

Dublin City

Population and membership

The population of Dublin City increased from 481,854 in 1996 to 506,211 in 2006 (an increase of 24,357 or 5.06%). The inner-city area has experienced exceptional growth in population (i.e. from 99,262 to 130,466 – an increase of 31,204 or 31.44%) over the ten-year period. This is comprised of an increase of 29.55% in the south inner-city area and of 33.73% in the north inner-city. In contrast, the population in some electoral areas outside of the central area, such as Ballyfermot and Rathmines, remained reasonably stable, while that in other areas, such as Artane and Donaghmede, declined.

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

	Population	Number of members	Population per member	% variation from the city average
Dublin City	506,211	52	9,735	
Artane	35,633	4	8,908	-8.50
Ballyfermot	27,678	3	9,226	-5.23
Ballymun-Whitehall	27,301	3	9,100	-6.50
Cabra-Glasnevin	44,618	5	8,924	-8.33
Clontarf	47,025	5	9,405	-3.40
Crumlin-Kimmage	48,966	5	9,793	0.60
Donaghmede	44,906	5	8,981	-7.70
Finglas	33,914	4	8,479	-12.9
North Inner City	60,056	5	12,011	23.4
Pembroke	30,137	3	10,046	3.19
Rathmines	35,567	4	8,892	-8.66
South-East Inner City	34,601	3	11,534	18.48
South-West Inner City	35,809	3	11,936	22.61

Four local electoral areas, Finglas, North Inner City, South-East Inner City and South-West Inner City, have variations outside the + or -10% range.

Analysis

Apart from the case of Phoenix Park electoral division (part of which is included in South-West Inner City electoral area), the present arrangement of electoral areas observes a north/south division of the city on either side of the River Liffey. This division was also used as a basis for -

- the Dáil constituency boundaries recommended in the Report of the Constituency Commission, and
- the area-based administrative arrangements currently operated by Dublin City Council.

The Committee considers that any departure from this well established north/south division would be unnecessarily discontinuous with present arrangements and would make impossible a reasonable level of alignment with Dáil constituency boundaries and service delivery areas. Assuming, therefore, the continuation of the present north/south division, it is necessary to look at the representation ratios of these two zones in the light of population changes.

The present population and membership data for the north-city and south-city electoral areas respectively are as follows:

	Population	Number of members	Population per member	% variation from the city average
Dublin City	506,211	52	9,735	
Dublin City North	293,453	31	9,466	-2.76%
Dublin City South	212,758	21	10,131	4.07%

Based on the population per member for the entire city, Dublin City North has a population equivalent to 30.14 members while Dublin City South has a population equivalent to 21.86 members. On this basis, the Committee considers that an adjustment in the balance of members between the north-city and the south-city is appropriate, i.e. that 30 members should be assigned to the north-city and 22 to the south-city.

A number of issues beyond population and representation levels also arise.

There are at present five three-member electoral areas; one (Ballymun-Whitehall) in the north-city and four (Ballyfermot, Pembroke, South-East Inner City and South-West Inner City) in the south-city.

In the north-city, there are four Dáil constituencies (Dublin Central, Dublin North-Central, Dublin North-West and Dublin North-East) while in the south-city, there are two constituencies (Dublin South-Central and Dublin South-East). Three of these constituencies (i.e. Dublin North-West, Dublin North-East and Dublin South-Central) also include areas outside of the administrative area of the City Council. As the Dáil constituency boundaries and the local electoral area boundaries have developed separately over time, it is not possible to achieve full alignment between both boundaries without major departure from the existing local electoral area structure. Furthermore, it is likely that a full alignment between both sets of boundaries would result in compromises in terms of preservation of natural communities.

In the south-city, the boundary formed by the N81 roadway from the River Liffey at Winetavern Street through Harold's Cross to Terenure and its continuation along Rathfarnham Road to the River Dodder forms an appropriate east/west division. The roadway also forms the boundary between Dublin South-Central and Dublin South-East Dáil constituencies, and the boundary between Dublin City Council's administrative areas 1 and 2. The Committee also considers it appropriate to continue as far as possible with the long-established north/south boundary formed by the Grand Canal.

Given the above-mentioned issues, the Committee had to consider substantial changes to the electoral areas in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

Recommendations

In the south-city, the three existing electoral areas to the east of the N81 roadway (Pembroke, Rathmines and South-East Inner City) have a combined total of ten members, which gives an average representation per member in line with that of the city. The population of South-East Inner City electoral area (currently assigned three-members) has experienced exceptional growth and is now closer to that of a four-member area than a three-member area. Accordingly, the Committee considers it appropriate to recommend an increase in membership of one in South-East Inner City electoral area. The Committee also recommends a transfer of the

electoral divisions of Pembroke West A (part of) and Pembroke East B to South-East Inner City electoral area. As a result, South-East Inner City electoral area would have a total population of 40,028 with four members and a variation from the average population per member in the city of 2.80%.

The Committee recommends that the electoral areas of Pembroke (without the electoral divisions transferred to South-East Inner City electoral area) and Rathmines be combined into a single electoral area with a population of 60,277 and six members, thereby giving it a variation from the city average population per member of 3.20%.

To the west of the N81, while the three existing electoral areas (Ballyfermot, Crumlin-Kimmage, and South-West Inner City) currently have a combined membership of eleven, their cumulative population would make a membership of twelve more appropriate.

Given its exceptional increase in population, the Committee considers that an increase in membership of one is justified in South-West Inner City electoral area; its population of 35,809 and a membership of four would give it a variation from the city average population per member of -8.04%. This area will continue to include the area between the southern boundary wall of Phoenix Park and the River Liffey.

The Committee does not consider it appropriate that Ballyfermot electoral area should continue in its current form as a three member electoral area. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the electoral area be extended to include three electoral divisions currently in Crumlin-Kimmage electoral area, i.e. Crumlin A, Crumlin B and Crumlin E, and that the enlarged electoral area be renamed Ballyfermot-Drimnagh electoral area. Ballyfermot-Drimnagh electoral area would have a population of 37,398, which with four members would create a variation of -3.96% from the city average population per member.

The Committee recommends that Crumlin-Kimmage electoral area, without the three electoral divisions to be included in Ballyfermot-Drimnagh electoral area, be assigned four members, i.e. a reduction of one member. With a population of 39,246, Crumlin-Kimmage would have a variation of 0.79% from the city average population per member.

In the north-city, the Committee does not consider it appropriate that the three-member Ballymun-Whitehall electoral area should continue in its current form. It recommends that the electoral divisions in that area be assigned to two existing neighbouring electoral areas, i.e. Finglas and Whitehall. The Committee considers it appropriate that the electoral divisions of Ballymun A, Ballymun B, Ballymun C, Ballymun D and Ballymun E be transferred to the Finglas electoral area, which would be renamed Ballymun-Finglas electoral area. This area has its southern boundary along the Dáil constituency boundary line formed by Griffith Avenue, Old Finglas Road and River Tolka. Its eastern boundary is formed along a line starting at the junction of Griffith Avenue and Ballymun Road, moving northwards as far as Shanliss Road, and continuing northwards along Shanliss Avenue to Santry Avenue. Ballymun-Finglas electoral area would have a population of 50,957, five members and a variation from the city average population per member of 4.69%.

The electoral divisions of Whitehall A, Whitehall B and Whitehall C should be transferred to the Artane electoral area, which would be renamed Artane-Whitehall electoral area. The Committee further recommends that this enlarged electoral area also include the part of Whitehall D electoral division currently in the Clontarf electoral area. With a population of 47,095 and an increase in membership from four to five, Artane-Whitehall electoral area would have a variation from the city average of -3.25%.

The Committee considers that Clontarf electoral area should include all of the electoral division of Clontarf East A. With all of Whitehall D electoral division now in Artane-Whitehall electoral area, the population of Clontarf electoral area would stand at 48,934, which with its membership of five would give it a variation from the city average population per member of 0.53%.

With the transfer of part of the electoral division of Clontarf East A to Clontarf electoral area, Donaghmede electoral area would have a population of 41,793, for which a membership of four is appropriate; this would give it a variation from the city average of 7.33%.

The Committee recommends that the north/south boundary between Clontarf and North Inner City electoral areas remains the River Tolka and that the east/west boundary between North Inner City and Cabra-Glasnevin remains unchanged. Given the increase in population that occurred in North Inner City electoral area, the

Committee considers it appropriate that there should be an increase in membership of the area from five to six. With a population of 60,056, this would give the electoral area a population per member variation from the city average of 2.82%.

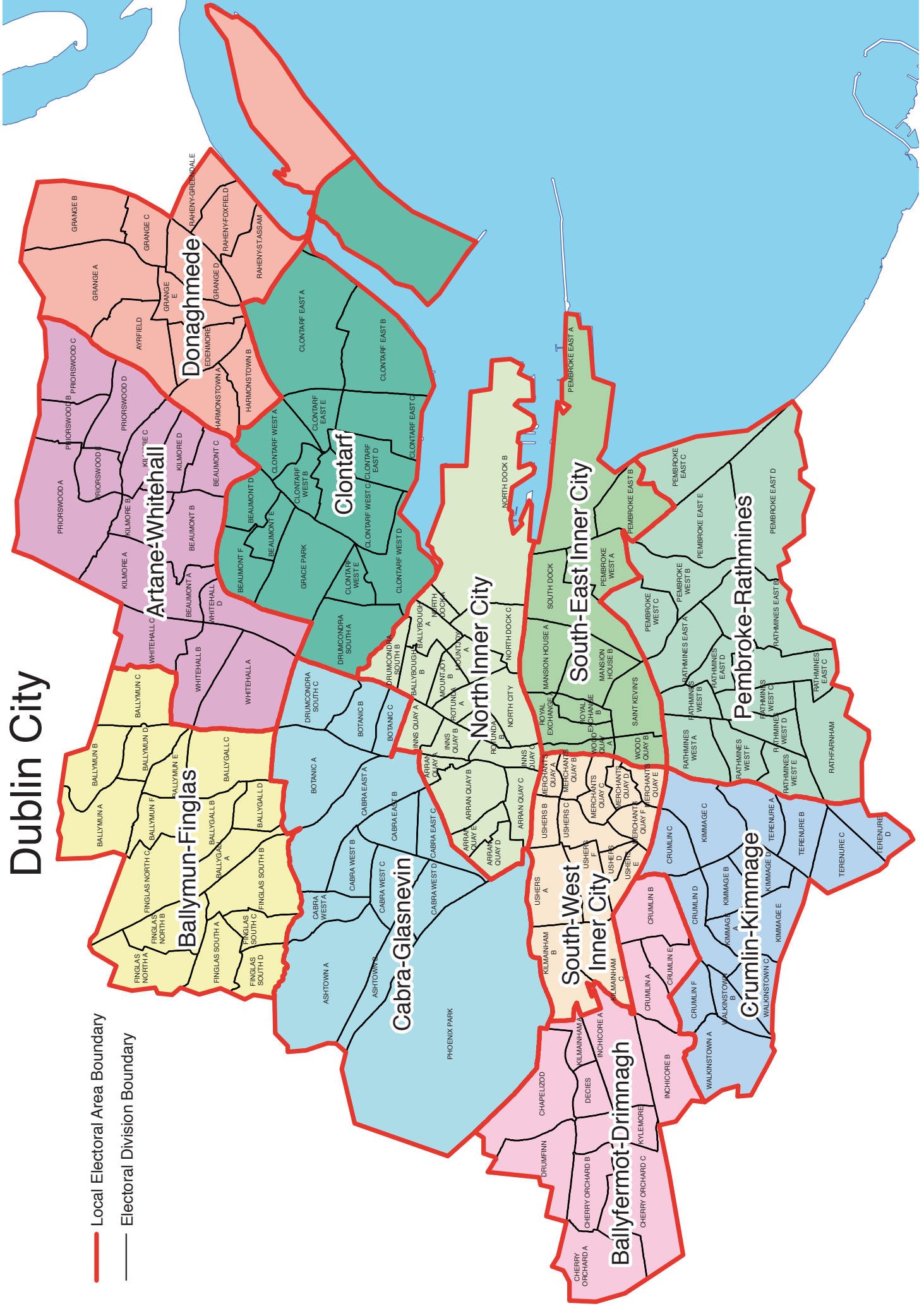
Finally, the Committee recommends that no changes be made in either boundaries or membership to the electoral area of Cabra-Glasnevin. With a population of 44,618, the area has a variation of -8.33% from the local authority average. This electoral area will continue to include the Phoenix Park north of the River Liffey but without the area between the southern boundary wall of the Park and the river.

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 A at the back of the report.

	Population	Number of members	Population per member	% variation from the city average
Dublin City	506,211	52	9,735	
Artane-Whitehall	47,095	5	9,419	-3.25
Ballyfermot-Drimnagh	37,398	4	9,350	-3.96
Ballymun-Finglas	50,957	5	10,191	4.69
Cabra-Glasnevin	44,618	5	8,924	-8.33
Clontarf	48,934	5	9,787	0.53
Crumlin-Kimmage	39,246	4	9,812	0.79
Donaghmede	41,793	4	10,448	7.33
North Inner City	60,056	6	10,009	2.82
Pembroke-Rathmines	60,277	6	10,046	3.20
South-East Inner City	40,028	4	10,007	2.80
South-West Inner City	35,809	4	8,952	-8.04

Dublin City

- Local Electoral Area Boundary
- Electoral Division Boundary



Ballymun-Finglas

Artane-Whitehall

Donaghmede

Cabra-Glasnevin

Clontarf

North Inner City

South-East Inner City

South-West Inner City

Ballyfermot-Drirnagh

Crumlin-Kimmage

Pembroke-Rathmines