

# **Report to Members**

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

June 2010

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This report focuses on the submissions and observations received from the public following publication of an Outline Strategy for the Skibbereen 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 Skibbereen 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 out of the Stakeholder meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2010.

This report was circulated to the members of the Skibbereen Electoral Area Committee at a meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2010. A second meeting has been arranged for the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2010 to discuss the issues arising from the report.

## Section 1 Electoral Area Context

### Main changes since the last plan

1.1 The boundaries of the Skibbereen Electoral Area have decreased since the last Local Area Plan due to reconfiguration of electoral area boundaries. An inland predominantly rural agricultural area along the western boundary of the Electoral Area was transferred to the Bantry Electoral Area.

1.2 The Electoral Area has a population of 32,739 based on 2006 census figures. The census figures for the Electoral Area indicate that the total population of the electoral area has increased by 2077 persons, which represents an overall increase of approx 6.8 % in the population of the Electoral Area from 2002 to 2006. The populations of both Skibbereen (17% increase) and Clonakilty (13% increase) towns have both achieved strong growth between 2002 and 2006, while the population of Dunmanway has suffered from a slight decrease in population, which is of concern when compared to the strong growth in the other main towns.

1.3 The population growth in the villages and rural areas of the Electoral Area increased by approx 5.5% (1,293 persons) during the period 2002-2006. The 2006 population figures illustrate that the Electoral Area remains predominantly rural in character with approx 75% of the population residing in the villages and rural areas and approximately 25% residing in the three main towns.

1.4 The 2006 census shows that the electoral area achieved a good degree of balance in the distribution of population growth between the main towns and the villages/rural areas. It shows that 62% of the growth in the population of the Electoral Area, between 2002-2006, occurred in the villages & rural areas with 38% distributed between the three main towns.

**Table 1.0 Skibbereen Electoral Area: Population 2002-2006**

Settlement Hierarchy Skibbereen EA*	Population		
	2002	2006	% Change
Clonakilty	3,689	4,154	13%
Dunmanway	1,532	1,522	-1%
Skibbereen	2,000	2,338	17%