

From: Derek Hussey
Subject: Written Representation

Dear Sirs

My sincere apology in that I was unable, due to business within the Northern Ireland Transitional Assembly, to request a presentation at Omagh.

There are three issues that I wish to contest within your present proposals:

- 1/ The issue of 7 Councils - I have addressed this issue within the Assembly and would request that you consider my contribution to that Debate on this matter (together with those contributions from Assembly Members within that body).
- 2/ The local issues already raised by both Strabane DC and Omagh DC with yourselves in regard to the general positioning of Strabane DC within a 7 Council Model. I support these positions.
- 3/ The Specific Issue of the positioning of your proposed Wards of Glenderg, Castleberg and Newtownstewart within the North West Council.

This is the issue that I wish to major on.

These three Wards naturally orientate towards the confines delegated by yourselves as the West Council.

I have consulted widely within this area, which is my DEA as a local Derg Area Councillor, and would submit to yourselves the following evidence:-

- 3.1 Within your own definitions - you have the opportunity to deviate 5 Wards + or - this request falls within such paramitors
- 3.2 There is a determination that 'Local Identity' should be retained within the new configurations
- 3.3 The local identity within these three Wards lies towards the West Council as proposed by yourselves:-

Schools - 2nd Level Education - 80% of our young people (who are not educated at 2nd Level in Castleberg) moving to 2nd Level Education go to 2nd Level Schools in Omagh - (Checked with WELB of which I am a member).

Health - This area falls within the remit of Sperrin Lakeland Trust, therefore our Health needs are met via the Omagh & Enniskillen areas through Tyrone County Hospital and the Erne Hospital

Social - This community naturally orientates towards Omagh & Fermanagh. At weekends our young people go to Omagh or Enniskillen for their entertainment

Our population read the Tyrone Constitution and Tyrone Herald (Omagh based) not the Strabane Weekly News nor Strabane Chronicle (Checked with these papers)

Going out for a meal - our population go to Restaurants in Omagh & Fermanagh

Rural - Ours is a Rural Community fearful of the Urban influence of the City of Londonderry within the North West - Our farmers go to Marts in Omagh and Enniskillen not the NW region (checked with UFU)

Sport - Our sporting organisations are affiliated to the proposed West Council - eg Football. All of the Football Clubs in the area, Castleberg, Killen, Spamount, Newtownstewart etc belong to the Fermanagh & Western FA.

Swimming - Our population go to Pools in Omagh & Enniskillen rather than Strabane or Londonderry

There are many other examples of such sporting connections.

These are all examples of a LOCAL IDENTITY which I ask you to maintain by revising your Boundaries to include the proposed Wards of Glenderg, Castleberg and Newtownstewart with the proposed West Council.

If the Commissioner examines Travel to Work Patterns he will see that the major TtW pattern in our area is towards Omagh.

Yours faithfully

Cllr Derek R Hussey MLA

Strabane DC/West Tyrone