

Cllr Gerard Frisby

Submission to the NPF

29th March 2017

I Cllr Gerard Frisby Kilkenny County Council welcome the opportunity to make a submission to the National Planning Framework.

In my submission I wish to address the important issues as I see them that affect the daily lives of the people I was elected to represent and the greater South East Area at present and looking forward over the next 20 years.

The minister has signalled that as part of the NPF process he intends to deal with the recommendations of **Report of the Waterford Boundary Review Committee** and in that context I feel it my duty as an elected representative of the Piltown Electoral Area and a Native of Slieverue which is at the centre of the Area of Interest of the review to address this issue as part of my submission.

To put my submission in context I wish to give you a little insight into myself and my community and where I see ourselves over the next 20 years.

Firstly I was born and grew up in Slieverue and was educated at the local Our Lady of Lourdes NS and after at Mount Sion SC in Waterford City and have lived in Slieverue most of my life bar a couple of years (6) that I spent working in the retail trade with Penney's in several locations around the country. The majority of my working life (20 years) was spent working in Waterford City as Manager of Waterford Shopping Centre in Lisduggan. For the past 3 years I have worked as a full time Local Representative in the Kilkenny CC for the Piltown Electoral Area of South Kilkenny and am a member of the Fianna Fail party.

I have a huge interest in my local area and the South East as a whole and feel very strongly that we are being left behind as a Region in terms of Economic Growth, Enterprise and Employment, and Infrastructure and Connectivity. These are all vital components if the South East as a region is going to compete successfully with the other Regional areas. As I see it at present the biggest obstacle holding the Region back is the absence of a University and I believe that successive governments have failed us in this regard, and it is now time to stop the talking and put the political will in place to deliver on this objective. I as a member of the Kilkenny/Carlow ETB sit on the Governing Body of IT Carlow and have seen at first

hand the efforts being made by both Institutes to work towards Technical University status but there are many legacy issues in place which need the direct intervention of the Department and the Minister to help get the process over the line. I feel like so many others in this region that we are being discriminated against due to the fact that we don't have a University and like many others I have had to send my own daughter to UCC to avail of her first choice course for her career path and this of course has not only financial implications but also travel and accommodation issues to contend with. The presence of a University in the Region would as has been proven in other Regions attract more Industrial Growth which brings with it more jobs and jobs of a higher calibre with higher earning potential thus feeding in more revenue to the whole local and Regional economy.

A University for the Region I feel would open all the doors to the other main issues I want to address, these being:

- The need for new Industries in the Region especially around the Gateway City Waterford and the further development of the Belview Port.
- The Growth and Development of the Regional Airport.
- The provision of Affordable and Social Housing for all our people.
- The Upgrading of our Road Network especially the N24 & N25 which are of huge significance to our connectivity as a Region.
- The Upgrading of the Waterford University Hospital and the provision of a second Cat Lab.
- Further funding for Tourism under the Ancient East Offerings.
- Roll out of Fiber Optic Broadband is essential if we are to compete in a National and Global market.

All of the above issues have strong grounds for inclusion in my vision for a new South East Region where our people can live and work in their Region while contributing to its success.

The Boundary Committee Review Report

It is important for me to state first and foremost that I reject unequivocally the recommendation contained in the report of the Waterford Boundary Review Committee.

As a native of Slieverue and County Kilkenny I feel very strongly that the whole process of this Boundary Review has been both emotive and divisive and I feel that significant damage will be caused to the good level of cooperation that already exists between both councils and municipal districts not to mention the very strong connections and bonds that exist between both sets of peoples if this recommendation to alter the boundary between Waterford and Kilkenny goes ahead. The way forward to building the South East Region and Waterford City as the Gateway to this Region which I fully support is through further

cooperation and the putting in place of a structured model of governance between both councils which empower them to work towards common goals for the growth of the entire Region. As can be seen from my previous comments I am committed to my local Area and Region and the people I represent and have lived and worked with the people of Waterford on an equal standing in all aspects of daily life, but I cannot put in words in this submission the hurt and depth of feeling that this proposed boundary extension evokes in the ordinary people of my parish (which under this recommendation will be split down the middle) and the negative impact it will have in day to day dealings with our neighbours and friends in Waterford.

So I am calling on you the minister to put in place the structures for continued cooperation (as has been recommended in the other three boundary reviews) between both councils as the way forward and scrap once and for all this idea that divisive and costly (both in time and monetary) boundary reviews evoke in our people, and that such boundary reviews cannot be revisited again in the future considering that this is the third time this boundary change has been pushed on us at huge expense on the exchequer, money that could be better spent in our locality.

I hope this submission gives you an insight into the issues that affect our people in their everyday lives and the structures that if put in place can have a positive impact on our people's lives and on the positive growth of the South East Region as a whole.

Cllr Gerard Frisby

Cathaoirleach

Piltown Municipal Area

Kilkenny County Council

