

Report to Members

Midleton 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 Midleton 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 Midleton Electoral Area Local Area Plan. Appendix A of the report includes a list of the submissions received relevant to the Electoral Area while

Section 1 Electoral Area Context

1.1 Main changes since the last plan

1.1.1. The Midleton Electoral Area has the largest population of the 10 electoral areas in the County. The 2006 Census recorded 55,151 residents in the electoral area and this is targeted by the CASP Strategy Update 2008 to grow to 84,208 by 2020 (53% in 14 years). Population growth on such a scale and in such a short time period has never been achieved in County Cork before and the Local Area Plan review faces very significant challenges. The Electoral Area has a strong foundation based on a good level of infrastructure investment in the past, particularly with regard to transportation. This together with the Cork Suburban Rail Network, currently serving three of the four main towns, offers the potential to sustainably deliver high rates of population and employment growth. Successfully achieving this level of growth in the Midleton Electoral Area will be a major 'milestone' for the Cork region as a whole if it is to achieve its full socio economic potential in the coming years.

1.1.2. The recent electoral area boundary changes as a consequence of the Electoral Area Boundary Commission have resulted in just one change to Midleton, with the addition of a mainly rural area to the northwest containing the village of Knockraha.

1.1.3. Three of the four main towns, Carrigtwohill, Midleton and Youghal and a number of smaller settlements including the key villages of Castlemartyr and Killeagh are located along the Waterford-Cork section of the Atlantic Corridor.

1.1.4. Carrigtwohill and Midleton have also been designated as 'Developing Areas' by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG).

1.1.5. In 2005, two Special Local Area Plans (SLAP's) were prepared for the towns of Carrigtwohill and Midleton to take advantage of proposals to establish a suburban rail network for Cork including the re-opening of the rail line to Midleton and in particular to give detailed consideration of the implications for these settlements of the large scale growth envisaged in CASP. Since the 2005 Local Area Plans and Special Local Area Plans were adopted there has been significant progress in achieving the strategic planning proposals outlined in those plans, the most notable of which is the recent re-opening of the commuter rail service to Midleton. Therefore, as the SLAP's have largely fulfilled their function, it is now considered appropriate that the towns of Carrigtwohill and Midleton be dealt with as part of the new Electoral Area Local Area Plan.

1.1.6. The 2009 County Development Plan (para. 4.17.3) states that, "...the full potential of the harbour could be best realised through a more integrated approach to its planning and development. In this regard, the Council will seek to prepare an overall study for the development of the harbour. This study will build on work currently underway in the COREPOINT and IMCORE Projects and will inform future