

**REPORT OF ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
PATRICK GOOD
ON THE
COMMISSIONER'S PROVISIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR
LISBURN CITY AND CASTLEREAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL**

22nd December 2008.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Background

- 1.1 The current review of local government boundaries in Northern Ireland was announced in a public notice on 28th July 2008. This explained the role and remit of the Local Government Boundaries Commissioner, and indicated that he would in due course publish Provisional Recommendations and cause a public hearing to be held in each of the eleven proposed District Councils. The notice also explained the process of public consultation on the Provisional Recommendations.
- 1.2 The terms of the review are set out in Article 50 and Schedule 4 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Boundaries) (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 and the Local Government (Boundaries) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. Copies of the legislation are available on www.lgbc-ni.org/index/legislation.htm or from The Stationery Office.
- 1.3 The Commissioner's Provisional Recommendations for the boundaries and names of the eleven new local government districts together with the number, boundaries and names of their constituent wards were announced on 17th September 2008 and simultaneously published on the Commissioner's website www.lgbc-ni.org/index/publications.org. Details of the planned public hearings were subsequently published in a number of daily and provincial newspapers. Copies of the Provisional Recommendations, with maps, were made available for public inspection at District Council Headquarters, public libraries, Electoral Offices, the Office of the Electoral Commission and the Office of the Local Government Boundaries Commissioner.

- 1.4 The public notice of 28th July 2008 invited written representations on the Provisional Recommendations within a consultation period for which the closing date was 12th November 2008.
- 1.5 The Commissioner received a number of written representations from a range of interested parties including political parties, political representatives, district councils, community organisations and individual members of the public. All were acknowledged giving details of the public hearings and have been published on the Commissioner's website. They were made available for viewing at each of the public hearings.
- 1.6 On 4th November 2008 I was appointed as an Assistant Commissioner by the Minister of the Environment, Sammy Wilson, MP, MLA. The Commissioner subsequently assigned to me to the proposed district of Lisburn City and Castlereagh District Council. My brief was to consider written representations on the Commissioner's Provisional Recommendations; to conduct a public hearing in order to ascertain local views; to assess the material provided during the consultation period and at the hearing; and to submit a report to the Commissioner with my conclusions and recommendations within four weeks of the hearing.

Written Representations

- 1.7 Appendix A lists the written representations received relating to the Commissioner's Provisional Recommendations for Lisburn City and Castlereagh District Council. I considered all these representations carefully in advance of the public hearing and again in preparing this report.

Public Hearing

1.8 The public hearing into the Provisional Recommendations for Lisburn City and Castlereagh District Council was held in the Ramada Hotel, Belfast, on 24th November 2008 and concluded the following day. Many participants had already made written submissions during the public consultation period. Details of those who made oral submissions are listed in Appendix B and a transcript of the hearing can be viewed on the Commissioner's website.

Content of Report

1.9 This report covers the views of interested parties on the Commissioner's Provisional Recommendations for the proposed Lisburn City and Castlereagh District Council. It addresses representations on the boundary, the name of the district, the number, names and boundaries of the wards into which the district has been divided. It details support for objections and counter proposals in relation to the Commissioner's Provisional Recommendations. Finally it presents my conclusions and recommendations.

1.10 In preparing this report I have been guided by the legislative framework for the review and in particular the Rules set out in Part III of Schedule 4 to the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 as amended ("the Rules").

2. DISTRICT NAME AND BOUNDARIES

District Name

2.1 Mr A M Donaldson, Chief Executive of Castlereagh Borough Council suggested that Castlereagh Borough Council status as a Borough should be carried forward in the title of the new Council in order to permit the Council to take advantage of the privileges which such title endows including the electing of a Mayor and Aldermen and awarding of Freedom of the Borough. Mr Donaldson proposed that the name of the new council should be amended to “Lisburn City and Castlereagh Borough Council”.

It is not within my remit to consider whether a Council should enjoy Borough status.

2.2 Mr Clifford Charlton suggested that the district be known as Lagan Valley Borough Council.

Recommendation

2.3 The name of the new Council should be Lisburn City and Castlereagh District Council.

District Boundary

2.4 I noted the general approach of the Commissioner as set out in his Provisional Recommendations which included:

- (a) That Section 1(2) of the Local Government (Boundaries) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 does not define the meaning of “the major part” in relation to existing government districts. The Commissioner took the view that this was essentially a spatial term rather than a reference to

population or electorate. Consequently, in the composition of the new local government districts, no major geographical part of any existing local government district has been transferred to an adjacent proposed district. Furthermore at paragraph 4.4 of his Provisional Recommendations the Commissioner noted that the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Act 1972 (as amended) did not provide an interpretation of the meaning of the phrase “readily identifiable boundaries”. The Commissioner took the view that the phrase included ground features such as road and railway lines; estuaries, lakes, rivers and upland areas; footpaths, cycle paths, garden and field boundaries, and walls; and the boundaries of open space such as parks, cemeteries and golf courses.

In considering the issue of boundaries as described below I was mindful of this general approach adopted by the Commissioner.

Colin Glen, Poleglass, Lagmore, Twinbrook, Kilwee and Dunmurry

2.5 In his written representation Mr Norman Davidson, Chief Executive of Lisburn City Council expressed concern as to the manner in which the Commissioner’s Provisional Recommendations had considered readily identifiable boundaries and the loss of significant parts of the original Lisburn and Castlereagh Council areas. Mr Davidson was opposed to the transfer of Dunmurry from Lisburn City Council to Belfast City Council.

He suggested an alternative boundary comprising the MI motorway, Creighton’s Road and Old Golf Course Road which, in his view, “*is defined by strong physical and functional features on the ground*”. Mr Davidson suggested that the road corridors performed an important separating function.

It was asserted that the boundary within the Commissioner's Provisional Recommendations of Thornhill Road and Derriaghy River was not readily identifiable on the ground. It was represented that the continuity of Dunmurry and Derriaghy is such that those travelling in both directions along Kingsway had no sense of encountering a boundary or having made any transition between readily identifiable areas.

- 2.6 Dr Michael Gordon of Turley Associates, representing Lisburn City Council, made further representations in respect of Mr Davidson's written submissions.

Dr Gordon expressed Lisburn City Council's opposition to the transfer of Dunmurry to Belfast and believed that the same could be retained within the proposed district and still allow Belfast to allocate its proposed 60 wards. Dr Gordon expressed the view that it was best to view the boundaries "*on the ground*". In Dr Gordon's opinion Creighton's Road and Old Golf Course Road, together with the M1, defined a much more readily identifiable boundary than the Derriaghy River.

- 2.7 Mr Jeffrey Donaldson, MP, MLA, DUP, supported the retention of Dunmurry within the new district using the Creighton Road, Old Golf Course Road and the M1 as the natural boundary. He appreciated a small area of the proposed Dunmurry ward, in the Black's Road area, "*looked to*" Belfast and would fall within that proposed district.

- 2.8 Mr William Thompson of Dunmurry Community Association expressed the view that Dunmurry village always had a strong affinity with Lisburn. In his opinion Dunmurry village had a distinct identity separate from Belfast and it was more appropriate that the local community should be associated with the new Lisburn City and Castlereagh District Council area.

The Community Association provided letters of objection prepared by some 830 residents.

- 2.9 Mr Paul Butler, MLA, Sinn Fein, broadly welcomed the Commissioner's Provisional Recommendations that the wards of Twinbrook, Poleglass, Colin Glen, Lagmore and Dunmurry were to be within the new Belfast district. In his opinion Creighton's Road and Old Golf Course Road were not recognised local boundaries.
- 2.10 The Democratic Unionist Party expressed the view that the proposed Dunmurry ward should be removed from Belfast. An alternative boundary line was put forward being the A512 (Creighton's Road) onto Black's Road Link then a short section of Black's Road where that road meets the M1 motorway. The southern boundary would be represented by the M1 motorway.
- 2.11 Miss Sue Ramsay, MLA, Sinn Fein, together with a number of her party colleagues, and Colin Community Council welcomed the decision of the Commissioner to include Poleglass, Lagmore, Twinbrook and Dunmurry wards within the new Belfast Council boundaries.
- 2.12 Councillor Brian Heading, SDLP, expressed the view that Kilwee, Poleglass, Colin Glen, Twinbrook and Lagmore should probably be included within the Belfast City Council. He was of the view that Dunmurry ward should remain within Lisburn City and Castlereagh District Council. In his opinion there are clear boundaries separating Dunmurry in particular the road system such as Creighton's Road.
- 2.13 Councillor Ronnie Crawford, Mayor of Lisburn City Council, was of the opinion that the Dunmurry ward should remain within

Lisburn City and Castlereagh District Council. In this regard he believed that the number of wards within the new Council should be increased to 45.

2.14 Councillor Jonathon Craig, MLA, DUP, believed that there was clear demarcation with Creighton's Road, and the Old Golf Course Road. Councillor Craig made reference to a public meeting attended by some 400 residents at which the predominant view was that the Dunmurry ward should remain within Lisburn. In Councillor Craig's view the Derriagh River did not represent a readily identifiable boundary when compared with the clarity of Creighton's Road and Old Golf Course Road.

2.15 Mr Gerry Lynch, Chief Executive of the Alliance Party, supported the Commissioner's Provisional Recommendations while accepting room for general disagreement on the identifiable boundaries. Mr Lynch raised a question as to whether "*major part*" referred to population, area or perhaps both.

2.16 Mr Edwin Poots, MLA, DUP, maintained that there existed identifiable boundaries in order to allow Dunmurry village to remain within the Lisburn area.

Conclusion

2.17 The representations received demonstrated broad support for the Provisional Recommendations that Colin Glen, Poleglass, Lagmore, Twinbrook and Kilwee should form part of the proposed Belfast City Council area. The representations concerning the Dunmurry ward were somewhat more contentious. There was a considerable body of evidence relating

to the community ties and wishes of residents as expressed in public meetings, correspondence and a petition. While undoubtedly the views of both for and against the inclusion of this ward within the Belfast City Council were genuinely held I was required to adhere to the Rules within the Schedule of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 as amended. In this regard I considered the competing boundaries being those within the Commissioner's Provisional Recommendations and an alternative boundary made up principally of Creighton's Road, Old Golf Course Road and the M1 which encompassed most, but not all of the Dunmurry ward. I gained a further appreciation of the respect of boundaries in the course of site visits before and following the conclusion of the public hearings. In applying the Rules I am satisfied that the Commissioner's proposed boundary in utilising Thornhill Road, Derriaghy River and the Derriaghy Linear Park represented a readily identifiable boundary for the district. In this respect the Commissioner's use of zoning further indicated a reasoned and appropriate approach to determination of the boundaries.

Recommendation

2.18 I recommend no change to the boundary within the Provisional Recommendations.

Belvoir And Forestside Areas

2.19 Mr Norman Davidson, Chief Executive of Lisburn City Council expressed the view that Belvoir and Forestside should not be transferred to Belfast City Council. Forestside contains the Forestside Shopping Centre and the present headquarters of the Castlereagh Borough Council. The Provisional Recommendations of the Commissioner provide that Forestside

and the Council Offices will be within the proposed Rosetta ward of Belfast City Council.

Mr Davidson was of the view that the use of the Outer Ring as a boundary between Belfast City Council and the new Council area relies on an inconsistent approach to the River Lagan and delivers undesirable outcomes for both Belvoir and Forestside. He expressed the view that the River Lagan should continue to be used for the council boundary further east to the Belvoir ward where it flows through an urban area. He suggested that deviating from the Lagan as a boundary resulted in Belvoir losing its importance as a key part of Castlereagh and becoming an outlier of Belfast. He expressed the view that consistent use of the River Lagan would resolve the issue of Belvoir being an outlier as well as maintaining the majority of the Lagan Valley Regional Park within the new district area. Mr Davidson stated that further east where the Lagan changes its course towards Belfast the boundary to the south of Galwally Avenue is readily identifiable on the ground by virtue of the break in land use between Belvoir Park Golf Course and the residential area to the north. Furthermore the edge of Forestside should be recognised as a readily identifiable boundary. Mr Davidson suggested that there exists an important transition in land use between the district centre and the adjacent housing at Forestside and Glencregagh Road which remains identifiable on the ground.

- 2.20 The Democratic Unionist Party acknowledge the strength of the proposed southern boundary as being the Outer Ring save that an exception should be made for Castlereagh Council Offices and Forestside Shopping Centre both of which should be transferred to the new Lisburn City and Castlereagh District Council areas.

- 2.21 Castlereagh Borough Council through the written submission of its Chief Executive, Mr Donaldson, expressed the view that the Council was strongly opposed to the loss of Belvoir Forest Park to the Belfast City Council. The subject area included Belvoir, Minnowburn and parts of Beechill and Newtownbreda which are north of the outer ring road.
- 2.22 Mr Ray Kennedy, SDLP, expressed the view that use of the dual carriageway (Belvoir Road) for the purpose of boundary separation was a flawed exercise. The rationale in determining boundaries requires consistency. He believed that this was not the case in dealing with Edenderry, Milltown and Ballycairn areas which are located on the opposite side of the main road from Belvoir. In his opinion the Belvoir Road was not a natural or even an unnatural boundary.
- 2.23 A written representation by Mr Tony Quinn on behalf of Belfast City Council expressed opposition to the suggestion that the Galwally area including Forestside should be included within Lisburn City and Castlereagh District Council. Such an inclusion would *“fly in the face”* of the need to have regard for readily identifiable boundaries.
- 2.24 Mr Desmond Meredith expressed the view that the River Lagan was a natural boundary between Counties Antrim and Down. Accordingly Belvoir should be merged into the proposed Lisburn City and Castlereagh District Council area.
- 2.25 Councillor Jack Beattie of Castlereagh Borough Council expressed the strong view that Belvoir should be retained within the proposed district. He supported the submission of Castlereagh Borough Council

2.26 Mr Edwin Poots, MLA, DUP, believed that there were strongly identifiable boundaries to allow the drawing in of Belvoir and Castlereagh Council Headquarters into Lisburn City and Castlereagh District Council. Mr Poots referred to the work of the Commissioner on the seven council model.

Conclusion

2.27 In considering where the boundary might be defined the Commissioner has had regard to the relevant statutory development plan and those zonings identified in paragraph 6.6 of the Provisional Recommendations as relate to the proposed Belfast City Council. This approach in my opinion was well founded and allowed the identification of an appropriate boundary.

2.28 Following the Lagan in relation to a boundary did not appear to give adequate weight to the zonings as identified by the Commissioner. The further adoption of the Outer Ring and Glencreagh Road provided a readily identifiable boundary for this portion of the district.

2.29 Forestside Shopping Centre and the present offices of Castlereagh Borough Council lie within the proposed ward of Rosetta. The suggestion that the boundary adjacent to the shopping centre and the offices of Castlereagh Borough Council should be drawn in such a way as to include these two features within the new district appeared to arise from a desire that was other than the creation of a clear boundary. Some representations were, in part, based upon the issue of finance and a desire to retain the headquarters within the proposed district. The DUP relied upon an exception to the rule in order to achieve a similar outcome. However, in applying the Rules I

was required to reject such arguments. I was satisfied that the Commissioner's proposed boundary fulfilled the requirement of the Rules insofar as it represented a readily identifiable boundary.

Recommendation

2.30 I recommend no change to the boundary in respect of Belvoir and Forestside insofar as these areas were the subject of representations.

Beechill, Cairnshill, Galwally, Knockbracken, Newtownbreda, Carryduff East And Carryduff West

2.31 Dr Alasdair McDonnell, MP, MLA, SDLP, expressed concern as to the treatment of the area south of Forestside through to and including Carryduff East and Carryduff West. Dr McDonald recommended that Beechill, Cairnshill, Galwally, Knockbreda, Newtownbreda and both Carryduff wards be included within the Belfast City Council boundary.

Dr McDonnell accepted that while Carryduff was separated from the natural build line of Belfast it always had been part of Belfast. He was of the opinion that people living in Beechill, Primrose Hill, Cairnshill and Galwally have a stronger identity with Belfast than Lisburn or Castlereagh.

The natural continuation of the build line from Tullycarnet through to Hillfoot and to Belfast in his opinion must also include the wards of Beechill, Cairnshill, Galwally, Knockbreda and Newtownbreda. This represented a readily identifiable boundary.

Dr McDonnell stated that the overwhelming majority of people living in the area were adamant that they do not want to be linked with Lisburn. They strongly wanted to be part of Belfast City Council. A survey of some 5400 houses, by leaflet drop,

generated 677 responses with 91% of households wanting to be part of Belfast City Council, 2% were undecided and 7% wished to be part of Lisburn. The results of this survey were submitted with Dr McDonnell's written representation. In Dr McDonnell's opinion there was an over-emphasis upon creating numerical equality between wards rather than concentrating on specific local community identities and neighbourhood.

2.32 Councillor Rosaleen Hughes, SDLP, believed that the natural boundary of Belfast is represented by the build line from Four Winds to Primrose Hill and from Purdysburn to Hydebank. She believed that this area should be part of Belfast.

2.33 Mr Ray Kennedy expressed the view that a case could be made for Carryduff to be included within Belfast albeit not as strong as that relating to Purdysburn and Primrose Hill. However Carryduff was not completely separate from Belfast.

2.34 Councillor Brian Hanvey, SDLP sought to amend the written submissions of the SDLP group within Castlereagh Borough Council as received on 12th November 2008 to delete the suggestion that Cairnshill, Knockbracken, Moneyreagh, Beechill, Galwally, Newtownbreda and the Carryduff wards should remain in the new proposed district. Councillor Hanvey recognised the break between the Carryduff wards and the remaining wards but still suggested that all should be included within Belfast City Council.

2.35 Mr Neill Calvin of Ostick and Williams presented planning evidence on behalf of Dr McDonnell. He supported the view of Dr McDonald in terms of the treatment of the wards as described above. He believed there existed an urban corridor from Carryduff into Belfast. The inclusion of these wards would

maintain a clear townland boundary on a rural urban fringe contrasting with the largely rural wards of Castlereagh. This would then provide a natural boundary for the subject wards. Furthermore these wards were largely included within Belfast Urban Area Plan Development Limits. The allocation of the wards away from the regional core of Belfast would not be consistent with the Department of the Environment's Strategic Plan Framework. The wards were not included as part of the Lisburn area in the Draft BMAP 2015 Volume 2.

The Department of the Environment's publication "*Shaping Our Future, Family of Settlements Report*" (1998) recognised that the subject wards played an important part in supporting Belfast thereby highlighting the close links with Belfast. The weight of Mr Calvin's submission did not rely so heavily upon the inclusion of Carryduff East and West within the Belfast district as compared with the subject wards which were positioned closer to Belfast.

- 2.36 Mr Gerry Lynch, Chief Executive of the Alliance Party, supported the Provisional Recommendations in respect of the proposed boundary of the Outer Ring road. He believed that if the Commissioner's interpretation of the legislation permitted then the areas of the Fourwinds, Cairnshill and Galwally were much more readily identifiable with Belfast than with Lisburn.

Conclusion

- 2.37 To include all of the above wards within Belfast City Council would result in the severing of the proposed district by the boundary of Belfast City Council.
- 2.38 Dundonald, Carrowreagh, Grahamsbridge, Enler, Ballyhanwood and Moneyreagh would be separated from the remainder of the

districts. Such severance would contravene Rule 16(a). For this reason it appears that the representations in respect of Carryduff West and East were less forceful than those for the remaining wards being considered in this section.

2.39 Furthermore it is evident that there remain significant green areas between Primrose Hill and Carryduff which separate the two Carryduff wards from Belfast.

2.40 I have carefully considered the, at times, strongly argued representations in respect of the remaining wards within this section and particularly the assertion that the build line provides a boundary that would include such wards within Belfast.

2.41 However in that the Outer Ring and Glencregagh Road represents a strong and easily identifiable division between the proposed districts I am satisfied that within the context of the Rules that the Commissioner's approach is to be preferred. To do otherwise would dilute the strength of these particular boundary features. Site visits merely served to reinforce my view that the proposed boundary was that which was most readily identifiable.

Recommendation

2.42 I recommend no change to the boundary as per the Provisional Recommendations.

Dundonald

2.43 Representations of the Ulster Unionist Party (Dr Crowe) maintained that Dundonald was an anomaly, out on a limb at

the north east of the proposed Lisburn City and Castlereagh District Council. In his opinion, it was inexplicable as to why Dundonald was left out of Belfast. Dundonald was to be regarded as an extension of east Belfast. In Dr Crowe's view Dundonald, Carrowreagh, Grahamsbridge, Enler and the urban portion of Ballyhanwood should have been incorporated within Belfast City Council. He further expressed the view that the green wedge between the proposed boundary of east Belfast and Dundonald, namely the cemetery and Knock Golf Club is not sustainable as there is a planning application to develop a significant portion of the golf club for housing. This green wedge was nothing when compared to the many miles of green wedge existing between Dundonald and Moneyreagh. Dr Crowe wished to see more easily identifiable boundaries for the wards in the Dundonald area. A better boundary could be established for the wards of Carrowreagh, Dundonald, Grahamsbridge and Enler which would not involve the crossing of the Upper Newtownards Road or the use of minor side streets. Representations in support of this position were received from Alderman Dillon and Councillor Michael Copeland of the UUP.

- 2.44 Mr Barry Kirkwood regarded Dundonald as a suburb of Belfast. In his opinion the five Dundonald wards could be transferred to Belfast and still allow "*a major part*" of Castlereagh Borough Council to be joined with Lisburn City Council.
- 2.45 Mr Marcus Potts expressed the view that the area of Dundonald and east Castlereagh was more closely affiliated with Ards and North Down rather than Lisburn.
- 2.46 Mr Gerry Lynch, Alliance Party, expressed the view that Dundonald had clear links with Belfast especially east Belfast and virtually no links with Lisburn. He noted that this was

recognised by the Parliamentary Boundary Commissioner in adding Dundonald to east Belfast.

2.47 The Democratic Unionist Party were concerned that the provisionally recommended boundary cut across a business park at Gilnahirk/Ballyhanwood leaving that park in two different proposed districts. It expressed the view that the lines should be redrawn to ensure that the Hanwood Centre at Tullycarnet, Grace Baptist Church and Arndet Youth Centre remained within the Tullycarnet ward.

2.48 Mr Jeffrey Donaldson MP MLA, DUP was of the opinion that to remove Dundonald would leave but a remnant of Castlereagh Borough Council rather than the “*major part*” of the Council when it merged with Lisburn City Council.

Conclusion

2.49 It is evident from the above summary that a number of representations suggested that the Dundonald wards comprised a suburb of Belfast. It was suggested that the green wedge of Dundonald Cemetery and Knock Golf Club was not sustainable given the residential planning application in respect of the club. However no evidence was provided as to the likely outcome of that application and, if granted, the timing of any development. The Commissioner could not take into account such a factor in the absence of any cogent evidence.

2.50 It is apparent that the use of the green wedge of the cemetery and the golf course provided a robust boundary between Belfast and the existing Castlereagh Borough Council and to make use of that boundary to delineate the proposed districts was quite appropriate.

Recommendation

2.51 I recommend no change to the boundary as per the Provisional Recommendations.

Glenavy and part of Stoneyford

2.52 Antrim Borough Council, through a written submission of its Chief Executive Mr Mc Cammick, proposed that part of the Lough Neagh shore area (including Glenavy) should transfer from Lisburn City and Castlereagh to Antrim and Newtownabbey to simplify the management of the Lough.

2.53 Councillor Thomas Burns, MLA, SDLP, represented that Glenavy and part of Stoneyford ward should be included in the proposed Antrim and Newtownabbey District Council. He provided a written submission in respect of the arguments concerning this issue.

Conclusion

2.54 The representations put forward by Antrim Borough Council and Councillor Burns were based upon matters other than those within the Rules. I was therefore not satisfied that any alteration should be made to this boundary.

Recommendation

2.55 I recommend no change to the boundary in respect of Glenavy and part of Stoneyford.

3. WARD NUMBER, NAMES AND BOUNDARIES

Ward Number

- 3.1 Given the recommendations as described above it does not appear necessary to consider any change to the number of wards within the proposed district from that suggested in the Provisional Recommendations.

Ward Names

- 3.2 A number of representations were received suggesting the change of ward names in the following respects:

Poleglass should become An PollGlass.

Twinbrook should become Cill Uaighe.

Lagmore should become An Lag Mor.

Dunmurry should become Dun Muirigh.

One representation was received that wards should continue to be known by their English names.

Conclusion

- 3.3 While a number of representations were received in support of the use of Irish names it did not appear to me that there was evidence of the desire from the majority of the residents of those proposed wards to warrant a change from the present English names.

Recommendation

3.4 I recommend no change in the name of wards from those presently suggested within the Provisional Recommendations.

Ward Boundaries

Moneyreagh and Knockbracken Ward

3.5 Mr Gerry Lynch noted that an urban area south of Manse Road proposed to be part of the Moneyreagh ward had little in common with the rest of this largely rural area. He expressed the view that it should form part of the Knockbracken ward as it was clearly part of the same, suburbanised and built up ribbon along the Saintfield Road. He was of the opinion that the electors within this area could be transferred while maintaining both wards within the accepted 10% tolerance. The specific areas of his representation comprised Manse Gardens, Manse Drive and Manse Park.

Conclusion

3.6 Having inspected the area the subject of Mr Lynch's representation I believe there to be merit in his suggestion in respect of this boundary.

Recommendation

3.7 I recommend that Manse Gardens, Manse Drive and Manse Park presently proposed to be part of the Moneyreagh ward should form part of the Knockbracken ward. The revised electorate for Moneyreagh would be 1991 and that of Knockbracken 2112.

4 SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Name and Boundary of District

4.1 No changes.

Ward Names

4.2 No changes.

Ward Number

4.3 No change.

Ward Boundaries

4.4 Moneyreagh and Knockbracken wards.

The inclusion of Manse Gardens, Manse Drive and Manse Park within Knockbracken ward as opposed to Moneyreagh ward.

5 CONCLUSION

5.1 I should like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all those who submitted written representation and attended the public hearing and for the civil and helpful manner in which they presented their evidence and engaged in the proceedings.

5.2 I would also wish to express my thanks to the staff of the Office of the Local Government Boundaries Commissioner and of the Land Property Services for their invaluable advice, support and efficiency in helping me to conduct the hearing and prepare this report.

PATRICK GOOD

Assistant Local Government Boundaries Commissioner

22nd December 2008.

APPENDIX A: WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

Gerry Adams, MP, MLA (Sinn Fein)
Alliance Party of Northern Ireland
David Mccammick, Chief Executive of Antrim Borough Council
Councillor Sam Baker (Sinn Fein)
Niall Boyle
Tony Brennan, Chairman of Poleglass Cumman
J de Bultier
Councillor Thomas Burns, MLA (SDLP)
Councillor Paul Butler, MLA (Sinn Fein)
Brendan Campbell
Martin Campbell
Sean Campbell
Castlereagh Borough Council
Collin Community Council
The Reverend Leslie Carroll, Co-Convenor, Church & Society
Committee, Presbyterian Church in Ireland
Councillor Ronnie Crawford (UUP)
Dr Brian Crowe, Director of Policy, Ulster Unionist Party
Maria Caraher
Joe Carey
Clifford Charlton
Oonagh Coleman
R G Cuan
Democratic Unionist Party
Dunmurry Community Association (including 830 letters of
representation and 114 signatories to a Council Boundary Petition)
Equality Commission for Northern Ireland
Mairin Gaston
Robert Gardiner
Dr M H Gould
Bumper Graham, Assistant General Secretary of NIPSA
Philip Hanna
Councillor Brian Heading (SDLP)
Margaret Hoben
P A Hoben
G W Johnston
Barry Kirkwood
Lisburn City Council
Mairtin Mag Uidhir
Pol MagUidhir
Paul Maskey, MLA (Sinn Fein)
Pádraig Mac an tSaoir
Seamus Mac Giolla Fhinnein
Fra McCann, MLA (Sinn Fein)
Jennifer McCann, MLA (Sinn Fein)
Marie-Louise McGurk
Barry McKee

Alasdair McDonnell, MP, MLA (SDLP)
Councillor Angela Nelson (Sinn Fein)
Pádraig O'Cuinneagáin
Councillor Charlene O'Hare (Sinn Fein)
Deaglan O'Doibhlin, Irish Language Development Officer, Magherafelt
District Council and Limavady Borough Council
S O'Muireagain
Marcus G Potts
Sue Ramsey, MLA (Sinn Fein)
Patrick J Rice
Maureen Robinson
Nic Sadlier
Eleanor Shields
Siobhan Vallely
Whitemountain and District Community Association

APPENDIX B: ORAL SUBMISSIONS

Stephen Barr (UUP)
Councillor Ann-Marie Beattie, Mayor of Castlereagh Borough Council (DUP)
Councillor Jack Beattie, Castlereagh Borough Council (DUP)
Councillor John Blythe, Castlereagh Borough Council (SDLP)
Paul Butler, MLA (Sinn Fein)
Neil Calvin of Ostick & Williams
Councillor Jonathon Craig, MLA (DUP)
Alderman Michael Copeland, Castlereagh Borough Council (UUP)
Councillor Ronnie Crawford, Mayor of the City of Lisburn, (UUP).
Eamon Cunningham, Collin Safe Neighbourhood Project
Alderman Jim Dillon, Lisburn City Council (UUP)
Jeffrey Donaldson, MP, MLA (DUP)
Dr Michael Gordon, Turley Associates
Councillor Brian Hanvey, Castlereagh Borough Council (SDLP)
Councillor Brian Heading, Lisburn City Council (SDLP)
Councillor Rosaleen Hughes, Castlereagh Borough Council (SDLP)
Ray Kennedy (SDLP)
Rosemary Lunn
Gerry Lynch, Chief Executive (Alliance Party)
Nichola Mallon
Desmond Meredith
Joris Minnis
Kate Mullan
Jennifer McCann, MLA (Sinn Fein)
Brian McWilliams
Councillor Angela Nelson, Lisburn City Council (Sinn Fein)
Councillor Peter O'Hagan, Lisburn City Council (SDLP)
Councillor Charlene O'Hara, Lisburn City Council (Sinn Fein)
Trevor Ogborn
Maria M O'Loan, Cleaver Fulton & Rankin Solicitors for Lisburn City Council
Edwin Poots, MLA (DUP)
William Thompson, Dunmurry Community Association
Councillor Margaret Tolerton, Lisburn City Council (DUP)
John Walsh, Principal Solicitor, Belfast City Council
James Watson, Castlereagh Lifestyle Forum.