**Minutes of Special Meeting held on Thursday 3rd March, 2016 at 4.00p.m.**

**Chair:** Cllr. M. H. Cavanagh

**Cllrs:** M. Shortall, P. Fitzpatrick, P. Millea, J. Brennan, M. McCarthy, A. McGuinness, P. Cleere, M. Doyle, P. O’ Neill, D. Kennedy, M. Doran, J. Malone, M. Noonan, P. McKee, D. Fitzgerald, P. Dunphy, F. Doherty, E. Aylward, T. Breathnach, G. Frisby.

**Officials:** C. Byrne, S. Walton, M. Prendiville, M. Melia, M. Mulholland, D. Malone, K. Hanley, S. O’ Connor and A.M Walsh.

**Apologies:** B. Gardner and M. O’ Neill.

Cllr. M.H. Cavanagh commenced the meeting by congratulating Kathleen Funchion on being elected as a TD. She also complimented all the candidates who put themselves forward for election and were unsuccessful. She wished them all well in their future endeavours.

Cllr. M. H. Cavanagh also requested all Councillors to refrain from criticising other elected members outside of the Council Chamber for their failure to attend Council meetings.

1. **To consider the Elected Members response to the Waterford Boundary Submission.**

Ms. C. Byrne advised that Denis Malone will give a short presentation to the meeting to update on what has been happening on the Boundary Review over the last few weeks.

She advised that the boundary subcommittee and the executive will meet the Boundary Review Committee on Friday 11th March, 2016. Documents have been prepared in response to the submission made by Waterford City and County. She requested that the members would convene in small working groups to consider the draft response after the PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. D. Malone presented his PowerPoint which was circulated to all members. He updated the members on the various key issues/dates and milestones to date. He referred to the formal publication of Kilkenny submission. Kilkenny and Waterford have responded to each other’s submission. Additional information has also been sought from the Boundary Review Committee. Kilkenny County Council is currently compiling this information. The next key date is the meetings with the Boundary Review Committee on 11th March, 2016. In his presentation, Mr. Malone highlighted a summary of the main points made by Kilkenny County Council on the proposed boundary review.

He outlined that the best way forward is on a model of regional co-operation and not a boundary revision.

Mr. Malone asked the members to consider a number of issues in the workshops such as:-

* Historic links with Port of Waterford
* Forward planning
* Impact on citizens in area of interest
* Provision of services by Waterford City and County in area of interest.
* Linkages with Waterford City
* Joint Development Plans
* Regional Planning Guidelines, PLUT’s, City Development Plan, S.E Action Plan for Jobs.
* Response from Waterford City and County and Kilkenny’s draft response to the submission.

Ms. Byrne requested members to continue to engage in the process as the Boundary Review Committee have to report back by 31st March, 2016.

A number of queries arose from members in relation to the process and members requested that a letter be sent to all leaders of the Political Parties outlining Kilkenny’s position on the proposed boundary review.

At this stage, the members were divided into 4 groups to consider the draft response prepared by the Executive.

Group 1- Draft letter to be issued by Cathaoirleach

Group 2 – Pages 1 to 22 of the draft response

Group 3 – Pages 23 to 44 of the draft response

Group 4 – Pages 45 to 66 of the draft response

Meeting resumed at 6.10p.m.

Ms. Byrne advised that group 1 has asked that evidence based examples be included in the letter.

Mr. Walton, Ms. Melia and Ms. Mulholland reported on behalf of the 3 groups as follows:-

* Number of suggestions have been made on the proposed draft letter
* Review is all about Port – Income from this area.
* Not about effective local government
* Strongly refute allegations on poor planning, there has been no ministerial input into the planning policies adopted by Kilkenny County Council.
* Financial state of Waterford, Waterford not in a financial position to pay compensation.
* None of published policy documents has called for Boundary Review.
* North Quays has remained derelict for years.
* Kilkenny County Council too diplomatic in draft response.
* Non implementation of PLUTS is not the fault of Kilkenny County Council.
* Kilkenny County Council be more forthright on services being provided, include references to services provided by KCC.
* Good collaboration already e.g. Fire Services
* Refute allegations that Kilkenny’s elected members not representing the citizens in the area of interest.
* Waterford City and County Council has not shown any evidence how they can be more effective.
* Be stronger in statement on promoting development on a regional basis, emphasis regional dimension more.
* Strengthen comments with examples/evidence based
* Lack of financial data in Waterford submission.

Cllr. M. H. Cavanagh thanked the members and the executive for their comments/feedback from the workshops. These comments/suggestions will be taken on board by the Executive in the final document.

In preparation for meeting with the Boundary Review Committee on 11th March, 2016, it was agreed that the subcommittee would meet in County Hall on Tuesday 8th March, 2016 at 6.30p.m. The subcommittee will convene at 9.30a.m. on Friday 11th March, 2016 in County Hall to meet the Boundary Review Committee at 10.00a.m.

**Meeting then concluded**

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**CATHAOIRLEACH DATE**