

CORK CITY EXPANSION

The facts on one page...



Cork, like most cities worldwide, has a history of boundary extensions. The city was expanded in 1840, 1955 and 1965. In the last extension, areas like Model Farm Road, Fairhill, Ballyvolane, Glasheen, Wilton, Ballinlough and Blackrock village all became part of the extended city. Whatever their concerns at the time, nobody would question their city status and identity over 50 years later.

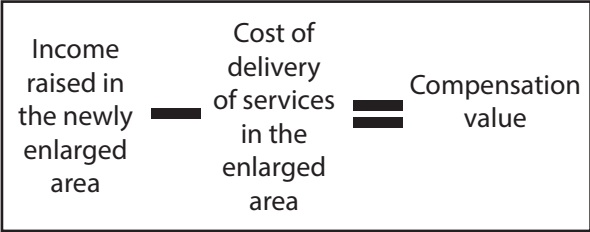
Since the Report of the Expert Advisory Group on Local Government Arrangements in Cork (the Mackinnon report) was published in June this year, concerns have been expressed within the proposed enlarged area about the impact of a boundary extension. Cork City Council would like to address some of these concerns and misunderstandings that are in the public domain.

Rates will increase for businesses in the newly enlarged city because Cork City Council will have a compensation package to pay to Cork County Council.

Not true. Rates will not increase as a result of the boundary extension. Between 2009 and 2017 Cork City Council did not have a rates increase even though the country was going through the worst economic crisis in the history of the state. Cork City Council's rates incentive scheme will also be extended to the enlarged area.

Cork City Council will have to reduce services or increase service charges in the enlarged city because of the compensation bill that will follow an extension.

Not true. All existing service budgets will be transferred to Cork City Council. There is no proposal to reduce services. Separately, various figures of compensation have been put in the public arena but none have been verified. The level of compensation to be paid to Cork County Council as a result of the boundary extension will follow from a comprehensive due diligence exercise by independent specialists. It will be calculated as follows:



Car insurance and house insurance will increase for residents in the newly enlarged Cork City Council area.

Not true. Car insurance costs and property insurance costs vary across Cork city and county. Currently, some areas in the county administrative area have higher insurance costs than areas in the city administrative area. There are a number of reasons for this including claims history but the variation in costs is not as a result of city / county boundary line.

Businesses and residents will suffer in the enlarged area as Cork City Council will introduce paid parking.

Not true. Cork City Council policy is that outside of the city centre, pay parking areas are only introduced at the request of businesses and residents in that locality.

Communities in the enlarged areas will lose Tidy Towns funding if they are included in the city administrative area.

Not true. There are no impediments to suburbs, villages and communities in an enlarged city participating in the Tidy Towns programme. Cork City Council sees enormous value in the competition and will continue to fund and support communities to maintain and enhance their living environment and facilitate participation in national competitions and programmes.

We will lose our local offices as a result of a boundary extension.

Not true. As part of any boundary extension of scale, Cork City Council has always indicated that an area based approach would be implemented for service delivery which would include local offices.

Our town or village won't be the same if it's part of the city. It will lose its sense of identity.

Not true: Cork City Council has no wish to alter the fabric of towns and villages. Rather, it will seek to protect their unique character and identity. Cork City Council envisions a city of the future that is vibrant and unique; not bland or homogenous.

The boundary extension will diminish the level of recreational and community facilities in the county.

Not True. Cork City Council places a premium on recreational facilities spending €171.11* per person on recreation and amenities compared to a €57.86 in Cork County Council. This spend includes sports pitches, libraries, parks and swimming pools. As part of that budget, it also supports up to 40 festivals and funds 24 of these including Christmas in Cork which is attended by up to 150,000 people, the St Patrick's Day Festival which is attended by 55,000. The Cork Midsummer Festival is attended by another 45,000 and more than 48,000 enjoy Culture Night in the city. Our commitment to learning in communities has been recognised globally. Next week, Cork will become the first European city to host the UNESCO International Conference on Learning Cities because of its reputation as a trailblazer in lifelong learning in communities.

The proposed Mackinnon extension comes without any consultation with members of the public; communities haven't had their say.

Not true: In 2015, the Cork Local Government Review Committee was established by the then

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Mr Alan Kelly to report on the future of local government in Cork. An open invitation for submissions was issued to the public by public newspaper notices. Over 100 submissions were made. The Mackinnon Group, later established by Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government Simon Coveney TD, further reviewed these submissions and also carried out consultation, including the Public Participation Networks (PPN) for Cork City Council and the PPN for Cork County Council.

The proposed boundary extension is simply far too big.

Not true. The proposed boundary extension is a 50 year solution. Cork County Council's local area plans (LAPs) show how in the decades to come, even without a city extension, it is intended to develop along the green belt from Ballincollig into the city and out to Carrigtwohill. If the necessary sustainable housing, transport and infrastructural development are to be put in place over this area, best practice internationally shows such development is best overseen by an urban authority. A boundary extension of appropriate scale will also allow Cork to retain its second city status by becoming a natural counterbalance to Dublin. International studies further show that second cities have significant potential to maximise local and national economic performance - especially when given resources by government. A substantial boundary extension gives Cork the potential to become a European city of scale: this is vital when attracting international investment to the entire region; the economic and social benefits of which will be felt by all.

The boundary extension will serve to hasten rural decline in the wider county.

Not true. One of the wonderful things about living in Cork is that we have a buzzing city surrounded by beautiful countryside. However for many years, housing and commercial development have taken place on the outskirts of the limited existing boundary, creating defacto city suburbs in what was once greenbelt. The city boundary should have been extended in recent decades to include these newly urbanised areas. The Cork of the future must retain the quality of life that we love, protect the assets of our rural hinterland and ensure rural life thrives because of a strong competitive city. The compensation paid to Cork County Council will ensure that rural communities continue to receive existing levels of resources.

Cork City Council has a proven track record of working with stakeholders across the city and county to devise and deliver strategies that meet the needs of Cork citizens and businesses. It is committed to working with the Implementation Oversight Group to finally deliver a solution for sustainable local government arrangements in Cork.

*Source: publicpolicy.ie figures on local authority spending.

THE CITY HAS ATTRACTED AND CONTINUES TO HOLD WORLD CLASS COMPANIES SUCH AS

APPLE AND JOHNSON CONTROLS

- AND CONTINUES TO ATTRACT THOUSANDS OF INTERNATIONAL WORKERS

IN THE CITY'S CORE AND IN THE DOCKLANDS AREA, THERE IS IN EXCESS OF

€1 BILLION

OF PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT UNDER WAY OR IN THE PLANNING PROCESS

BETWEEN 2011 & 2016 THERE HAS BEEN A

9.4% INCREASE IN JOBS

IN CORK CITY

THE CITY IS HOME TO MORE THAN

600 NEW BUSINESSES SINCE 2011

ACCOUNTING FOR OVER **5,200 JOBS**

THE MAJORITY OF BUSINESSES IN CORK ARE MICRO ENTERPRISE WITH UP TO

11,500 EMPLOYED

IN BUSINESSES WITH LESS THAN 10 EMPLOYEES

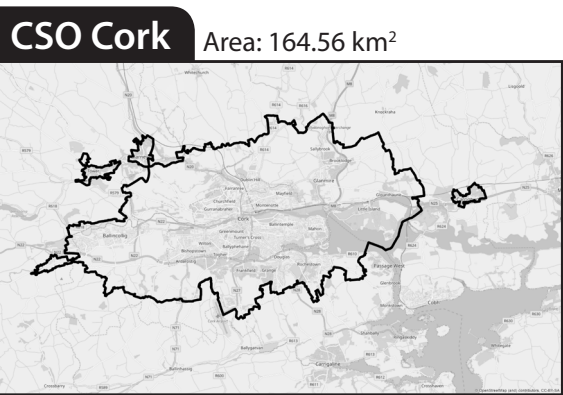
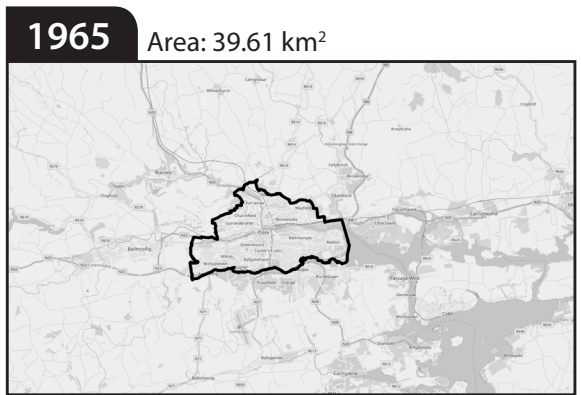
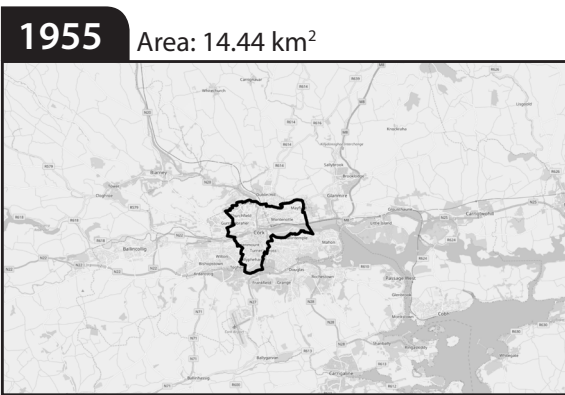
IT'S ABOUT LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONES FOR A

GLOBAL CITY

SUPPORTING A THRIVING REGION



Look how we have grown so far...



Cork City Council's assessment of the boundary based on the Mackinnon report