the division of each council area, other than Cork City, into local electoral areas, and to make recommendations on the number of members of each council to be assigned to each local electoral area.

The Committee's terms of reference were as follows:

1. To review and make recommendations on the division of each council area, other than Cork City, into local electoral areas, and to make recommendations on the number of members of each council to be assigned to each local electoral area.
2. The Committee should have regard to the population as ascertained at census 2011, to the Government's *Action Programme for Effective Local Government* and to the decision of Government to merge the councils of Limerick City and Limerick County, North Tipperary and South Tipperary, Waterford City and Waterford County and make its recommendations accordingly.
3. (a) The recommendations on local electoral areas will provide the basis for the configuration of the municipal districts to be established in counties outside Dublin. Local electoral areas should be formulated to facilitate this and the Committee should have regard to the Government's *Action Programme for Effective Local Government* in doing this.  
(b) Generally, each municipal district will consist of a single electoral area. However in some particular circumstances, for example for reasons such as geographic coherence, population, or other factors related to the configuration of municipal districts such as the definition of 'metropolitan' municipal districts within the unified authorities in Limerick and Waterford, a district may comprise more than one local electoral area.
4. Local electoral areas should be designed, as far as possible, around the existing boroughs and other municipal towns and large urban centres which do not currently enjoy municipal status. Local electoral areas should generally be named accordingly.
5. In recommending changes to local electoral areas, the Committee should take due account of local and community identities and linkages and, as far as practicable, of existing local authority electoral and administrative areas.
6. The number of councillors representing a local electoral area should typically be 7 and not more than 10 or less than 6.

7. Within any city or county the variance in representation of each local electoral area from the average for the city or county should, as far as practicable, be within a range of +/- 10%.
8. The number of members shall be fixed at 63 in Dublin City Council. The number of members shall be fixed at 55 in Cork County Council.
9. Subject to a minimum total of 18 and a maximum total of 40 members of every other council-
  - there should be one member for every 4,830 population in each council area;
  - in addition, and subject to a maximum of four additional members per council except where councils are merging:
    - in counties where there are existing town councils there should be four additional members per Borough Council and one additional member per Town Council, and
    - in cases where the city and county councils are being merged, i.e. Limerick and Waterford, there should be five additional members.

## 1.2. Policy context

The work of the Committee took place in the context of major changes being advanced in relation to local government in Ireland. These are set out in the Government policy document *'Putting People First - Action Programme for Effective Local Government'*, published on 16 October 2012.

When announcing the review of the local electoral area boundaries, the Minister indicated that the establishment of the Committee would be an important step in implementing the *Action Programme*<sup>1</sup>.

Key features of the new local government arrangements, as described in the summary of the *Action Programme*, are:

- “• *There will be a rationalised organisation integrating town and county governance with a reduction of some 500 councillors involving the replacement of 114 local authorities with 31 integrated authorities organised on the basis of municipal districts within counties.*
- *Municipal districts will cover each entire county, drawn as far as possible around existing town authorities and larger non-municipal towns and their hinterlands.*

---

<sup>1</sup> 'Hogan establishes Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee', Press Release of 15<sup>th</sup> November 2012, <http://www.environ.ie/en/LocalGovernment/Voting/News/MainBody,31550,en.htm>

- *Councillors will be elected simultaneously to both municipal district and county council, with members in common instead of the current separate town and county membership whereby municipal towns have double representation.*
- *The boundaries of the municipal districts will be drawn up on the basis of a review by an independent statutory committee based on relevant parameters including the position of towns. Representational disparity between and within counties will significantly reduce.*
- *The total number of seats nationally will not exceed 950, compared with 883 county and city council and 744 town council seats currently.*
- *There will be a single county-wide administrative/operational structure but the elected members will decide relevant matters at district and county levels, respectively, with no duplication or overlapping of functions.*
- *The elected members will perform a substantial range of “reserved” functions at district level on a fully devolved basis, including: a local policy/regulatory role in areas such as planning, roads, traffic, housing, environmental services, recreation, amenity and community development; formal civic functions; a general representational and oversight role; and citizen/community engagement. Definitive allocation of functions will be decided in the context of legislation, but indicative proposals are set out in the Action Programme.*
- *The division of functions between county and district levels will be decided by what is most relevant to each level. Local matters will be dealt with at district level while those of wider strategic application will be dealt with at county level. For example, the members will adopt rates and development plans at county level, but local area plans and bye-laws at district level.*
- *There will be requirements such as consistency with county policy, but also power to delegate additional functions to district level.*
- *Detailed financial arrangements and procedures between district and county levels will be developed in the context of relevant legislation and new local government funding arrangements.”<sup>2</sup>*

The *Action Programme* provides for account to be taken of the fact that towns will no longer have separate representation, and notes that:

*“since the proposed municipalities will replace the town councils, the areas will be designed, as far as possible, around the existing municipal towns while also taking particular account of large urban centres which do not currently enjoy municipal status.”<sup>3</sup>*

### **1.3. Key aspects of the Committee’s role**

In carrying out its work, the Committee was required to have regard to the *Action Programme* and in particular the proposals for a new municipal district structure for local government in counties outside Dublin. The recommendations on local electoral areas are to provide the basis for the configuration of municipal districts.

---

<sup>2</sup>‘*Putting People First - Action Programme for Effective Local Government*’, page vii.  
<http://www.environ.ie/en/Publications/LocalGovernment/Administration/FileDownload,31309,en.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Paragraph 6.4.2.(c), page 59.

The review of local electoral area boundaries had a specific goal of improving balance and consistency in representational ratios, while taking particular account of factors such as the location of towns in the new municipal governance arrangements.

The terms of reference for the review provided for minimum levels of representation in lower population counties and cities.

The Committee was also required to have regard to the decision of Government to merge the councils of Limerick City and Limerick County, North Tipperary and South Tipperary and Waterford City and Waterford County.

#### **1.4. Total number of elected members**

The total number of elected members and the number of members within each county and city was determined in accordance with the Committee's terms of reference.

Paragraphs 8 and 9 of the terms of reference set out the methodology for determining the number of members in each council area. As a result, the recommended number of members of the thirty-one county and city councils combined is 949 and aligns with the *Action Programme for Effective Local Government*.

#### **1.5. Number of members for each local authority**

The terms of reference fixed the number of members for Dublin City Council at 63 and for Cork County Council at 55. Cork City Council with 31 members did not form part of the review.

The terms of reference provide that subject to a minimum total of 18 and a maximum total of 40 members of every other council-

- there should be one member for every 4,830 population in each council area;
- in addition, and subject to a maximum of four additional members per council except where councils are merging:
  - in counties where there are existing town councils there should be four additional members per Borough Council and one additional member per Town Council, and
  - in cases where the city and county councils are being merged, i.e. Limerick and Waterford, there should be five additional members.

#### **1.6. Applying the formula to determine the number of members**

The formula in the terms of reference to determine the numbers of members was applied as follows:

- In dividing the population of each relevant council area by 4,830 the standard statistical convention for rounding up or down to the nearest whole number was used. If the calculation yielded a figure for the number of members with a decimal number greater than or equal to 0.5, it was rounded up. In the event of a decimal number less than 0.5, rounding down to the nearest whole number was applied.
- After this calculation was done, the additional members to be allocated arising from the presence of a town, borough or city council were then added.

- The additional members added in respect of town and borough councils were included in the total number of members for the local authority as a whole.
- In any instance where this calculation yielded less than 18 members, the number of councillors was set at 18.
- In any instance where this calculation yielded more than 40, the number of councillors was set at 40.

Where the terms of reference provided for additional members to be allocated in respect of borough and town councils these were included in the overall number allocated for each council and not specifically allocated to the new local electoral area containing the town or borough. Recognition of the position of borough and town councils in the formation of local electoral areas is addressed separately in the terms of reference.

The Committee's recommendations are therefore based on the new number of members for each local authority, as prescribed by its terms of reference. The calculation to determine the actual numbers of members to be assigned to each county are set out in the respective chapters for each local authority.

Excluding Cork City Council which has 31 members and did not form part of the review, the Committee was mandated to make recommendations in respect of the local electoral area boundaries for 918 members in thirty local authorities, including the new merged councils for Limerick, Tipperary and Waterford.

#### **1.7. Number of members representing each local electoral area**

The following table shows the overall number of local electoral areas by size (i.e. 6 to 10 members) recommended by the Committee.

	<b>6 members</b>	<b>7 members</b>	<b>8 members</b>	<b>9 members</b>	<b>10 members</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Number of Local Electoral Areas</b>	66	23	23	13	6	<b>131</b>
<b>Total number of members</b>	396	161	184	117	60	<b>918</b>

The recommendations of the Committee give rise to a general upward change in the number of members per local electoral area.

The number of members to be assigned to individual local authorities and the number and size of the local electoral areas for each council is set out in the table overleaf.

Table: Recommended Local Electoral Areas by Size

Local Authority	Number of members	Number of local electoral areas by membership size					Total no. of local electoral areas
		6	7	8	9	10	
Carlow	18			1		1	2
Cavan	18	3					3
Clare	28	2		2			4
Cork County	55	5	1	1		1	8
Donegal	37	3			1	1	5
Dublin	63	4	2	2	1		9
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	40	3	2	1			6
Fingal	40		1	3	1		5
Galway City	18	3					3
Galway County	39	1	1	1	2		5
Kerry	33		1	1	2		4
Kildare	40	1	1		3		5
Kilkenny	24	4					4
Laois	19	2	1				3
Leitrim	18	3					3
Limerick	40	3	2	1			6
Longford	18	3					3
Louth	29	2	1			1	4
Mayo	30		2	2			4
Meath	40	2	4				6
Monaghan	18	3					3
Offaly	19	2	1				3
Roscommon	18	3					3
Sligo	18			1		1	2
South Dublin	40	4		2			6
Tipperary	40	1	1		3		5
Waterford	32	4		1			5
Westmeath	20	1	2				3
Wexford	34			3		1	4
Wicklow	32	4		1			5
<b>Total</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>131</b>
Cork City	31	<i>did not form part of the review</i>					
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>949</b>						

## County Kerry

### Overview of present position

The position at present is as follows:

Local Electoral Areas	Number of members	Town Council in Local Electoral Area
Dingle	3	
Killarney	7	Killarney T.C
Killorglin	5	
Listowel	5	Listowel T.C
Tralee	7	Tralee T.C
Total	27	

### Number of members and population variance

Based on the formula at paragraph 9 of the terms of reference of the Committee the new number of elected members to be assigned to Kerry County Council is set out in the table below.

2011 Population	145,502
1 member for every 4,830 of the population $145,502 / 4,830 = 30.12$	30
Additional members: 1 per town council, subject to a maximum of 4 (except in merging councils)	3
<b>New number of councillors (subject to a minimum of 18 and maximum of 40)</b>	<b>33</b>

Having regard to the requirement that the number of councillors representing a local electoral area should be not more than 10 or less than 6, the 33 members have to be divided amongst either 4 or 5 local electoral areas.

Based on the new number of councillors, the population per member in Kerry is 4,409. The terms of reference provide that "within any city or county the variance in representation of each local electoral area from the average for the city or county should, as far as practicable, be within a range of +/- 10%". For Kerry, this represents a range of 3,968 to 4,850.

### Recommendations

The Committee is recommending that there would be four local electoral areas on the basis that this configuration addresses the terms of reference in having regard to local and community identities and current electoral and administrative arrangements. Taking account of submissions received, a number of specific alterations to existing boundaries are also recommended.

The approach recommended by the Committee acknowledges the position of the three town councils of Tralee, Killarney and Listowel, but also has regard to the distinct community identities along the coastal peninsulas of south and west Kerry.

The Committee is recommending the creation of a new local electoral area for the western coastal areas to include the towns of Dingle – Daingean Uí Chúis, Killorglin, Caherciveen and Kenmare. This is to be titled South and West Kerry.

The Committee is recommending that the new Tralee local electoral area would include the electoral divisions of Baurtregaum, Knockglass, Kilgobban, Banna and Tubrid on the basis that they form part of the hinterland to the west and north of the town.

The proposed new Listowel local electoral area would include the electoral division of Abbeydorney.

The Committee further recommends that the proposed new Killarney local electoral area would include the electoral divisions Kilbonane and Lahard, having regard to considerations of local community identity.

The two most populous recommended local electoral areas are Tralee and South and West Kerry. There are allocated 9 members each. The local electoral areas of Killarney and Listowel are allocated 8 and 7 members respectively.

A summary of recommendations is contained in the table below:

<b>Local Electoral Areas</b>	<b>Number of members</b>	<b>Population 2011</b>	<b>Population per member</b>	<b>Percentage variance from county average + / - %</b>
<b>Killarney</b>	8	38,040	4,755	+7.8
<b>Listowel</b>	7	28,538	4,077	-7.5
<b>South and West Kerry</b>	9	38,873	4,319	-2.0
<b>Tralee</b>	9	40,051	4,450	+0.9
<b>Total</b>	33	145,502		

The following is a detailed description setting out the electoral divisions that comprise each recommended local electoral area:

#### Killarney

Aghadoe, Aglish, Ballyhar, Brewsterfield, Carker, Castleisland, Clydagh, Coolies, Coom, Cordal, Currans, Derreen, Doocarrig, Flesk, Headfort, Kilbonane, Kilcummin, Kilfelim, Killarney Rural, Killarney Urban, Killeentierna, Knocknahoe, Lahard, Millbrook, Molahiffe, Muckcross, Rathmore, Rockfield and Scartaglin.



### Listowel

Abbeydorney, Ardagh, Astee, Ballincloher, Ballyconry, Ballyduff, Ballyegan, Ballyheige, Ballyhorgan, Ballynorig, Beal, Carrig, Causeway, Cloontubbrid, Drommartin, Duagh, Ennismore, Gullane, Gunsborough, Kerryhead, Kilfeighny, Killahan, Killehenry, Killury, Kilmeany, Kiltomy, Leitrim, Lislughtin, Lisselton, Listowel Rural, Listowel Urban, Lixnaw, Moynsha, Newtownsandess, Rathea, Shronowen, Tarbert, Tarmon, Trienearagh and Urlee.

### South and West Kerry

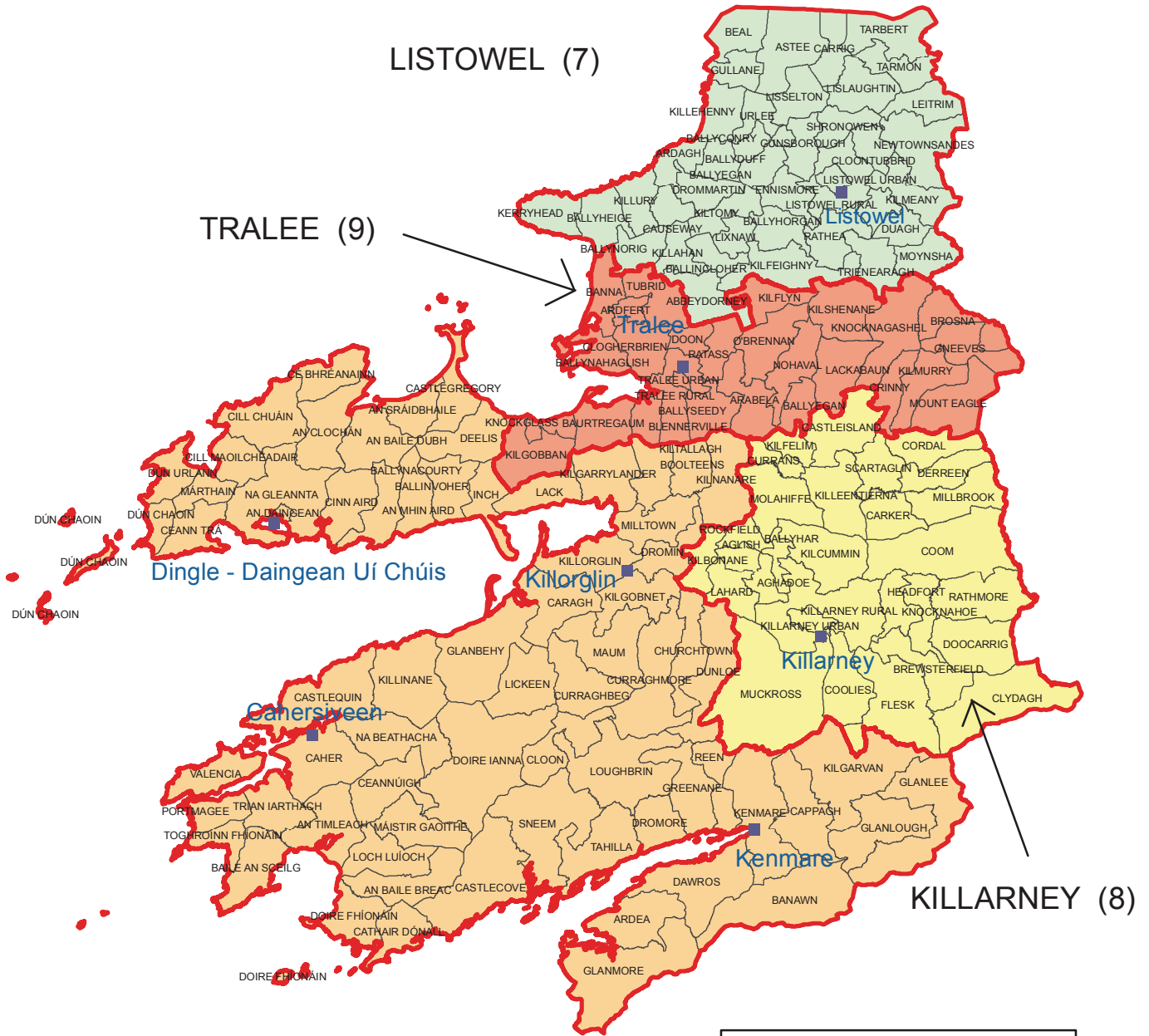
An Baile Breac, An Baile Dubh, An Clochán, An Daingean, An Mhin Aird, An Sráidbhaile, An tImleach, Ardea, Baile an Sceilg, Ballinvoher, Ballynacourty, Banawn, Boolteens, Caher, Cappagh, Caragh, Castlecove, Castlegregory, Castlequin, Cathair Dónall, Cé Bhréanainn, Ceann Trá, Ceannúigh, Churchtown, Cill Chuáin, Cill Maoilchéadair, Cinn Aird, Cloon, Curraghbeg, Curraghmore, Dawros, Deelis, Doire Fhíonáin, Doire Ianna, Dromin, Dromore, Dún Chaoin, Dún Urlann, Dunloe, Glanbehy, Glanlee, Glanlough, Glanmore, Greenane, Inch, Kenmare, Kilgarrylander, Kilgarvan, Kilgobnet, Killinane, Killorglin, Kilnanare, Kiltallagh, Lack, Lickeen, Loch Luíoch, Loughbrin, Máistir Gaoithe, Márthain, Maum, Milltown, Na Beathacha, Na Gleannta, Portmagee, Reen, Sneem, Tahilla, Toghroinn Fhíonáin, Trian Iarthach and Valencia.

### Tralee

Arabela, Ardfert, Ballyegan, Ballynahaglish, Ballyseedy, Banna, Baurtregaum, Blennerville, Brosna, Clogherbrien, Crinny, Doon, Gneeves, Kilflyn, Kilgobban, Kilmurry, Kilshenane, Knockglass, Knocknagashel, Lackabaun, Mount Eagle, Nohaval, O'Brennan, Ratass, Tralee Rural, Tralee Urban and Tubrid.

# Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee Report 2013

## County Kerry



SOUTH AND WEST KERRY (9)

Electoral Area	<span style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">▬</span>
Electoral Division	<span style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 50px; display: inline-block;"></span>
Recommended LEA Name and Number of Members:	
	Killarney - 8
	Listowel - 7
	South and West Kerry - 9
	Tralee - 9
ED Names:	BROSNA
Town Names:	<span style="color: blue; font-weight: bold;">■</span> Kenmare

