

Report to Members

Bantry Electoral Area Local Area
Plan
Preliminary Public Consultation &
Other Issues

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This report focuses on the submissions and observations received from the public following publication of an Outline Strategy for Bantry Electoral Area which identified the critical planning issues and choices facing the Electoral Area in the future. The report summarises the outcome of this pre-draft public consultation which was carried out in line with S.20 (1) of the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2006 and will inform the preparation of the Draft Bantry Electoral Area Local Area Plan. Appendix A of the report includes a list of the submissions received relevant to the Electoral Area while Appendix B details the issues which arose from the Stakeholders meeting held in January 2010.

Section 1 Electoral Area Context

1.1 Main changes since the last plan

- 1.1.1 The Bantry Electoral Area has increased in area since the last Local Area Plan due to the reconfiguration of electoral area boundaries. It now includes an additional inland predominantly rural agricultural area which was formerly part of the Skibbereen Electoral Area.
- 1.1.2 The Electoral Area has a population of 20,826 based on 2006 census figures. The census figures for the Electoral Area indicate that the total population of the electoral area has increased by 685 persons, and demonstrates that in the period of 2002-2006 there was an overall population increase in the Bantry Electoral Area of 3.4%. Bantry town was the only main settlement which demonstrated population growth (5%) in the period 2002-2006. The town of Castletownbere (- 0.8%) remained relatively unchanged in terms of population while the town of Schull showed a significant population decline of 17%. The rate of growth even in Bantry appears to be significantly less than many of the other main settlements in the county. The potential of all the main towns has been effected by infrastructural deficiencies.
- 1.1.3 The Villages and Rural Areas overall show a positive, although moderate, rate of growth of 4.2% over the period 2002-2006. However the Key Villages of Ballydehob (16.5%) and Durrus (10.6%) showed substantial population growth over the same period. There are no census based population figures available for Glengarriff. The 2006 population figures also demonstrate that 95% of the growth in the population of the Electoral Area between 2002-2006 occurred in the villages & rural areas with 5% taking place in Bantry town.

Table 1.1: Bantry Electoral Area: Population 2002-2006

| Settlement Hierarchy Bantry EA* | Population | | % Change |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | 2002 | 2006 | |
| Bantry | 3,150 | 3,309 | + 5% |
| Castletownbere | 875 | 868 | - 0.8% |
| Schull | 693 | 576 | - 17% |
| Villages & Rural Areas | 15,423 | 16,073 | + 4.2% |
| Total | 20,141 | 20,826 | + 3.4% |

- 1.1.4 The Census 2006 indicates that there are 2,751 jobs in the three Main towns of the Bantry Electoral Area. The Census 2006 showed Bantry as the principle