
Revised Area Committee Structures – Post Local Elections 2019

The new boundary provisions for the next City 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.

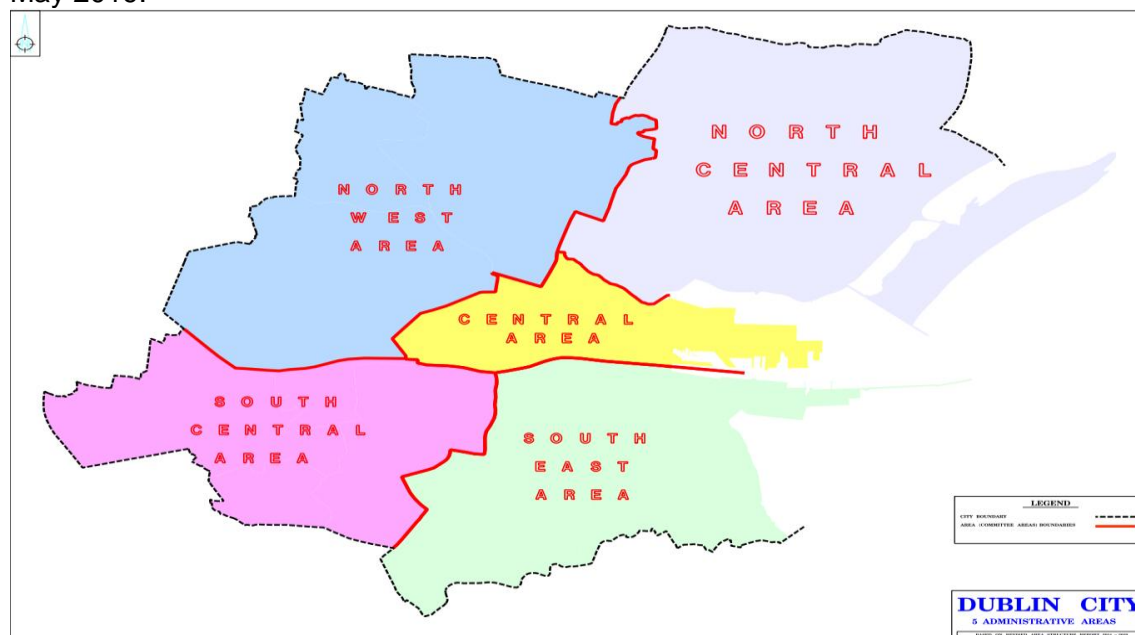
The local electoral areas will be smaller with a maximum of 7 elected members in each. The biggest changes in boundaries refer to the amalgamation of Rathmines with Crumlin/Kimmage and the creation of a new area covering Whitehall/Artane, however no existing area is left fully unchanged.

These changes have implications for our existing area committee boundaries that have been in 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-define and enhance those management structures.

This report concentrates on the area committee boundaries and once these are agreed then we can focus on the staffing arrangements to support those structures and implement same before the elections are held in May 2019.

The adoption of an area committee 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
North -West	1) Ballymun 2) Cabra/ Finglas	14
Central	3) North Inner City	8
North Central	4) Beaumont/Donaghmede 5) Clontarf	15
South East	6) Pembroke/South Dock 7) Rathgar/Rathmines	14
South Central	8) Crumlin/Kimmage 9) Ballyfermot Drimnagh	12

New Local Electoral Areas:



Local Electoral Area	Elected Members
Artane-Whitehall	6
Clontarf	6
Donaghmede	5
Cabra- Glasnevin	7
Finglas – Ballymun	6
North East 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 also to consider the re-naming of Committee Areas depending on the new configuration. The titles of Dublin North Central and Dublin South Central are not really relevant any longer.

Option 1: Four Area Committees instead of 5

Area	Local Electoral Areas	Population	Members	Offices
North East	Artane –Whitehall Clontarf Donaghmede	147,000	17	Bunratty Darndale
North West and Central	Ballymun- Finglas Cabra -Glasnevin North East Inner City	168,000	20	Ballymun Finglas Cabra SeanMcDerm
South East	South East Inner City Pembroke Kimmage -Rathmines	142,000	16	Crumlin Civic Offices
South West	Ballyfermot –Drimnagh South- West Inner City	88, 000	10	Eblana Hse Ballyfermot Crumlin

Benefits- Best alignment with Dail Constituencies, two Areas Committees on the north side and two on the South side.

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

Option 2: Four Area Committees instead of five including a Central Committee.

Area	Local Electoral Areas	Population	Members	Offices
North East	Artane –Whitehall Clontarf Donaghmede	147,000	17	Bunratty Road Darndale
North West	Ballymun- Finglas Cabra -Glasnevin	114,000	13	Ballymun Finglas Cabra
Inner City	South east Inner City South west Inner City North east inner City	146, 000	17	Eblana House Sean McDerm Civic Offices
South	Pembroke Kimmage-Rathmines Ballyfermot/Drimnagh	147, 000	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.

Drawbacks - The enhanced city centre area may be too complex for one committee, greater changes on South Side than on North side.

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

Area	Local Electoral Areas	Population	Members	
North East (Former North Central)	Artane –Whitehall Clontarf Donaghmede	147,000	17	Bunratty Road Darndale
North West	Ballymun-Finglas Cabra-Glasnevin	114,000	13	Ballymun Finglas Cabra
(New) Central area	North East Inner City South East Inner City	104, 000	12	Sean McDerm Civic Offices
South East	Pembroke Kimmage/Rathmines	101,000	11	Crumlin Civic Offices
South West	Ballyfermot/Drimnagh South West Inner City	88, 000	10	Eblana House Ballyfermot Crumlin

Benefits - Keeps core city centre together which would be very beneficial for dealing with Docklands and Poolbeg, Bids, Dublin Port, Retail Cores, Policing, traffic/ transport, on- street issues.

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

Area	Local Electoral Areas	Population	Members	Offices
North (2)	Finglas-Ballymun Artane-Whithall	115,000	12	Finglas Ballymun Darndale
North East (2)	Donaghmede Clontarf	96,000	11	Bunratty Road
Central (2)	NEIC Cabra- Glasnevin	122,000	14	Sean McDermott Street Cabra
South East (2)	SEIC Pembroke	86, 000	10	Civic Offices
South West (3)	Ballyfermot -Drimnagh South West Inner City Kimmage- Rathmines	130,000	16	Ballyfermot Eblana House Crumlin

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

Area	Local Electoral Areas	Population	Members	Offices
North	Finglas-Ballymun Artane-Whitehall	115,000	12	Finglas, Ballymun Darndale
North East	Donaghmede Clontarf	96, 000	11	Bunratty Road
Central	North East Inner City Cabra - Glasnevin	122,000	14	Sean McDerm Cabra
South East	South East Inner City Pembroke Kimmage - Rathmines	142,000	16	Civic Offices Crumlin
South West	Ballyfermot-Drimnagh South West Inner City	88, 000	10	Ballyfermot Eblana House

There are other possible options on the North side eg Clontarf could go with North East Inner City and Cabra/Glasnevin could go with Finglas/Ballymun leaving Donaghmede with Artane /Whitehal. With three Area Committees on the North side, the best approach in our view, is to select two local electoral areas for each Committee.

However, there was strong feed- back from some councillors that the existing North Central Area Committee boundaries should be retained which could be done as set out below. But it would leave one area with a very small number of councillors

Option 6: Five Area Committees, different permutation on the North side- Finglas, Ballymun on its own.

Area	Local Electoral Areas	Population	Members	Offices
North West	Finglas-Ballymun	60,000	6	Finglas, Ballymun
North East	Artane-Whitehall Donaghmede Clontarf	146,000	17	Bunratty Road Darndale
Central	North East Inner City Cabra - Glasnevin	122,000	14	Sean McDerm Cabra
South East	South East Inner City Pembroke Kimmage - Rathmines	142,000	16	Civic Offices Crumlin
South West	Ballyfermot-Drimnagh South West Inner City	88, 000	10	Ballyfermot Eblana House

There is an opportunity now to take a more holistic approach to the central area of our capital city. Options 2 and 3 contain different alignments for dealing with this area and we think that option 3 in particular should be given strong consideration.

It is important that a decision is made now on this issue which will enable us to report back to you on a revised and improved management and staffing structure for the local area offices which will serve the new Area Committees and with greater alignment to the new local electoral areas.

Brendan Kenny
Assistant Chief Executive

Dated 7th January 2019.