

**From:** Robert Rockett [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 02 March 2017 19:06  
**To:** National Planning Framework  
**Subject:** Waterford Boundary Change

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Dear Minister Coveny,

I am contacting you in regards to the Waterford City boundary change. Although I currently do not live in Ireland, I have grown up in the vicinity of Waterford City and also for some years lived in the city. It is a city I love, have great interest in and hope to live in the future. I have been very interested in the boundary commission since it was first announced in 2016. I was pleased with the recommendations of the commission and having read the report agree with a lot of the findings.

Having read some of the submissions I realised that it seems there was a lot of false information and sensationalism being spread in the Kilkenny area. The recommendations are far from an "act of war" but instead a sensible and practical solution that will benefit Ferrybank, Waterford, South Kilkenny and the South Eastern region as a whole.

Waterford has been hit quite bad over the past few years happy to say it looks like the city is returning to form. I believe the extension of the boundary will further the city's revival. For many years Waterford could not grow naturally and growth of the city is lopsided to the south of the Suir - this can be seen from any map.

I truly feel that Kilkenny County Council is not committed to the Ferrybank area this can be clearly seen in all aspects (from large to small day to-day running of Ferrybank) of the current administration of the area, instead it appears the area is used as a "cash cow", the Ferrybank shopping Centre is the most obvious example of this, but also the Ross Abbey Shopping Centre, two examples of failed shopping centres both now lying empty. If opened these would seriously undermine the Centre of Waterford as a shopping destination with rates going to Kilkenny.

I believe the area in general would be better administered by Waterford Council as it is essentially a suburb of the city.

Some small things for example, the approach roads into the city from the M9 and N25 (New Ross side) can be quite unsightly with overgrown weeds and long grass, surely it would be more practical for a council a kilometer away to take care of these approach roads. A lot has been invested in tourist offerings in Waterford in the past few years and it is a pity that the first impression that is given to visitors is overgrown unkept verges and margins.

Another example is the Ardri site that looks over the city. At the moment this is an eyesore, in the future hopefully it can be developed, as the current hotel building on the site straddles both counties, any development will have to get approval of both councils. Again this seems to be impractical and not very investor or business friendly.

Kilkenny County Council will claim that better co-operation between the councils is the way forward, however the reality is that the councils have and probably will never co-operate in a way that Ferrybank can fulfill its full potential.

Looking forward, the North Quays being designated an SDZ could potentially be a game changer for

the South East and will bring new lease of life to the area. Additional hosing, services and planning will be needed and to me the most efficient and coherent way of providing this is under one authority.

Regards,  
Robert Rockett

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