

To the Lord Mayor and  
members of Dublin City Council  
12<sup>th</sup> November 2018

## **Revised Area Committee Structure – Discussion Document for Elected Members**

As you are all aware new boundary provisions for the next Council Elections will be implemented from June 2019. The number of Local Electoral Areas (LEAs) in Dublin City will increase from 9 at present to 11 (Six on the north side and five on the south side). There will be no change in the number of elected members which will remain at 63.

The Local Electoral Areas will be smaller with a maximum of 7 members per LEA. The biggest changes in Boundaries refer to the amalgamation of Rathmines with Crumlin/Kimmage and the creation of a new LEA covering Whitehall/Artane, however no existing area is left fully unchanged.

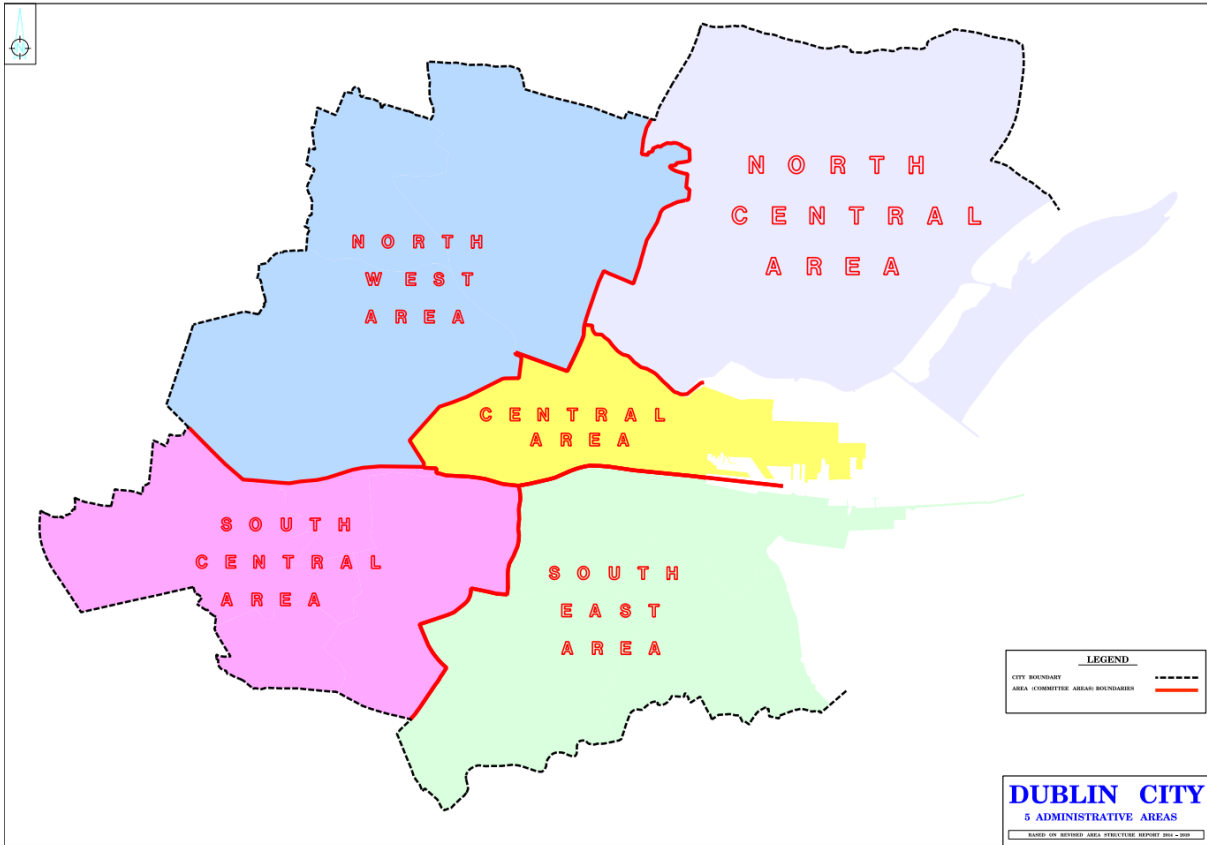
These changes have implications for our existing area committee boundaries that have been place for the last 10 years. They will also have implications for our existing area management structures, but this does give us a welcome opportunity to review re-refine and enhance those structures.

It is timely and necessary to review area management arrangements as well and take the opportunity to enhance them where possible. e.g. the role of area staff should be aligned as closely as possible with Local Electoral Area boundaries. However this report concentrates on the area committees and once these are agreed then we can focus on the staffing arrangements to support those structures.

It is essential in our view that all this is done and dusted well before the elections in May, and I recommend that we work hard to get agreement on the new boundaries and area committee structures before the end of the year if possible.

*The adoption of an area structure is a reserved function.*

I am setting out below details of the current structure and arrangements and I am also setting out a number of different options that could be put in place after the Local Elections in May 2019



Area	Existing Electoral Areas	Elected Members
<b>North -West</b>	1) Ballymun 2) Cabra/ Finglas	<b>14</b>
<b>Central</b>	3) North Inner City	<b>8</b>
<b>North Central</b>	4) Beaumont/Donaghmede 5) Clontarf	<b>15</b>
<b>South East</b>	6) Pembroke/South Dock 7) Rathgar/Rathmines	<b>14</b>
<b>South Central</b>	8) Crumlin/Kimmage 9) Ballyfermot Drimnagh	<b>12</b>

## New Local Electoral Areas:



Local Electoral Area	Elected Members
Artane/Whitehall	6
Clontarf	6
Donaghmede	5
Cabra- Glasnevin	7
Finglas – Ballymun	6
North Inner City	7
South West Inner City	5
Ballyfermot-Drimnagh	5
Kimmage-Rathmines	6
South East Inner City	5
Pembroke	5

### **Options for new Area Committee Structure:**

There are a number of options for the grouping of these LEA's and the creation of revised area committee structures and the most viable of these options in our view are outlined below, however Elected Members may put forward other options. It may be appropriate at this stage to look at the naming of Committee Areas depending on the configuration. The titles of Dublin North Central and Dublin South Central are not really relevant any longer. It should be noted that 53% of Elected Members will serve the north side, and 47% serving the south side.

#### **Option 1: Four Area Committees instead of 5**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Local Electoral Areas</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Members</b>	<b>Offices</b>
<b>North East</b>	Artane –Whitehall Clontarf Donaghmede	146,931	17	Bunratty Road Darndale
<b>North West &amp; Central</b>	Ballymun- Finglas Cabra -Glasnevin North Inner City	168,312	20	Ballymun Finglas Cabra Sean McDerm
<b>South East</b>	South East Inner City Pembroke Kimmage -Rathmines	141, 937	16	Crumlin Civic Offices
<b>South West</b>	Ballyfermot –Drimnagh South- West Inner City	88, 402	10	Eblana House Ballyfermot Crumlin

#### **Benefits**

- Best alignment with Dail Constituencies
- Two Areas north and South

#### **Drawbacks**

- Uneven distribution of Members.
- North West and Central very large and South West comparatively small

**Option 2: Four Area Committees instead of five including city centre area.**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Local Electoral Areas</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Members</b>	<b>Offices</b>
<b>North East</b>	Artane –Whitehall Clontarf Donaghmede	146,931	17	Bunratty Road Darndale
<b>North West</b>	Ballymun- Finglas Cabra -Glasnevin	113,652	13	Ballymun Finglas Cabra
<b>Inner City</b>	South-East Inner City South-West Inner City North Inner City	146, 259	17	Eblana House Sean McDermott ST Civic Office
<b>South</b>	Pembroke Kimmage-Rathmines Ballyfermot-Drimnagh	147, 402	16	Ballyfermot Crumlin

**Benefits**

- More even distribution of members
- Aligns all city centre LEAs allowing city centre issues to be dealt with at same area committee (Traffic, Docklands, Poolbeg, policing, transportation, cycleways, quays.
- Maintains Kimmage Rathmines links to neighbouring LEAs

**Disadvantages**

- The enhanced City Centre Area may be too complex for one area committee
- Greater changes on South Side than on Northside.

**Option 3: Five Area Committees, but combining City Centre SEIC and NEIC).**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Local Electoral Areas</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Members</b>	
<b>North East (Former North Central)</b>	Artane –Whitehall Clontarf Donaghmede	146,931	17	Bunratty Road Darndale
<b>North West</b>	Ballymun-Finglas Cabra-Glasnevin	113, 652	13	Ballymun Finglas Cabra
<b>(New )City Centre Area</b>	North Inner City South East Inner City	104, 215	12	Sean McDermott Street Civic Offices
<b>South East</b>	Pembroke Kimmage/Rathmines	101,334	11	Crumlin Civic Offices
<b>South West</b>	Ballyfermot- Drimnagh South West Inner City	88, 402	10	Eblana House Ballyfermot Crumlin

**Benefits:**

- Keeps core City Centre together which would be beneficial for dealing with Docklands, BIDS, Dublin Port, Retail Cores, Policing, traffic/transport., Street issues.
- The Development of the Poolbeg and Docklands SDZ will have implications for both sides of the Liffey which could be considered at same Area Committee.

**Disadvantages**

- North East (North Central) still disproportionately large.

**Option 4: Five Area Committees – with Kimmage/Rathmines in South west.**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Local Electoral Areas</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Members</b>	<b>Offices</b>
North (2)	Finglas-Ballymun Artane-Whithall	114,692	12	Finglas Ballymun Darndale
North East (2)	Donaghmede Clontarf	95, 775	11	Northside Civic Centre
Central (2)	NEIC Cabra- Glasnevin	122,264	14	Sean McDermott Street Cabra
South East (2)	SEIC Pembroke	86, 076	10	Civic Offices
South West (3)	Ballyfermot -Drimnagh South West Inner City Kimmage- Rathmines	130,376	16	Ballyfermot Eblana House Crumlin

**Benefits**

- Will cause the least disruption

**Disadvantages**

- Divides the City Centre
- South East remains relatively small

## Option 5: Five Area Committees, Kimmage/Rathmines in South East.

Area	Local Electoral Areas	Population	Members	Offices
Dublin North	Finglas-Ballymun Artane-Whitehall	114,692	12	Finglas, Ballymun Darndale
Dublin North East	Donaghmede Clontarf	95, 775	11	Northside Civic Centre
Dublin Central	North East Inner City Cabra - Glasnevin	122,264	14	Sean McDermott St Cabra
Dublin South East	South East Inner City Pembroke Kimmage - Rathmines	141, 937	16	Civic Offices Crumlin
Dublin South West	Ballyfermot-Drimnagh South West Inner City	88, 412	10	Ballyfermot Eblana House Crumlin

There is an opportunity now to take a more holistic approach to the city centre Area. Options 2 and 3 contain different alignments for dealing with the city centre and we think these options should be explored further.

You individually or collectively may have considered these and other options. I welcome an opportunity to discuss this further before a report comes to a full Council Meeting for your decision. I would welcome hearing your feedback to help us develop, refine or eliminate options. A meeting can be arranged to explore these options further if you wish

**Brendan Kenny**

*Deputy Chief Executive*

*12<sup>th</sup> November 2018*