# Table of Contents

## Executive Summary
- Executive Summary: page 6

### 1.0 Introduction
- 1.1 Preamble: page 10
- 1.2 Cork County Development Board and the Dunmanway Inter-Agency Committee: page 10
- 1.3 The Preparation of the Strategy: page 11
- 1.4 Methodology: page 12
- 1.5 Focus: page 13
- 1.6 Key Principles: page 13
- 1.7 Structure: page 13

## 2.0 Context and Background
- 2.1 Location and Setting: page 16
- 2.2 Historical Development: page 16
- 2.3 Catchment Definition: page 18
- 2.4 Socio-Economic Picture: page 20
- 2.5 SWOT Analysis: page 22
- 2.6 Policy Overview / Strategic Issues: page 23

## 3.0 The Strategy
- 3.1 Overview: page 26
- 3.2 Key Driver 1: Physical Development
  - 3.2.1 Introduction: page 28
  - 3.2.2 Strategic Aim: page 28
  - 3.2.3 Policy Context: page 29
  - 3.2.4 Physical Profile: page 30
  - 3.2.5 Analysis and Assessment: page 33
  - 3.2.6 Basis for Physical Development Strategy: page 36
- 3.3 Key Driver 2: Economic Development
  - 3.3.1 Introduction: page 44
  - 3.3.2 Strategic Aim: page 44
  - 3.3.3 Policy Context: page 44
  - 3.3.4 Economic Profile: page 47
  - 3.3.5 Analysis and Assessment: page 50
  - 3.3.6 Basis for Economic Development Strategy: page 53
- 3.4 Key Driver 3: Social and Community Development
  - 3.4.1 Introduction: page 60
  - 3.4.2 Strategic Aim: page 60
  - 3.4.3 Policy Context: page 60
  - 3.4.4 Social and Community Profile: page 61
  - 3.4.5 Analysis and Assessment: page 64
  - 3.4.6 Basis for Social and Community Development Strategy: page 66
4.0 Implementation and Monitoring 78
4.1 Introduction 78
4.2 Strategy Implementation 78
4.3 Key Principles 79
4.4 Action Targets 79
4.5 Indicative Timeframes 81

5.0 Environmental Appraisal 96
5.1 Introduction 96
5.2 Environmental Appraisal 96
Executive Summary
The Strategy is designed to realise a vision that will seek to develop an attractive, inclusive, sustainable and prosperous town, which provides for a successful hinterland and offers a range of opportunities from a diverse economy, involves its community and builds on its heritage and location to attract investment and improve the quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

The project phases of the strategy consisted of project planning, an inception report, background research, production of working papers, public consultation; draft plan preparation, public consultation and final plan preparation. The entire project took approximately 7 months to complete.

The strategy can be broken down into four levels; a vision statement which is stated above, three key ‘drivers of change’, a series of objectives that support these key drivers and a series of short term and long term actions that realise these objectives.

The key ‘drivers of change’ within the Strategy address three issues: the improvement of the physical environment, the sustainable development of the area’s economy and the enhancement of social and cultural infrastructure.

The strategic aim in relation to physical development is to ensure that the area’s physical development takes place in a planned, sustainable and integrated manner so as to cater for the housing, transport, social, recreational and economic needs of all inhabitants and to protect and enhance the area’s environment.

The strategy recognises that Dunmanway can achieve this aim through some of the following objectives; to strengthen the vitality and viability of the town centre through a number of physical improvements; to promote and facilitate safe and convenient walking and cycling
routes and enhance the pedestrian environment within the town; to promote and facilitate the development of a high quality built environment in terms of both buildings and public spaces; to promote and facilitate the provision of new social, community, tourist and cultural infrastructure in the area.

The strategic aim in relation to economic development is

to support the sustainable growth of Dunmanway’s economy through the support and development of indigenous industries, its establishment as the principal inland tourist destination in the region and facilitating the growth of commercial activity.

The strategy recognises that Dunmanway can achieve this aim by the following objectives; to develop and support innovative businesses and small/micro enterprises in the wider area; to revitalise the farming sector whilst also providing alternative opportunities for those seeking off-farm employment; support the expansion of timber co-products and encourage landowners to expand into forestry; to develop the base of indigenous food industry.

The strategic aim in relation to social and community development is

to enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors to the area, through the provision of core facilities and services that satisfy their physical, emotional and social needs, the strengthening of pride of place and community spirit throughout the area and the improvement of opportunities for all ages and social groups to participate fully in society.

The following objectives have been recognised as necessary in order to fulfil the above aim; to improve opportunities for all sectors in the area by tackling social exclusion, promoting integration and increasing awareness of the social services; to tackle prejudices such as racism, sexism and ageism; to improve the provision of childcare and the types of childcare available; to support and enhance the delivery of existing recreational facilities and opportunities in the area through best practice management structures.

A number of actions have been identified with a view to achieving each objective.
Chapter 1.0 Introduction
Chapter 1.0   Introduction

1.1   Preamble

The Dunmanway Integrated Development Strategy addresses the economic, social and physical development of Dunmanway and its hinterland and sets out a framework of objectives and actions for the next ten to fifteen years, with a view to making the area a better place to live, learn, work, visit and do business.

The production of this Strategy is one of a number of tasks undertaken by the Dunmanway Inter-Agency Committee. RPS Planning and Environment Consultants were retained to prepare the Strategy which was finalised in November 2007.

1.2  Cork County Development Board and the Dunmanway Inter-Agency Committee

In 1998, the government established an Inter-Departmental Task Force to address the integration of the Local Government and Development systems and examine how the activities of various organisations could be co-ordinated in a more effective way at local level. It identified that a major difficulty for the planning and delivery of public services at the local level is the absence of a single template to guide the activities of the many public sector agencies operating within each local authority area. In order to address this, the Task Force recommended the establishment of County/City Development Boards in 2000.

The Cork County Development Board (CDB) prepared a 10-year Strategy for the Economic, Social and Cultural Development of County Cork for the period 2002-2011, which acts as a framework for the organisations providing public services within the county. This strategy was reviewed in 2005, when Dunmanway was designated as one of nine priority actions for the CDB, following a proposal by the Community and Voluntary sector. In this regard a local implementation group, the Dunmanway Inter-Agency Committee (hereafter referred to as the IAC), was established to progress the development of the town and its hinterland. The formation of the group, which is chaired by the Assistant County Manager, occurred in Spring 2006 and has involved a high level of participation by many organisations.

There are 21 members on the main steering group, representing a broad cross section of local agencies and groups including representatives from Cork County Council and Seanad Éireann; social partners including the Community and Voluntary Umbrella Forum and Dunmanway Promotions; state agencies including the Health Services Executive, Teagasc, West Cork Enterprise Board, the Vocational Education Committee/ Maria Immaculata Community College, FAS, Failte Ireland South West and An Garda Siochana; and local development agencies such as West Cork LEADER, West Cork Rural Transport, Cork County Childcare Company, Dunmanway Family Resource Centre and Cork Sports Partnership. The Department of Social and Family Affairs, West Cork Community Partnership and the West Cork Citizens Information Service are recent additions to the group.

Vision

An attractive, inclusive, sustainable and prosperous town, which provides for a successful hinterland and offers a range of opportunities from a diverse economy, involves its community and builds on its heritage and location to attract investment and improve the quality of life for residents and visitors alike.
To begin with, the committee members, following agreement within their own agency, put forward a list of tasks for the area. These formed the basis for discussion on common purposes and opportunities for co-operation, which culminated in the setting up of six working groups in the following areas:

- Business/Enterprise/Alternative Agri-opportunities
- Tourism/Heritage/Environment
- Education and Training
- Health Welfare and Social Inclusion
- Youth Development
- Enhancement of the town and its environs

The working groups, comprised of members of the IAC and other appropriate local representatives, have come together to commit to agreed tasks and set targets and responsible agencies for each. Improved collaboration between public bodies working with communities facilitates change. It is important to involve the right people, with the right disposition and commitment, and obtain senior level support, both of which exist on the Dunmanway IAC. There have been a number of successes to date:

- A Partnership Approach to working together
- Financial allocation for the refurbishment of the Municipal Swimming Pool
- Financial allocation and local agreement for a relief road to take traffic out of the town square
- Funding from IAC members for the Dunmanway Integrated Development Strategy.
- Education and Training Audit, which has led to a change in the development of locally run courses
- Ongoing success towards establishing a strong representative business organisation for the town, including breakfast meetings and guest speakers organised by West Cork Enterprise Board and FAS
- Securing of a community grant from Cork County Council to upgrade Lakeside Park
- Development of walkways within the town
- Securing of a grant from the FAI for an all-weather soccer pitch for community use
- A number of small grants secured for youth initiatives
- Approval to hold the domain name for a locally developed community website

Dunmanway’s population is such that it does not qualify for a town council or other local government structure. This can undermine integrated responses to problems affecting the town. An interagency committee is one way of tackling this institutional deficit in the area, providing a forum and mechanism where integrated planning and development of the town can be progressed. It offers the potential to develop a new and exciting model of local governance, which responds to the geographical realities of service provision and can react positively to specific local problems and issues at an appropriate scale.

1.3 The Preparation of the Strategy

The preparation of the Integrated Development Strategy for Dunmanway and its hinterland has come about because local stakeholders acknowledge the need to achieve a long-term sustainable change in the area’s fortunes and the need for a vision to direct this change.

The Vision is driven by the current reality that the area is failing to fulfil its potential, particularly in terms of the town’s role as a service provider and a driver of change, and the wider area’s potential in terms of tourism and economic diversification. The ambition for the area is that by 2020 Dunmanway and its hinterland will have successfully repositioned itself to the extent that it has become a successful example of a rural area’s regeneration and development.
In particular, the ambition of the IAC has been to commission a Strategy that co-ordinates and guides the creation an environment in the town and its hinterland where enterprise can flourish, where job and learning opportunities are maximised, and where commerce, leisure, living and learning can take place successfully. The realisation of these ambitions will together guide Dunmanway and its hinterland to a more prosperous and sustainable future.

The overall strategic goal of the IAC is: ‘To revitalise Dunmanway through increased and upgraded physical, community and economic infrastructure, increased population, and the creation of a sustainable partnership approach to the continued development of the town and hinterland.’

RPS Planning & Environment were retained by the IAC to carry out background research on the study area, carry out a consultation process and develop a strategy for the area’s development. While the Strategy will inform the work of the IAC, the document has been prepared by RPS and it must be understood that not all parties involved in the IAC endorse all aspects of the Strategy. The members of and agencies represented on the IAC will not be accountable for the total delivery of the Strategy.

1.4 Methodology

The preparation of the Strategy involved a co-operative approach in line with the ethos of the IAC. The Steering Group of the IAC in particular worked closely with the consultants throughout the process as the key points of contact, beginning with an introductory meeting for the handing over of relevant documents and discussion on the proposed methodology.

An Inception Meeting introduced the consultants to the full IAC where an Inception Report was presented to the committee outlining the proposed methodology. A period of background research followed, which was carried out by the consultants with information provided by members of the IAC where necessary. This process culminated in the production of three working papers to inform the development of the Strategy: Working Paper 1 – Policy Literature Review, Working Paper 2 – Catchment Analysis and Working Paper 3 – Review of Existing Characteristics.

Letters inviting submissions on the Strategy were issued to a number of statutory bodies and local groups and some comments were received. Follow-up phone calls were made in a number of cases to gather information considered relevant to the Strategy.

The Strategy was publicly launched in a series of two articles on the work of the IAC published in The Southern Star newspaper in July.

A Public Information Day was held in July and members of the IAC and the consultants attended, with assistance from members of the local community and support from staff of the agencies represented on the IAC. An Issues Paper was circulated prior to and at the meeting and included a comment sheet for members of the public to make submissions on issues considered relevant to the Strategy. The event was well attended and submissions received proved useful in formulating the Strategy. As well as being a forum for public consultation for the Strategy, the event introduced the IAC and its role to the community and provided a setting for feedback on issues of relevance to the other work of the Committee. A display was prepared for the day and this was subsequently exhibited in County Hall for a number of weeks following the Information Day.
Following the receipt of submissions from the public and the completion of research, the consultants contacted several members of the IAC and meetings were held to establish key elements considered necessary for inclusion in the Strategy. A Draft Strategy was prepared and presented to the Steering Group initially and then to the IAC at meetings held in September. Comments from the committee were incorporated and a revised draft was circulated among relevant agencies before a draft for public consultation was agreed. This Final Draft was then presented to the local community at a public consultation event held in October where submissions on the draft were invited. Again, this event was well attended.

The Strategy was finalised following receipt and consideration of submissions following the public consultation event and handed over to the County Development Board and the IAC in November 2007. A further Working Paper on Consultation was prepared following the completion of the consultation process.

1.5 Focus

The experience of the Dunmanway IAC to date has brought a recognition that much more can be achieved by adopting a joint, collaborative approach to addressing socio-economic needs and realising opportunities. The focus of the Strategy is therefore on ‘integration’, that is, developing a framework that encourages individuals, organisations and agencies to work in partnership towards related goals. Such a focus will result in improved co-ordination and co-operation. There is also an emphasis on ensuring the effectiveness of the Strategy. ‘Actions’ and proposals for implementation and monitoring have been established.

The intent is that this document will form the platform upon which future development and investment decisions are made for the area by private, public and community interests.

1.6 Key Principles

Four ‘key principles’ of the Strategy have been defined as follows:

• Sustainability: to protect, promote and sustain the area’s economy and environment and ensure the protection of in particular, areas of scientific, archaeological or special amenity value.
• Equality of Opportunity, Participation and Social Inclusion: to ensure that everyone in the area has access to the same level of services and that opportunities for participation are maximised
• Integration: to ensure that an integrated, multi-agency approach is adopted, consisting of a set of integrated and broad-based policies and resulting in physical, economic and social change of benefit to the community as a whole
• Administrative Capacity and Evaluation: to ensure that there is administrative and institutional capacity and commitment to implement, evaluate and monitor the Strategy.

Strategic objectives and actions set out in the Strategy have been developed so that they are congruent with these key principles.

1.7 Structure

This document represents the culmination of a preparation and consultation process that has taken place over the past six months. The outcome of this process is the production of a ten-year Integrated Strategy for the area’s development. The Strategy is divided into the following sections:

• Introduction
• Context
• The Strategy Overview
• Physical Development
• Economic Development
• Social and Cultural Development
• Implementation and Monitoring
• Environmental Appraisal
Chapter 2.0: Context and Background
2.1 Location and Setting

This section provides the context and background that have informed the preparation of the strategy, including a synopsis of the historical development of Dunmanway, the socio-economic profile of the town today, a definition of the town's catchment, the policy context and a number of the strategic issues impacting on the future development of the town.

Dunmanway is located at the confluence of the Brewery and the Sally rivers with the Bandon River. It is sheltered by elevated land on three sides. To the north and west lie the foothills of the Shehy Mountains and to the south lie smaller hills. As a result the town is sometimes referred to as the ‘Gateway to the Mountains’. The topography and landscape of the wider area consists of pasture, rough grazing and rock outcrop.

The road network radiates from the town through passes in the surrounding hills leading to the scenic rugged heartland of West Cork, which contrasts with the coves and inlets of the coast. To the north, this network leads to Inchigeela, Gougane Barra, Macroom and the Lee Valley; to the northwest through the Cousane Gap to Glengarriff, the Beara peninsula and Kerry; to the west via Drimoleague or Castledonovan to Bantry; and to the southwest via Drimoleague to Skibbereen and Baltimore and on to the Mizen peninsula. Roads to the south lead to Drinagh, Clonakilty and Rosscarbery and on to the south coast, and to the east, lead to Bandon and Innishannon via Ballineen and Enniskeane and on towards Cork City.

2.2 Historical Development

Dunmanway has always been a market centre given its nodal position geographically and economically within the West Cork region. In early times, Dunmanway was located in the territory of the Ui Eachach, a branch of the Eoghanachta, the dominant race in Munster. In the middle of the 12th century the McCarthy’s became dominant in the Dunmanway area, ruling from castles at Dunmanway and Togher. The McCarthy castle in the town stood at Castle Street along the banks of the Sally River.

Richard Cox, born in Bandon in 1650, is regarded as the founder of Dunmanway. In 1693 he was granted letters patent by King William to convert the lands of Dunmanway to establish an English settlement on the road from Cork to Bantry, with two annual fairs and a weekly market. By 1700 there were 30 families living in the town. During his leadership the local church (currently St. Mary’s) was moved to the town from Fanlobbus, a stone bridge was built over the Bandon River, a road was built connecting Ballineen and Dunmanway and the woollen and cotton industries were established. The town did not expand as rapidly as expected and by 1735 there were only approximately 50 houses, some uninhabited.

It was not until the arrival of Cox’s successor (his grandson Richard) that the town grew rapidly and the linen industry was established in the area. By 1747, the linen industry was well established and Cox’s personal census recorded 557 people. Two years later, the population was 807, living in 117 houses.
1758 account of the town, it consisted of a single street and some weavers’ houses built by Cox, as well as a return to the bridge which led to a green and planted area where houses were located, including labourers houses.

In 1798 J. Atkins erected a tannery in River Lane, which produced leather for boot and harness making. By 1810 the town boasted two tan yards and two boulting mills. The town then consisted of one long street extending about half a mile to the west of the bridge and contained 419 houses. Several new roads leading to the town had been recently opened including a “fine and level line from Cork to Bantry.”

The most important building within the town during this time was Market House, which stood where the statue of Sam Maguire now stands. This two-storey building was built in the latter half of the 17th Century. It was used as a constabulary station, a court house, a boxing arena, a dance hall and a training hall but is best known for its holding of weekly markets. The building was demolished in 1972. Cattle fairs were held in the East and West Green as well as Mary Street.

In 1837, Samuel Lewis’s Topographical Dictionary of Ireland recorded a population of 2,738 in Dunmanway noting that the manufacture of linen continued to flourish for some years, but that at the time there were very few looms at work. A new brewery industry was thriving, however. The town had at least two breweries – one at the lower end of Market Square and the other near Brewery Bridge.

The rail line was extended to Dunmanway in the 1860s but closed in 1961.

West Cork was hit hard by the Great Famine. In the early 1850s, following the migrations and evictions which characterized the famine’s upheavals, more than seventy percent of Dunmanway residents did not own any land.

Five kilometres north of Dunmanway lies the birthplace of Sam Maguire, the famed republican whose name is synonymous with Gaelic Football. Other historical places of interest nearby include Beal na Blath, the assassination site of Michael Collins, and the grave of Sam Maguire at St. Mary’s Church. The Model School has served the town since 1848 and it was here that Sam Maguire attended primary school.

Dunmanway was traditionally located on the main route to West Cork, however, the designation of the road through Clonakilty and Skibbereen to Bantry as the national road in the area, the N71, changed the focus of the road network locally.
Dunmanway Integrated Development Strategy

2.0 Context and Background

2.3 Catchment Definition

In order to identify a clear catchment area for the town of Dunmanway nine different catchment categories were assessed. They are as follows:

- Local Area Engineering Catchment
- Health Care Catchment
- Civic, Historic and Religious Catchments
- Drive Time Catchment
- Rural Transport Catchment
- Business Trading Catchment
- Banking and Post Office Catchment
- Educational Catchment Areas
- Social, Sporting, Recreation and Tourism Catchments

Located approximately 60km west of Cork City in the heart of West Cork, Dunmanway functions as a focal point of many of the above catchments. This highlights its role as a support and service centre for the wider rural countryside it is located in. For example, it acts as the centre for the co-ordination of Cork County Council engineering activities in the Dunmanway Engineering Area, which covers approximately 49,000 ha and in relation to health services it lies at the heart of the Dunmanway/Drimoleague Primary Care Team area of four public health nurses and four GP’s for a catchment area of approximately 43,947 ha.

All catchments have been assembled into one map (see Figure 1 below) illustrating significant overlap between the identified catchments, which is useful for the purposes of this strategy. Anomalies such as the difference between drive times and distances can be explained.

The identified catchments are largely but not exclusively determined by the presence of a number of larger county towns and their proximity to Dunmanway: Clonakilty and Skibbereen to the south, Bandon to the east, Macroom to the north and Bantry to the west. These towns’ own spheres of influence have implications for the final definition of a catchment for the town of Dunmanway. The location of these towns on national roads has been a factor in their relative success in the recent years, which is illustrated by their existing critical masses and the expansion of their own catchments over the past number of years. The presence of smaller settlements, topography, landscape and history also play roles in the identification of an appropriate catchment.

Drive times from Dunmanway town centre were also examined to identify the levels of population living within 10, 20 and 30 minutes of the town. According to the CSO Census 2006 population figures there are currently 2,407 people living within Dunmanway North and Dunmanway South Electoral divisions that make up Dunmanway Town. While this may be considered small, statistics from GAMMA advise that there is a population of 4,556 people living within 10 minutes drive from the town centre, 12,457 within 20 minutes and 52,386 within 30 minutes as per the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drive Time</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 Minute Drive Time</td>
<td>4,391</td>
<td>4,556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Minute Drive Time</td>
<td>11,903</td>
<td>12,457</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Minute Drive Time</td>
<td>48,590</td>
<td>52,386</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In relation to retail, Dunmanway has a number of convenience stores and some comparison stores. People travel from areas including Inchigeelagh, Drimoleague, Kealkil and Enniskeane to shop in Dunmanway. There are two main banking branches, and a credit union located within Dunmanway and also a number of ATM services are located in the convenience stores and elsewhere within the catchment area. Both the banking and postal service catchments are quite substantial.

The educational catchment is also large especially in terms of those students attending the Maria Immaculata Community College in Dunmanway. This could be influenced by the relatively new nature of the school and the facilities it can provide for potential students. Students travel from areas such as Drimoleague and Enniskeane to attend this school.

From the composite of these catchments, one practical catchment was chosen as the basis for the overall Strategy (see Figure 2 below). This catchment was chosen on the basis that it covers the area of most overlap between each of the individual catchments and includes the settlements of Inchigeelagh, Enniskeane/ Ballineen, Drimoleague and Drinagh.
Some areas that had been included in individual catchment areas were excluded from the final hinterland. For example, Ballingeary Electoral Division was omitted because there is no direct access from Dunmanway to Ballingeary except via minor roads, due to the mountainous and wooded areas lying between the village and Dunmanway, while the R584 runs directly from Ballingeary to Macroom and Bantry. It was considered that the area’s small population would be much more likely to travel to Macroom or Bantry than Dunmanway.

It is noted that Teerelton lies within the Dunmanway Rural Area catchment for civic purposes, however, it is assumed that its population will travel to Macroom rather than Dunmanway because of proximity. All other Electoral Divisions within Dunmanway Rural Area are contained within the proposed indicative catchment.

Not all of the retail trading catchment has been included in the final catchment. It appears clear that sections of the retail catchment area identified, particularly to the east towards Bandon, the southeast towards Clonakilty and the west towards Kealkil and Bantry are more appropriately placed within those towns’ catchment areas. Furthermore, the limited nature of the business survey on which the retail catchment was based is likely not to have taken account of this. Therefore lands east of Enniskeane as well as lands in the electoral division of Kealkil were omitted.

Lands to the southwest however, in and around Drimoleague, have been included as this area has a high level of population using Dunmanway’s banking and post office services and they also lie within the secondary school catchment and Primary Health Care Team areas.

It is unlikely that people further north, south, east or west of the proposed catchment will travel to Dunmanway for banking, shopping, education and social services given that the towns of Macroom, Bandon, Clonakilty, Skibbereen and Bantry are in closer proximity and are more easily accessible.

Overall, it is considered that the indicative catchment proposed presents a realistic and practical catchment area for the town of Dunmanway given the spatial distribution of existing service provision, the topography in the wider area, the quality of the road network and the presence and vitality of neighbouring county towns in the region. It is indicative rather than definitive but is useful for the development of an Integrated Development Strategy for Dunmanway and its rural hinterland. There are a number of villages included within the identified catchment:

- **Ballineen/Enniskeane**
  Ballineen and Enniskeane are linear twin villages c.8 miles east of Dunmanway on the main Bandon road. The River Bandon runs a few hundred yards south of the villages. The combined settlement is designated a Key Village by Cork County Council and contains important local services as well as a substantial timber industry.

- **Drimoleague**
  Drimoleague is located c.10 miles west of Dunmanway on the main Bantry road. It was formerly the railway junction for Bantry and Skibbereen from Cork. It is built on the river Ruagach, a tributary of the Ilen River. It is also designated as a Key Village, with significant local services and some successful arts and crafts outlets.

- **Ballinacarriga**
  Ballinacarriga is a small settlement, designated as a Village by Cork County Council, located c.5 miles south east of Dunmanway and was once the stronghold of the Hurley’s of West Cork who built the castle there, which is the main feature of the village. A lake is located adjacent.

- **Ballingurteen**
  Ballingurteen is a small Village c.6 miles from Dunmanway on the Clonakilty road. It provides a limited amount of facilities for its residents. There is a strong indigenous industry in sand and gravel extraction and concrete production in the area.

- **Coppeen**
  Coppeen is a Village located northeast of Dunmanway on the old road to Bantry from Cork. It provides a number of local services for a dispersed population. Most of the development is located north of the main road.
2.4 Socio-Economic Profile

This section examines Dunmanway and its hinterland, with a view to highlighting important socio-economic trends to help build a current picture of the area.

The population of Dunmanway town increased by 95 persons or 6.7% between 1996 and 2006 and now stands at 1,522. This increase is low compared to the 19.2% increase in the State and the 26.1% increase in County Cork over the same period.

Between 2002 and 2006 the population of the town actually decreased with strong growth in the southern areas of the town offset by significant population decreases in northern areas around the town centre. The clear spatial variations evident in the growth of population within the town and the fact that it is not expanding at a rate comparable with other towns in the West Cork region both have significant implications for its future development and the focus of a strategy to address same. The period 2002 to 2006 saw increases in the population of rural areas surrounding the town with growth underpinned by new housing developments in villages in the hinterland and one-off housing in the countryside. Analysis of planning applications in the villages surrounding Dunmanway since 2000 demonstrates that residential development pressure was concentrated in the villages of Enniskeane, Ballineen, Drinagh and Drimoleague.

Other trends in the structure of the town’s and wider hinterland’s populations are also of significance. There is a lower percentage of people in the independent age cohort (15-64) and a higher percentage of people in the old dependent age cohort in the area than in the State and County Cork. This high dependency ratio, although evident in many other rural areas, is a worrying trend given that those in the independent age cohort are most economically active and produce children. In addition, the higher percentage of older people has implications for the provision of health and social services.

In line with national trends, there have been substantial increases in the number of people completing primary, secondary and third level education in the area. This is positive in terms of a high knowledge base in the area but needs to be considered in conjunction with other demographic indicators such as the out migration of young people and the declining numbers entering agriculture.

The unemployment rate was lower in the study area than in the State in both 1996 and 2002. Moreover, the majority of the electoral divisions also had a lower unemployment rate than County Cork. Despite the low unemployment numbers, there are indications of a growing number of people travelling to work outside...
the study area (there was a 72% increase in people travelling over 10 miles between 1996 and 2002). This is consistent with the decrease in the number of people working in agriculture and the lack of strong commercial or industrial centres in the immediate area. In 2002, 32% of people in the study area travelled over 10 miles to work, school or college.

There is still a heavy reliance on the agricultural sector of the economy with 20% of the people at work in the study area employed in agriculture in 2002. This is over twice the national average. However, the number of people working in agriculture in the area decreased significantly between 1996 and 2002, which is consistent with national trends.

The economic diversification evident in other parts of the West Cork region through the promotion of tourism, technology centres and the food industry is not apparent in the area.

The average Family Farm Income (FFI) in the state decreased between 2005 and 2006. This declining farm income has a significant impact on agricultural workers and consequently, the economy of the area.

There have not been any recent significant commercial, retail or industrial developments in Dunmanway town. The majority of planning applications in the study area since 2000 have been for residential developments. There is limited new retail provision, resulting in leakage to other centres in West Cork such as Clonakilty and Skibbereen. Furthermore, there are a number of vacant and derelict buildings within the town centre indicating low demand for retail and commercial premises.

While residential property prices indicate that houses are less expensive in Dunmanway than in Skibbereen and Clonakilty, there has been a very slow uptake (4.25%) of land zoned for residential development in the 2005 Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan. These factors: lower house prices and the slow uptake of development land indicate that there is low demand for residential property in the area. Infrastructural constraints are also likely to have been a factor in the slow take-up of residually zoned land in the area. However, the area does exhibit advantages in terms of developing a more robust residential property market. The affordability of houses, the high quality rural environment, the short distance to the mountainous areas, lakes and the coastline and proposed infrastructural improvements are all positive attributes.

While West Cork is a very popular tourist destination, Dunmanway has not tapped into the opportunity this presents. The town currently has limited tourist offer with a lack of choice of accommodation, restaurants and tourist attractions. However, there is clear potential to tap into specialist tourism sectors such as hill walking and fishing and the Sam Maguire theme.

Current traffic and movement patterns in the town have a negative impact on the quality of the urban and shopping environment with a significant amount of through traffic entering the town centre through Market Square. On the other hand, the importance of access and parking provision in the town core cannot be underestimated given travel patterns in the wider area and the reliance on the private motorcar.

The current water supply and wastewater treatment constraints in the town limit its development potential. However, these constraints are in the process of being addressed. Broadband infrastructure is almost complete and will make a positive contribution to

![Dunmanway Rural E.D. Population Change 1996-2006](image-url)
existing businesses in the town as well as the attraction of new enterprise. The Dunmanway Regional Water Supply Scheme scheduled to start in 2008 will improve the water supply to many of the settlements in the area. Overall the short-term resolution of a number of the current infrastructural inadequacies will realise the potential for further development capacity in the town.

Dunmanway has a large number of sporting and community facilities and organisations. The community spirit demonstrated through organisations such as Dunmanway Promotions Association and the town’s nomination as the county representative in the Pride of Place competition in 2007 indicates a strong interest in the development of the town.

The park area and the swimming pool represent a significant amenity resource and have seen some improvements in recent years, with further redevelopment now proposed. The area’s importance to the town is further highlighted by the lack of high quality open spaces within the town core.

2.5 SWOT Analysis

As outlined above, Dunmanway and its hinterland currently face a number of challenges in seeking to develop an environment that is attractive to residents, businesses and investors to underpin the future growth of the town.

The strengths of the town and its hinterland will need to be maximised and weaknesses and challenges addressed in order to maximise opportunities available to further improve the physical, social and economic environment and the quality of life for those that work and live in the region.

The following SWOT analysis summarises the strengths and weaknesses of, opportunities for, and threats to the area:

**Strengths**

- Existing cluster of food production companies
- Service centre for surrounding area
- New secondary school with modern facilities
- Good consolidated amenity area on Drimoleague road
- Swimming pool, new playground, tennis courts, pitch and putt course
- Proximity to Cork City
- Clean green environmental image
- Central Location in West Cork
- Quality well educated workforce
- Well-developed community infrastructure and sense of community
- Quality of the landscape and built heritage

**Weakness**

- Institutional vacuum in terms of representation / government structures
- Limited retailing function
- Town turns its back on the river
- Zoning for residential development not sustainable
- Limited range of social outlets
- Poor morale in the area
- Poor tourist infrastructure
- Outward migration among young people
- Dependence on agriculture
- Infrastructural constraints
- Poor transport linkages and Traffic and parking problems
- Poor pedestrian environment
- Significant amount of backland / vacant land

**Opportunities**

- Niche-market food processing
- By pass routes
- River as an amenity area and pedestrian/cycle route potential
- Increasing population in town area – critical mass
- Farm diversification to increase family incomes
- Further development of infrastructure provisions
- Tourist potential
- Available development land and opportunity sites in close proximity to town centre
- Funding through CLAR designation, the Rural Development Programme and the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme

**Threats**

- Over reliance on agriculture
- Population dependency ration with ageing population
- Competition and leakage to other county towns
- Threat of pollution to environment
- Downturn in economy
- Decline in rural communities
- Water quality and waste water treatment
- Increased one off housing
- Further sprawl of town
2.6 Policy Overview / Strategic Issues

At national level both the National Development Plan and the National Spatial Strategy recognise and respond to the challenges facing rural areas such as the Dunmanway hinterland. For example, both documents address the issues of regional imbalance and rural decline. Furthermore, the National Development Plan will provide funding through its operational programmes for works and schemes, which will be of benefit to Dunmanway and the surrounding area. There is strong potential for Dunmanway to benefit from the new National Rural Development Programme. Such policy coherence can only be positive given the magnitude of some of the challenges facing rural areas over the coming years.

In terms of planning, a hierarchy of policy documents is now in place, which will seek to co-ordinate the spatial development of the country in a sustainable manner. Again, such policy coherence is beneficial and allows for the consideration of the development of areas from a strategic to a localised level.

The National Spatial Strategy, in addressing the spatial development of the country seeks to achieve balanced regional development in relation to the economic, social and environmental capability of Ireland as a whole. One of its main aims is to recognise and integrate the roles of both urban and rural areas, and develop functional areas that will attain critical mass. It specifically addresses strengthening of structurally weak areas noting that this requires the strengthening of the structure of villages and towns in these areas.

Following on from this the Southwest Regional Planning Guidelines seek to secure the development of towns and rural areas to their maximum potential, supporting the Cork City Gateway and the identified Hubs; and to ensure a sustainable future for the rural areas of the region. It puts in place a number of policy objectives to realise this. The Guidelines are supported at a strategic level by the North and West Cork Strategic Plan, which is a key strategic development plan for the region, focussing on issues that distinguish the area from the Cork Area Strategic Plan area and informing planning policy at lower levels in the hierarchy.
In the Cork County Development Plan, Dunmanway is identified as one of the county's 31 main settlements, and an urban development node with a function as a key service town for the rural hinterland it supports. The Plan specifically supports and encourages the development of this role. (The town is designated as a County Town in the Cork Strategic Retail Strategy.) In line with the plan's settlement strategy new residential, commercial and industrial development is directed to the town itself rather than more rural areas. This provides strong policy support for the development of the town, which should, over the next number of years, result in the further expansion of its commercial, residential and local services functions.

Cork County Development Board, in its 2005 Review of the Integrated Strategy for the Economic, Social and Cultural Development of County Cork, selected Dunmanway as one of its nine priority areas for targeted work programmes for 2006 to 2008. This resulted in the formation of the Dunmanway IAC and an integrated, collaborative approach to implementing measures to deal with some of the issues facing the town and its hinterland.

The Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan provides a more detailed examination of the development of the town and its wider hinterland. The plan puts forward a range of policies and objectives to guide its sustainable development. This has the effect of offering clarity on development opportunities and constraints in the town.

The development of villages in the hinterland is also supported and encouraged by existing planning policy. At a strategic level the consolidation and development of such villages is seen as critical in the establishment of a sustainable spatial settlement pattern in the county as a whole. The Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan has consequently identified and zoned a significant amount of land for new residential development within the development boundary of these villages. This should in the long-term lead to an increase in the population of the Dunmanway hinterland underpinning the town’s function as a service and support centre for its rural catchment area with more localised services provided for within the villages themselves.

At a more detailed localised level Dunmanway town benefits from the preparation of a number of studies that have recently been completed, mainly Dunmanway - A Framework for Change and the Dunmanway Needs Analysis which provide a wealth of detailed information, statistics and ideas with regard to the future development of the town and its hinterland. Locally devised strategies for the National Rural Development Programme and Local Development Social Inclusion Programme will be prepared also and these will provide a local strategic context for programme delivery in both instances. Accordingly, the needs of Dunmanway should be reflected in both programmes. The merger of West Cork LEADER and the West Cork Community Partnership as the West Cork Development Partnership should have a positive impact in terms of access to cohesive supports in terms of integrated rural development and social inclusion funding and supports.

The value in the preparation of an Integrated Strategy for the area will be in co-ordinated consideration of national, regional and local issues affecting the town and its hinterland, in bringing together the existing strategic and local policy responses and in their amalgamation into a coherent framework to guide the development of the town over the next 10-15 years. The implementation of the strategy will be greatly assisted by the existence of the Dunmanway IAC and the links that have been forged through its establishment.

The overall policy framework for the area is positive. Issues and challenges unique to areas like the study area are identified and policy responses have been put in place, nationally, regionally and locally. In general the policy framework in place can be seen as responsive and favourable to the further development of the town.
### 3.1 Overview

Essentially the Strategy comprises an assessment of ‘where we are’, a vision of ‘where we want to be’ and a means of ‘how to get there’.

The first step is a consideration of the existing socio-economic situation in the study area. Out of this appraisal comes the generation of an overall vision for the development of the area and finally the elucidation of mechanisms and actions that will facilitate the realisation of the vision.

The Strategy has four levels:
- An overarching ‘vision statement’ based on strategic opportunities and the aspirations of stakeholders
- Three key ‘drivers of change’ which are critical elements in the achievement of the vision
- A series of objectives that support and develop these key drivers
- A series of short term and long term actions that realise these objectives.

#### 3.1.1 Vision

The agreed vision for the future of the town and its hinterland as set out in the introduction is to create:

An attractive, inclusive and prosperous town, which provides for a successful hinterland and offers a range of opportunities from a diverse economy, involves its community and builds on its heritage and location to attract investment and improve the quality of life for residents and visitors alike.
These are crucial times for the development of Dunmanway and its hinterland. On some indicators the area has made good progress in recent years, yet in common with many other rural areas with a dependency on farming it still faces threats to its economic vitality and therefore the well-being of its inhabitants. The analysis of its current position and expected future trends indicate that there are a number of key developmental themes confronting the area over the coming years.

These include:

- The decline in the agricultural sector and the need for diversification and new ideas
- The growth in employment in the services sector nationally and the town’s potential role as an improved service centre for the wider area
- The continuing growth in the importance of tourism to rural areas and the town’s relative failure to capitalize on the success of the wider region
- The current spatial and physical development of the town and the challenges and opportunities this presents.
- The town’s strategic relevance to the West Cork region and the impact of the growth of other towns
- The impact of each of the above on the quality of life of inhabitants

Each ‘driver’ in its own right has a significant impact on the overall quality of life in an area. Taken together and advanced in an integrated manner they can succeed in achieving the Strategy’s vision.

Each ‘driver’ is supported and developed through a series of objectives. The improvement of the physical environment for example involves objectives that are focused issues ranging from improving the traffic and parking situation in the town through the development of an enhanced movement and access network, to exploiting the amenity and recreational potential of the town’s setting and location to ensuring the provision of adequate infrastructure to allow the further development of the town.

In turn, each objective is progressed and realised through a number of short and long-term actions.

The Strategy takes an overall look at the physical, economic and social aspects of life in the area. In this way it is an Integrated Strategy. This means that although it is set out under separate themes, all of the aims and objectives are related to each other. The three key drivers of change, underpinned and advanced through the identified objectives and actions, will all contribute to achieving the overall vision of the Strategy. The resulting “Integrated Development Strategy” can therefore be both idealistic in its vision and practical in its focus on mechanisms of implementation.
3.2 Key Driver 1: Physical Development

To ensure that the area’s physical development takes place in a planned, sustainable and integrated manner so as to cater for the housing, transport, social, recreational and economic needs of all inhabitants and to protect and enhance the area’s environment.

The Strategic Aim

3.2.1 Introduction

The physical development element of this strategy is the starting point for progressing many of the economic and social actions proposed in other sections of the strategy. A sound infrastructure is vital for the economic, social and cultural development of the area, providing a key cornerstone upon which economic and social improvements can be based.

For example, efficient infrastructure is vital to facilitate growth in tourism, be it roads and transport links that facilitate access, or facilities and activities that attract tourists. In addition, the development of roads and rail, the provision of gas, electricity and broadband telecommunications are vital ingredients for sustained economic development.

A key principle of this Strategy is ‘Sustainability’, particularly in terms of physical development. Emphasis is placed on the importance of ‘sustainable development’: development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

In terms of the spatial development of the wider area the Strategy considers that the current focus directing development to towns and villages should be continued while with regard to the development of Dunmanway Town itself, it is considered that a strategy of consolidation should be pursued with a view to creating a compact, sustainable and attractive town. The detail of both approaches is developed throughout this section.

3.2.2 Strategic Aim

To ensure that the area’s physical development takes place in a planned, sustainable and integrated manner so as to cater for the housing, transport, social, recreational and economic needs of all inhabitants and to protect and enhance the area’s environment.

3.2.3 Policy Context

The value in the preparation of an Integrated Strategy for the area will be in co-ordinated consideration of national, regional and local issues affecting the town and its hinterland, in bringing together of the existing strategic and local policy responses and in their amalgamation into a coherent framework to guide the development of the town over the next 10-15 years.

The following review focuses on the most relevant and detailed policy relating to the physical development of Dunmanway, which is local policy.

In the Cork County Development Plan, Dunmanway is identified as one of the county’s 31 main settlements, and an urban development node with a function as a key service town for the rural hinterland it supports. In line with the plan’s settlement strategy new residential, commercial and industrial development is directed to the town itself, providing strong policy support for the development of the town.
The Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan (LAP) provides a more detailed look at the development of the town and its wider hinterland and puts forward a range of policies and objectives to guide its sustainable development.

The LAP notes that Dunmanway town is constrained by its topography with the river to the east, steep rising ground to the north, wetlands and parklands to the south and by an elevated scenic area on the west flank of the town centre with the western part of the town possessing limited potential to expand. There are a total of 28 buildings or other structures entered in the Record of Protected Structures for the town.

According to the LAP Dunmanway is constrained by an infrastructure deficit, which needs to be remedied to support growth and the sustainable development of the town. The wastewater treatment plant, which currently discharges to the River Bandon, is overloaded according to the LAP. (The upgrading of this facility is currently at the planning stage with the present expectation being to get Department approval for appointment of a DBO Contractor early in 2008 with a view to work starting around April 2008.) Both the biological quality and phosphorus levels of this section of the River Bandon were listed as an issue for the receiving waters of this settlement.

Areas of the town are prone to flooding, according to the plan. It was also noted that road alignments need to be upgraded in the town centre to improve traffic circulation. Finally a development of a footbridge linking the proposed car park to the square was identified as necessary to ensure that the town is permeable and develops to its full potential.

Opportunities to support growth have been identified in the LAP for Dunmanway. To assist the town in performing to its full potential, the LAP supports establishing the town as a strong tourist destination, improving the town's man-made amenities, encouraging the employment and enterprise sector and consolidating the settlement among its existing land uses.

The future development of Dunmanway is to be dictated by the development boundary as highlighted in the LAP, including all areas that are subject to specific zoning objectives. In addition, relatively large areas of established or proposed open space form part of the structure of the town and small-scale development is not precluded in areas zoned as primarily open space. Outside of the development boundary, the Plan adds that the objectives are to prevent urban sprawl and to distinguish between built up areas and the open countryside. This is to be achieved, according to the LAP, through the reservation of land in the immediate
environs of the town for agriculture, open space and recreational uses. A greenbelt around the town has also been identified.

The development of villages in the hinterland is also supported and encouraged by existing planning policy. At a strategic level the consolidation and development of such villages is seen as critical in the establishment of a sustainable spatial settlement pattern in the county as a whole. The LAP has consequently identified and zoned a significant amount of land for new residential development within the development boundary of these villages. This should in the long-term lead to an increase in the population of the Dunmanway hinterland underpinning the town’s function as a service and support centre for its rural hinterland with more localised services provided for within the villages themselves.

Dunmanway town benefits from the preparation of a number of studies that have recently been completed. A Framework for Change provides information and ideas with regard to the physical development of the town. Funding from national level programmes with rural and regional development focus will be available for some physical improvements to the town and surrounding area through schemes such as CLAR and the National Rural Development Programme.

3.2.4 Physical Profile
Dunmanway has a number of strengths in the physical realm upon which it can build:

- Good transport connections via the road network with Cork City and Airport
- Its central position in the West Cork Region, almost equidistant form all of the main county towns in the region: Bandon to the east, Clonakilty and Skibbereen to the south, Macroom to the north and Bantry to the west.

- Land availability: A significant amount of land zoned for development has yet to be developed.
- Affordable housing: Relative to other areas in the region, the cost of housing compares very favorably.

3.2.4.1 Urban Structure / Town Development
Analysis of the historic maps portraying the development of the town shows the focus of early growth to be on the Market Square area with linear development radiating out along the main roads to Bantry, Clonakilty and Bandon. The very dominant linear form defined by the original ribbon development of the R586 has now reached the limit of its expansion to the East and West. These extremities are now developing their own character and act as bookends which reinforce the limits of the town. To the east and south, the town’s development is restricted by the valley and floodplains associated with the Bandon River while to the north topography of steep ridges presents challenges to further development.

3.2.4.2 Movement and Accessibility
The main infrastructural backbone of the West Cork area is the National Secondary Route N71, which links the towns East to West of Clonakilty, Rosscarbery, Skibbereen and Bantry. Three regional roads serve Dunmanway town:

- R586 to Bandon, Drimoleague and Bantry
- R599 to Clonakilty
- R587 to Macroom

Most of the interconnecting roads to the villages are regional roads and are similar to most such roads in the county, of reasonable width, single-lane with stretches of bends and continuous white lines. The road to Bandon and Bantry is the best road in the area and allows
quicker access to these towns. It is wider than the other regional roads and has more overtaking opportunities. The Cork North and West Strategic Plan recommends that a quality standard improved two-lane carriageway from Bandon and Dunmanway to Bantry would improve access to and within the area.

The regional road R637 from Dunmanway to Drinagh is in good condition and has been improved and resurfaced in recent years. One scenic route from Dunmanway to Castledonovan via Coolkelure (highly scenic area with forests, old estate features, lakes and hills) is very narrow and has a lot of HGV traffic due to quarrying in the area. It is not suitable for large volumes of traffic.

With regard to other regional routes in the area, it is noted that the Cork North and West Strategic Plan also recommends actions for the improvement of the concentric road network including the need to provide a safe, efficient route of consistent design linking Dunmanway with Millstreet via Macroom.

On-street parking is heavily used in and around the town centre particularly Main Street, Castle Street, Bridge Street, East Green and West Green. Two hour parking was introduced in the town square in 2002 and extended to Main Street in 2004. A full-time traffic warden operates in Dunmanway primarily to police this system.

As part of the redevelopment of Market square in 2001/2002 angled parking spaces were constructed around the perimeter and spaces were also designated at either side of the centre island. In total there are 52 marked spaces, two of which are designated for the disabled.

There are a number of car parks within the town, namely:

- Sackville Street Car Park, which is accessed by Sackville Street and Tanyard Lane. This provides 114 marked spaces, two of which are designated for people with disabilities.
- Swimming Pool Car Park that is located on the Bantry road, approximately 0.5km outside the town centre. This is a 60-space car park catering for the pool and the town-park/playground nearby.

In terms of access to the town for people with mobility disabilities, there is some provision evident in terms of some designated car parking.

3.2.4.3 Built Environment / Public Realm

Dunmanway is a 17th century planned town and the original two triangular squares still survive. These are, West Green and Market Place. Market Place functions as the town centre with the majority of shops and services located here and on Main Street to the northeast. Originally there was a building at Market Place; today there is a fountain and a monument of Sam Maguire. Other principal streets include Sackville Street and Bridge Street/West Green.

The majority of buildings in Market Place are three storeys with retail on the ground floor. The shopfronts are traditional with painted wooden panelling. There are 28 buildings or other structures entered in Cork County Council’s Record of Protected Structures with a large number of these located on the main street highlighting the historic and architectural importance of this area.

It is apparent that there are a number of buildings that once had ground floor commercial uses that have been reverted back into houses. Furthermore there are a number of derelict buildings on the Main Street and other streets within the town centre. There are also a number of opportunity sites within the town centre including a site at Sackville Street and a number of sites on the main street that provide opportunities for retail/commercial development within the core area.
3.2.4.4 Infrastructure

According to the Cork County Council 2006 Assessment of Water Services Needs, the existing water supply scheme in Dunmanway town is overloaded and cannot meet the demand for growth in the town. A new scheme, in the planning stages, will include an upgrade to the existing treatment works and will augment the existing scheme.

Cork County Council Water Services Design Team is also currently progressing the upgrade of the Dunmanway Sewerage Scheme at an estimated cost of €12 million so as to improve the effluent quality to comply with Urban Wastewater Directive in Salmonid River.

The Office of Public Works completed flood prevention works to the Bandon River in the area of Dunmanway town in 2000-2001 and there have been no problems of flooding reported since.

There are however flooding problems on the approach road to Dunmanway town from the Macroom direction – the regional road needs to be closed periodically due to problems at a bridge approximately 3 miles north of town.

Cork County Council is currently managing the delivery of broadband infrastructure (fibre network) to 15 towns in Cork County including Dunmanway. The civil works in relation to the Cork County Regional Broadband Network commenced in the Dunmanway area on 10th April 2007. Work is expected to be completed by March 2008 at which point the network will be Cork County Council owned.

In Dunmanway, a fibre duct route has been deployed along the main routes out of the town totalling approximately 3,860m (see diagram right). This will provide a resilient ring duct route between the fire station building, housing the main wireless mast, the Eircom exchange and the main business locations at the centre of the town. Further services can also be offered through Wireless to the mast, which will extend the reach of the proposed network.

It will be managed and marketed by an MSE (Managed Service Entity), which has yet to be appointed. This appointment is organised by the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural resources. This MSE, when appointed, will deal directly with the service providers such as Eircom, BT Ireland etc.

The infrastructure will provide an option for service providers in Dunmanway to offer high-speed telecommunications to the customer. It would be aimed primarily at high end users such as industry, schools, libraries etc. It is expected that Broadband may be available from mid 2008, subject to the actions of the MSE and the service providers.

St. Mary’s Church of Ireland on the Main Street is a central feature in the town with the bell tower clearly visible from most places in the town. The Model School on Mary Street to the south west of the town is one of the main significant architectural features at the edge of the town. Carbery House, St. Patrick’s Roman Catholic Church and the Methodist Church are also notable buildings within the town. One of the area’s most noticeable landmarks is the 32 metre tall structure of Ballinacariga Castle, which has been a feature of the landscape for centuries. The site of the castle is approx. 8 Km from Dunmanway town. Castletownkenneigh Round Tower is another national monument in the study area and is in good condition. Works are currently being carried out to the castle at Castledonovan.

The Skibbereen Electoral Local Area Plan 2005 states that the wastewater treatment plant in Dunmanway discharges to the River Bandon and is presently overloaded. The upgrading of the plant is in the planning stage, with a view to commencing work in April 2008. The plan notes the poor water quality of this section of the River Bandon.

Cork County Development Plan makes provision for the town to grow by 180 households by 2011 (from 490 in year 2000). The existing sewerage scheme is inadequate and is in need of urgent upgrading to comply with the quality requirements necessary for its discharge to the salmonid River Bandon.
3.2.4.5 Natural Heritage / Recreation

The town is built on three rivers: the Sally river runs through the town centre, the Brewery River runs along the southern edge of town while the Bandon River runs along the eastern edge of town.

The wider area has a high landscape and amenity value associated with it. There are three areas designated in the Cork County Development Plan as scenic landscape surrounding the town. There is an area to the south of the town between R586 and R599 road, to the west of the town there is a scenic landscape area surrounding Dunmanway lake and the Bandon River is designated as a scenic landscape area to the east of the town.

The Bandon River to the east and north of the town is also a Special Area of Conservation (SAC reference 002171) The Bandon valley to the south of the town is a National Heritage Area (reference 1035)

The road between Dunmanway and Coolkelure, Castledonovan and Bantry is designated a scenic route A86 in the Cork County Development Plan 2003, but has limited capacity for vehicular traffic. The regional route R586 between Ballineen, Ballinacarriga and to Dunmanway is also a scenic route A85 in the plan.

3.2.5 Analysis and Assessment

3.2.5.1 Urban Structure / Town Development

The layout of the town has much to do with its historic function as a meeting place and the topography in the immediate area. Its linear pattern of development is clearly evident from aerial photography and is in stark contrast to Clonakilty / Skibbereen / Bantry which exhibit more compact and dense urban forms in term of development patterns.

The majority of new development has and continues to take place in areas to the southwest and northeast of the town centre. Little or no development has taken place in the core area over the past number of years with significant areas of undeveloped backland and a number of large opportunity sites remaining vacant and derelict for some time. This has reinforced the linear pattern of development through the creation of two separate development clusters at either end of the town. This trend, if not checked, will continue to undermine any attempts at the physical and economic rejuvenation of the town centre area.
New development is largely located to the south of the town, due to the presence of large developable sites with good access and favourable zoning provisions. This is also happening to a smaller extent in the northeast of the town, approximate to the entrance of the Macroom road. Significant community and institutional infrastructure is now located to the southwest of the town. Its accessibility and linkage to other parts of the town are critical.

The spatial growth of the town is reflected in the latest population figures with younger families located in the outskirts while the centre retains a large proportion of the area’s older residents. The demographic trend has implications for the future development of the town in terms of potential vacancy and dereliction. In addition, the town centre currently faces a number of specific challenges, including:

- Withholding competition from other urban centres
- Withholding competition from potential out-of-town retailing
- Addressing the perceptions and image of the town centre

To help the town centre meet these challenges the spatial distribution of the urban area needs to be reconfigured, with greater concentration of activity in the town centre area and the linear sprawl of the town towards the east and west held in check.

The majority of residentially zoned land is located at both the eastern and western ends of the town, largely in response to the topographical and landscape constraints to the northwest and southeast of the town but also premised on the availability of vehicular access, existing uses and ownership. Only a small percentage of these sites have been developed since the adoption of the LAP; development which represents a significant proportion of recent construction activity in the town.

The core retail / commercial area is focused on a relatively small zone around Market Square. Also of note is the relatively large area designated as either existing public open space or proposed open space and the large unused backland areas, zoned existing residential, in close proximity to the town centre.

The opportunities for further expansion of the town centre commercial and retail functions are clearly evident with a significant number of large sites in close proximity to the core available for redevelopment and while the creation of high-quality residential communities is essential to halt out-migration and to begin to attract and retain young people, skilled workers and young families into the area, policies should seek to locate this new residential development in closer proximity to the town centre through the development of high quality infill housing schemes rather than in more suburban greenfield locations.

3.2.5.2 Movement and Accessibility

The sprawled layout of the town lends itself to the use of cars rather than walking. Furthermore, the volume of traffic, particularly trucks, entering the town takes from its attractiveness as a pedestrian and shopping environment. Roadways in the town essentially act as vehicular routes rather than streets.

The first 300m of Castle Street west of the square is very restricted for traffic flow due to on-street parking. Most of the problem is at the north side where terraced housing has no off-street parking. Provision of access to the rear of the terraced houses here could remove the need for on-street parking. The proposed Council housing development at Tierney’s field may offer the possibility of access to the rear of the terraced houses and the Council is investigating the possibility of a one-way loop through this development.

The main street is restricted by on street parking from Supervalu to St. Mary’s Church. This may be alleviated by diverting heavy traffic when Quarry Road junction is realigned. There may be a possibility of providing pedestrian access to the rear of properties on the southern side from Sackville Street Car Park.

The junction of East Green & West Green can be very congested due partly to on-street parking. It is proposed to reconfigure the junction and two-hour parking may be extended to here subsequently.

This is a vacant lot beside the West End Bar on Bridge Street. It is informally used for parking at present holding about 12 to 15 cars. This site has scope to provide a substantial amount of parking if properly developed.
Given its proximity to the square this will be an important consideration in assessing any proposed development. Development of the site should incorporate an element of public parking and a pedestrian link at the eastern end across the Sally River to the Town Square.

In terms of access to and movement around the town for people with physical disabilities and other mobility difficulties, there is scope for improvement.

3.2.5.3 Built Environment / Public Realm
There are a number of landmark features and townscape elements, which make the town distinctive:
- Its Natural Setting
- The Market Square
- Dismantled old railway
- Dunmanway Lake
- Mill Race
- Convent
- Methodist Church
- Architectural Styles
- Dunmanway Cottage
- Brewery Bridge
- Brookpark House
- Hospital
- Duck Pond

What is clearly evident from the above list is the fact that a significant number of these landmark features are either inaccessible to the public or hidden from view and hence their potential to offer a positive contribution to the town is not being realised. A series of individual projects to enhance each would be a positive step. However the development of a strategy that provides a framework within which each project could take place would be a much more desirable response going forward.

There are a significant number of two-storey semi-detached and detached houses as you enter the town from both the Bandon and Bantry sides. These are set back from the road and give a suburban feel to the town. They are indicative of the town's sprawled linear nature. It is only as you enter further into the town that you come across a denser urban form with terraced townhouses fronting directly onto the street.

There has been considerable new low-density residential development the south and west of the town, particularly between the Bantry and Kilbarry Roads. A large number of the houses being currently sold in the town are located on the outskirts and situated on large plots within small estates of 5-6 houses.

The wide road widths are a feature of the town as are the substantial areas of backland behind houses fronting onto the main street. There is a need to look at opening up these for development.

There is currently a poor public realm in the town exacerbated by the volumes and type of vehicular traffic entering the town as a result of the town's location on the main Bandon to Bantry Road and the lack of a relief road to take through traffic out of the town centre.

The square is characterised by parking and one-way traffic movements and there are few solely pedestrian spaces. As a result, the environment for visitors, shopper or tourists to sit and chat or eat is poor.

There have been some positive infill schemes completed recently that could set a template for how future ones could be developed. The conditions of buildings that surround Market Square are generally good, with no vacancy or dereliction. They are largely three storeys in height.
3.2.5.4 Infrastructure
While it is recognised that current infrastructure provision represents a constraint to the future development of the town, significant improvements are either proposed in the short term or are currently underway. There is an opportunity for funding of small-scale infrastructural projects into the future given the designation of parts of the study area as CLAR areas recently.

There is a need to identify a number of sites within the town in terms of improving the physical infrastructure associated with the economic and social development of the town. For example there is a need to identify a site for a large anchor retail store that could act as a draw to shoppers from the wider hinterland and for this to be close to the market square to bring benefits to existing commercial activity and retailing in the town centre.

With regard to future energy production and consumption and recognising the need to develop sustainable responses to potential changes in the nature of energy supply, there are notable opportunities in advancing renewable energy production and introducing initiatives that help in the reduction of energy consumption.

3.2.5.5 Natural Heritage / Recreation
While there is a significant amount of land zoned for recreation and open space use in the LAP its clear that these resources are underdeveloped, as are a number of important amenity features such as the rivers and the lake. Together they represent a significant opportunity to enhance natural amenities in the town.

The park area is emerging as a strong amenity asset to the town particularly in terms of the provision of active recreational facilities and opportunities. This trend needs to be underpinned and consolidated by further proposals.

While the park area should be largely focused on active recreational opportunities, other areas are more suited to passive recreation, in the form of walkways, open spaces and the retention of the natural landscape. In addition there is a need to develop linkages between areas in the form of strategic pedestrian / amenity routes, most likely along the rivers.

While there has recently been a river walk constructed from Bridge Street westwards, the town has largely turned its back on the three rivers and the lake area. There is certainly an opportunity to exploit the amenity value of each of the rivers by developing riverside walks that would represent a valuable amenity asset to the area and also provide for strategic pedestrian and cyclist routes around the town.

A river corridor policy should be introduced that allows for a presumption against development along river corridors within the town and a requirement for the provision of riverside walks and linear parks. This will be particularly important in terms of any new development areas proposed. Such a policy should consider the need to protect habitats in riparian zones.

In many instances the retention of natural features such as woodlands, wetlands, and vegetation corridors along rivers should be promoted with the focus on passive rather than active recreation. In addition, the lake area poor visual prominence and poor accessibility need to be tackled in a co-ordinated manner. The receipt of funding for the lake area represents an opportunity in this regard.

3.2.6 Basis for Physical Development Strategy

The key elements of the Physical Development Framework are:

- The rejuvenation of existing streets to address the underutilization of the backland areas. The process here should be to recreate these blocks to provide new frontages onto roads and open spaces. This would involve the development of significant backland sites along the main road.
- Coupled with this will be the development of strategic sites that allow for strategic linkages and consolidation of the town core.
- The medium term delivery of a northern relief road in the 3-5 year period and the implications this has for the orientation of development in
the town. Freeing up the convent lands for redevelopment and other lands north of the town linked with the Macroom road
• The longer term aspiration to deliver new link roads to the northeast and southeast of the town which would effectively create a southern relief road, removing unnecessary traffic from the town centre and bring a number of significant landmarks and new development land into play

3.2.6.1 Urban Structure / Town Development
As mentioned above the focus of the spatial development of the town should be on its consolidation over the next number of years.

Landmarks are important for people to navigate around a town. They may be buildings, features or landscape, but they should be interesting and well located throughout the town at prominent points. Many of the town’s existing landmarks such as the lake are difficult to access and as such do not have the prominence they should within the townscape. A key element of any strategy for the physical development of the town needs to be focused on realising the potential of the many townscape features in the town and ensuring they become accessible and prominent features in the townscape into the future. In addition their enhancement needs to be integrated and set within a development framework for the entire town.

Coupled with this is the need to define and consolidate the urban edge, stop any further encroachment on green belt land outside of the town and identify and enhance points of arrival or gateways to the town.

The convergence of the Sally, Brewery and Bandon rivers happens at lands to the southeast, which in the past have experienced some flooding. Their development potential has therefore been restricted. Yet given the recent OPW flood relief works and modern construction methods there is no reason why development cannot now take place.

This Strategy therefore puts forward a development framework that seeks to realise a number of the objectives put forward in this section, including the development of a number of new link roads in the long term.

The advantages of the proposals are many:
• It consolidates the town's spatial form
• Improves accessibility / linkages and permeability within the town
• Makes the lake more accessibility and therefore offers the potential for it to contribute to the passive and active amenity of the town
• Offers potential for Greenfield open spaces to act as a focal public amenity in the centre of the town into the future.
• Offers the potential to realise a number of amenity walks throughout the town, some along the riverside
• Offers the potential of a road connection between the Bandon and Clonakilty roads, bringing vehicular traffic out of the Market Square area and providing a clear linkage to the industrially zoned lands to the south of the town
• Prevents further sprawl and reduces distance of travel between residential areas and the town commercial core.
• It presents a traffic solution to current congestion and movement problems
• It recommends the zoning of additional residential land to accommodate the further growth of the town near the town centre
• It represents a realistic option for by passing the town

The proposed development framework also can be of benefit in addressing the challenges facing the town centre in that it has the potential to:
• Strengthen the vitality and viability of the centre by increasing the quality of services on offer through urban design, by enhancing linkages to and from neighbouring areas, and by improving the quality of retail attractions.
• Improve the accessibility for shoppers and other visitors.
• Improving the physical environment

In addition successful towns and cities are increasingly characterised by new housing developments close to or within the central areas. The proposed framework opens up the potential for a significant amount of new residential uses on lands in close proximity to the town centre, ber newly zoned, part of new mixed use quarters or infill schemes on existing vacant sites.
Objectives Urban Structure / Town Development

Objective PD1: To ensure that the future development of the town is focused on the consolidation of the existing urban area with a view to creating a compact, sustainable and attractive town.

Objective PD2: To support the current settlement policy of facilitating and encouraging the growth of designated towns and villages within the area.

Objective PD3: To strengthen the vitality and viability of the town centre through a number of physical improvements

Actions

Short Term
- Prepare strategy for development of backland and infill areas
- Support the development of an anchor retail store in close proximity to the town centre

Long Term
- Rezone lands within the proposed development framework through the Local Area Plan review process

3.2.6.2 Movement and Accessibility

In terms of strategic infrastructural prioritisation, the R586 Bandon to Bantry Road is identified as a regional priority in both the South West Regional Planning Guidelines and the North and West Cork Strategic Plan. Its enhancement and upgrading to a national route would likely bring significant benefits to the town and its hinterland and should therefore be prioritised at both County and National level. In addition north - south road linkages, to both Macroom and Clonakilty, particularly in light of the proposed upgrading of the Cork – Killarney national route, should be pursued.

Traffic relief measures in Bandon move traffic to the south of the town and onto the N71 coastal route. The prioritization of the coastal West Cork route over the inland route has implications for the development of Dunmanway and its hinterland and should be addressed at county level to facilitate the development of towns and villages along the entire inland route to Bantry, particularly in terms of attracting greater numbers of tourists.

Within the town itself, key elements of a movement and access strategy must include:
- New off-street parking provision
- Establishment of ring roads that bring through traffic outside of the town centre
- Enhancement of public spaces within the town
- Improved pedestrian and cyclist facilities
- Improving accessibility for people with disabilities

The proposed development framework and its associated traffic routing proposals should have a significant impact on movement and accessibility in the long term. It will see the development of a number of roads that together will act as a relief route to the south of the town and allow for traffic from all directions to by pass the town.
- A new link road connecting the Bandon road to the Clonakilty road
- A new link to connect Castle Street to the Bantry Road
- A northern relief road

In the shorter term there are a number of traffic management issues that will need to be addressed:
- The Relief Road-Sackville St/Quarry Road presents the best opportunity to divert through traffic and heavy vehicles away from the town square. The main obstacle to this has been the offset junction at Quarry Road/Park Road. Funding has been allocated to purchase two dwellings at the corner to facilitate realignment. The relocation of the Council Offices will need to take place before realignment can commence.
- It is proposed to change the priority of the East Green/West Green junction to give better sight lines and improve traffic flow following on from the realignment at Quarry Road/Park Road.
- The eastern end of Castle Street is very narrow and restricted by on-street parking. Parking needs to be prohibited at the northern side for the first 200m. The development of the Tierney’s Field site may present an opportunity to provide access to the rear of some dwellings and to prevent some off-street parking.
- There is the potential at the northern side of the Convent Grounds to construct a new road linking the top of St. Mary’s Road across to the Spa Road.
- A new retail anchor store located in close proximity to the town centre has the potential to provide significant off street parking facilities that could be utilised by people shopping in the town centre.
Access for people with disabilities can be improved in Dunmanway and an accessibility audit of the town should identify areas in need of improvement to remove obstacles to ease of movement throughout the town. Details of new walking and cycling amenity routes are contained in the natural heritage and recreation section below while improvements to the public realm that should enhance the experience of pedestrians are outlined in the next section.

3.2.6.3 Built Environment / Public Realm
Improvements to the built environment and the public realm are key to achieving the objective of enhancing the area’s physical environment and essential to the positive growth of the town. A number of actions are put forward in this instance.

Given the architectural and historic merit to a number of buildings in the town centre area, coupled with their contribution to the streetscape it is recommended that in new development proposals they should be retained and renovated where possible rather than demolished. The retention of traditional shopfronts should also be considered and development should in general compliment the existing character and identity of the surrounding area, particularly in town centre areas. Numerous gaps in the streetscape along Main Street could be utilised either as access points for development of backland areas or else could be filled in to restore the streetscape.

Vacant lands in close proximity to the centre of town should be viewed as an opportunity as well as a weakness. Backland areas off Main Street provide an opportunity for high quality new infill residential development that could attract younger families back into the town.

The encouragement of property owners to paint houses along Main Street should be considered to improvement to overall attractiveness of the town. There is potential to set up a cost effective painting scheme which offers a one off grant in part payment of the painting works.

It is essential that pedestrians experience an attractive, safe and pleasant environment wherever they are, and that they are able to navigate their way around easily. There should also be facilities specifically for the benefit and enjoyment of pedestrians - for example: shelters, stalls, seats, street furniture and landscaping.

### Objectives Movement and Accessibility

**Objective PD4:** To create an integrated movement and accessibility network that will bring significant benefits to the town in terms of the pedestrian environment and vehicular movement

**Objective PD5:** To improve the attractiveness and patronage of public transport in the wider area by improvements in the coverage and frequency of bus services

**Objective PD6:** To promote and facilitate safe and convenient walking and cycling routes and enhance the pedestrian environment within the town

### Actions

#### Short Term

- Prepare a Traffic Management Plan for the town with reference to the recommendations of this Strategy
- Develop a parking strategy for the town that identifies sites for the provision of off street parking and enhances the public realm.
- Identify key sites in need of upgrading to enhance the pedestrian environment
- Carry out an accessibility audit for the town
- Re-align the Quarry Road/Park Road junction

#### Long Term

- Upgrade regional road infrastructure, in particular the R586 and R587
- Progress projects to upgrade the public realm within the town
- Upgrade bus services, facilities and bus designation areas in the area and enhance connections to other county towns and the rural hinterland

- Avail of community funding to upgrade signage within the town and in the wider area, through community engagement with relevant schemes
- Support the construction of the identified relief link roads
3.2 Key Driver 1: Physical Development

Key Enhancement Areas - Market Square
Market Square is a fine example of an historic town square and as such should function as the main local civic space for the town. The rerouting of traffic and the rearrangement of parking are key to this. In tandem with the proposed routing network around the town and the provision of off street parking, there should be an opportunity to undertake a scheme for the improvement of the Square which would involve the removal of a significant number of the existing car parking spaces, raised platforms and shared spaces, the provision of a dedicated bus terminus and the creation of a high quality pedestrian environment with areas of seating. An upgraded market square with enhanced pedestrian priority would also have the effect of persuading through traffic to use alternative routes to by pass the town.

Key Enhancement Areas - Lakeside
The improvement of the lake area is a key element to improving the amenity facilities in the town. Enhancing accessibility should see the lake area become more of a focal area for amenity activities in the town. Also included in the enhancement should be strategic pedestrian linkages along the rivers, connecting the lake with other amenity areas in the town. A detailed Masterplan for the provision of facilities, pathways and other landscape elements should be pursued in the immediate future.

Key Enhancement Areas - Park Area
As mentioned the park area has emerged as an important cluster for active recreation in the town. Building on this should be a key element of the strategy for recreation and amenity in the town over the coming years. There are two elements to this:

- Improving linkages and accessibility to the area and
- Enhancing the quality of the facilities and activities provided in the area itself.

Key Enhancement Areas - Convent Grounds
Currently benefiting from a special zoning objective in the Skibbereen Electoral Area LAP it is considered that the Convent site has a strategic role in the development of the town. Its location above the town with good views of the surrounding countryside coupled with the attractive setting of its grounds form the backdrop to the town. Specifically, its future development will need to be integrated into the town as a whole and any new development will have to be sensitively designed. A Masterplan, in line with the objectives of the LAP, to guide the development of the site, would be of benefit in this regard.

Key Enhancement Areas - Arrival points
The main points of arrival are an important opportunity to establish a high quality image for the town. At present, irrespective of the approach, there is no real sense of arrival. The junction of the Macroom and Bandon roads as they enter the town to the east offer significant potential for one such improvement. The junction should be signalized on completion of the new link road to the south around the lake and a number of opportunity sites on opposite sides of the road redeveloped to make high quality architectural statements. In addition new signage and sculptures could be located at the gateway to give a definite sense of arrival in the town. Similar improvements could be made at the Clonakilty road gateway into the town associated with the proposed new road link.
3.2.6.4 Infrastructure

The Strategy recognises that without the resolution of a number of infrastructural constraints that future development in the town will be severely limited. It is essential therefore that representatives and stakeholders in the locality continue to lobby to ensure that proposed or planned infrastructural projects are commenced and completed on time. Furthermore, improvements can be made in the short term with regard to the provision of waste management and recycling facilities.

There is potential for Dunmanway to become a centre for tourism in west cork, particularly in relation to inland pursuits and activities such as hill walking and fishing. There is however an urgent need to develop tourist accommodation including a 3 or 4 star hotel and a camping and caravan park.

There is also a need to identify sites for social infrastructure such as a family resource centre and a cinema and arts venue. There may be a need to consider the provision of sheltered housing within new housing estates given the ageing population in the area.

Other social infrastructure projects that need to be progressed over the coming years include an extension to the community hospital, the refurbishment of the Garda Station, the renovation and upgrading of the swimming pool and the establishment of a youth centre / youth café.

With regard to telecommunications, recent work now offers the potential to provide high speed broadband in the short term. There is however a need to get a service provider interested in providing the service. In addition, new infrastructural works particularly in relation to roads should take account of the opportunity for the provision of telecommunications infrastructure.

Other physical infrastructure includes the provision of a site for a craft / farmers market. This should be in close

- Signalise the junction of the R587 with the R586
- Develop opportunity sites at key enhancement sites
- Prepare urban design scheme for improvement of Market Square
- Improve linkages to the park area through the provision of new walkways
proximity to Market Square to benefit existing small business. In the short term the site adjacent the Sally River currently used for the visiting circus has good potential to act as such a site. In the longer term an investigation could be undertaken to find a permanent site for a farmers’ market in close proximity to the Market Square.

The town’s proximity to a range of potential renewable energy sources such as micro-hydro power, biomass from forestry, wind and bio-fuels, coupled with local expertise in the field is a significant advantage for the area given the emerging trends in energy production based on concerns regarding current sources.

Objectives Infrastructure

Objective PD10: To promote and facilitate the provision of new social, community, tourist and cultural infrastructure in the area

Objective PD11: To support the progression of key infrastructural projects, particularly water supply and wastewater treatment, to ensure there is sufficient capacity to allow for the future growth of towns and villages within the area in an environmentally sensitive way.

Objective PD12: To promote alternative and sustainable energy consumption and production practices.

Actions

Short Term
- Provision of Monitored Bring Site at Kilbarry Road
- Provision of Broadband Infrastructure
- Promote progression of key infrastructural projects particularly water supply and wastewater treatment
- Investigate community funding options for small-scale infrastructural projects in villages under the CLAR programme
- Develop a collective approach to encouraging a service provider to provide broadband in the area

Long term
- Development of new civic offices at the former Coláiste Cairbaisce site
- Developing community owned hall or refurbishment of existing for sports and large gatherings

3.2.6.5 Natural Heritage / Recreation

The overall strategy for the development of natural heritage and recreational areas in the town and the wider area seeks to create a hierarchy of linked parks which build on the existing natural features of the town and offer a range of facilities and activities that are highly accessible to the public.

In addition, there should be an ecological focus to the development of amenity areas and riverside walks with opportunities to improve wildlife habitats and include nature trails and wildlife walks that could also help develop tourism in the town.

The proposed strategy for amenity development in the town should link the passive amenity areas with the active amenity areas around the town park and swimming pool area.

A critical element of the strategy is the development of linkages between each of the heritage and recreation areas. As such strategic amenity routes, mainly
along the rivers are proposed. As well as acting as links these walkways in themselves will function as amenity assets for the town. The old railway line also offers a unique opportunity for the development of a public walkway. There are many examples of this, along the old West Cork Railway Line at Bandon and Courtmacsherry/Timoleague and the old Passage Railway line in Cork City.

Some suggested walks for Dunmanway include looped walks from a linear walk from Long Bridge to Kilbarry Bridge which might link that walk to Brookpark, the Brewery River, Prospect, the disused railway line and the Pile Bridge. A walk on the northern side of the town could link Castle Street to the Convent site, through Spa Road to the Fairy Gardens and connecting to a Sam Maguire walking route. The Town Park and Sam Maguire Park could be linked by a pedestrian/cycle path along the Brewery River.

Furthermore, the development of these walkways within the town should be linked with the objective to develop walking tourism in the wider hinterland. Indeed the town should become the starting point for many of the walks into the surrounding countryside bringing significant benefits for businesses. For example a potential walkway along Bandon River to Sam Maguire’s birthplace, could link up with a walk around the lake in the town. An identified starting point could be close to Market Square and could become a focus for tourism development in the town or located next to a new town centre / community centre. Starting walks in the town also ensures that Dunmanway becomes the focus and base for walking tourism in the wider area. In addition these walks could be branded and named.

**Objectives**

**Natural Heritage / Recreation**

**Objective PD13:** To strive to create a network of natural heritage and recreation open space areas and promoting linkage between these areas through the use of walkways and cycleways.

**Objective PD14:** To promote and support the conservation and protection of the area’s environment, in particular designated sites, as valuable resources for present and future generations.

**Actions**

**Short Term**
- Support refurbishment of local swimming pool to a high standard of energy efficiency
- Promote walking and active lifestyle in the area
- Progress the replanting and renovation of Lakeside Park
- Complete the construction of Riverside Walk beside Sally River – Phase 1
- Refurbish tennis Courts at Town Park
- Develop Dunmanway as A Centre for Walking
- Investigate opportunities to develop amenity walks within the town and into the wider countryside
- To investigate recreational opportunities in the wider area and their input and linkage with an overall recreation and amenity strategy for the area.

**Long Term**
- Develop network of strategic walkways in the town, particularly along rivers
- Develop a network of walking and cycle routes into the wider countryside beginning within the town
- Maximise the public amenity value of green areas close to the town centre
- Improve the range and quality of recreational facilities in the town park area
3.3 Key Driver 2: Economic Development

To stimulate the sustainable growth of Dunmanway’s economy through the support and development of indigenous industries, its establishment as the principal inland tourist destination in the region and facilitating the growth of commercial activity.

The Strategic Aim

3.3.1 Introduction
The Economic Development component of this strategy is vital to the future quality of life in Dunmanway and its hinterland. A vital and successful economy will attract people to the area to live and work; it will encourage companies to invest in Dunmanway; it will necessitate investment in areas such as infrastructure, in housing, in recreational facilities, in education and training; and it will create employment and therefore provide sources of income for those previously unemployed.

This section of the strategy assesses economic issues, which are facing the study area. It proposes objectives for the economic development of the town and its hinterland as well as a range of actions, which can be implemented or investigated in the lifetime of this strategy to achieve these objectives.

3.3.2 Strategic Aim

To stimulate the sustainable growth of Dunmanway’s economy through the support and development of indigenous industries, its establishment as the principal inland tourist destination in the region and facilitating the growth of commercial activity.

3.3.3 Policy Context
The National Development Plan 2007-2013 (NDP) predicts that both the Irish economy and society will undergo a transformation almost as radical as the changes experienced in the past decade, driven largely by the continuing increase in the country’s population. Furthermore, the NDP addresses the regional economic status of the country in detail. Variations in population growth, the uneven distribution of economic performance and variations in employment, skills, qualifications and earnings between the Border Midlands and Western (BMW) Region and the more prosperous Southern and Eastern Region presents substantial challenges for the government in its attempt to redress the imbalance between and within the regions in the distribution of national and economic progress.

The NDP notes that despite urbanisation, Ireland is still a comparatively rural country, with an estimated 40% of the population living in rural areas, which is high by European standards. Diversification of the rural economy is recommended as the contribution of traditional sectors (agriculture, forestry, fishing) to the economy whilst important, is declining. It is recognised that rural communities require proper access to the wider national economy through physical infrastructure and services. The NDP highlights that a high proportion of people who live in rural areas are not directly involved in farming or farm-related activities or other economic sectors that by their nature are linked to the rural areas.
The Plan states that:

Policy must address the ongoing changes in rural communities; support their sustainable economic development and promote regional development.

One of the objectives of the National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020 (NSS) is to achieve balanced regional development in relation to the economic capability of Ireland as a whole. One of its main aims is to recognise and integrate the roles of both urban and rural areas, and the development of functional areas that will attain critical mass. With regard to the more rural areas of Ireland the NSS outlines measures through which rural potential and alternative employment can be developed. These measures build upon local strengths in agriculture, enterprise, tourism, local services, land and marine based natural resources. The NSS also identifies a need to support the role of rural towns and villages at the local level, as a focus for investment, economic activity and housing development, which will at the same time support the vitality of wider rural areas. This provides options for people who may have been employed full-time in agriculture in the past, enabling them to remain in rural areas, but with access to alternative employment in nearby towns and villages.

Recently approved at European Commission level, the National Rural Development Programme (NRDP) is an elaboration on the Irish Rural Development National Strategy Plan and Council Regulation 1698/2005 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). It is intended that the NRDP will complement the NSS by focusing on areas outside the regional urban targeting of the NSS. According to the Programme, these areas account for 59% of the national population. Furthermore, small to medium sized towns that do not satisfy the OECD definition of rural areas i.e. less than 150 persons/km2 will also be included in the NRDP. The main agri-food measures included are REPS/Natura (£2.98bn), Disadvantaged Areas (£1.8bn), Early Retirement (£418m), Installation Aid (£63m) and Farm Investment (£65m). Overall these Schemes account for 93% of the Programmes total public expenditure of £5.78bn. The selection process for Local Action Groups to deliver the Programme at local level is proposed to commence in September 2007. Local strategies are to be put in place to set a context for the delivery of this programme.

The NRDP identifies a number of problems at a strategic level and then addresses the disparities. The three main priorities as set out in Ireland’s National Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 and the Programmes three axes are:

- Improving the competitiveness of the agriculture sector,
- Improving the environment and the countryside by support for land management, and
- Improving quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activities

The South West Regional Planning Guidelines (2004) highlight that although traditional industries such as agriculture are declining they will continue to play an important role as a major employer, even if on a part-time basis. The Guidelines advise that initiatives must be taken to maximise the use of new technology and methods to bolster existing industry. Despite the encouragement for the fostering of alternative farm enterprises, it is noted that this may not be a viable alternative for young people within rural areas that attend third level education. To accommodate this segment of the indigenous population and their retention in the area, growth is recommended in high value, modern technologies, providing employment at graduate level where possible. Additionally, a requirement for part-time/full-time work to meet the growth in part time farming, is noted. This should lead to a more balanced employment and population profile. The potential for the expansion of local employment in ICT related activities, such as financial services, multimedia production and other activities that can be undertaken independent of location is also noted.

Within the North and West Cork Strategic Plan 2002-2020 Dunmanway Town is identified as a victim of strong trends of restructuring and employment loss. Diversification in employment is a strong local priority in areas such as Dunmanway, Macroom, Mitchelstown and Kanturk, which is regarded as a matter of urgency. It is recommended that action should be taken by stakeholders and community groups to stimulate growth over and above the current trends in North and West Cork towns and villages, with specific reference to Dunmanway.

According to the Plan, a detailed assessment of each of the key and local service towns should be carried out by the local authorities, in consultation with the industrial development agencies, to establish their potential for employment growth, the type of employment growth and the action required to ensure that it delivers on its potential. There is a need to diversify into a broader range of employment opportunities, where higher skill levels are important. Policies need to be developed that will encourage hotel and other tourist-related facilities to locate in towns, where their facilities can benefit the local population throughout the year, and the multiplier effect of their activity can benefit service providers/employers in the town.
The Cork County Development Plan (CDP) 2003 notes the relative weakness of the economy in West Cork, with a high dependence on the agricultural sector. It is an objective of the CDP to provide for the development needs of existing economic sectors, such as the agricultural sector, and also to provide opportunities and, if possible incentives, for diversification. A key element of the plan is the concentration of new economic and employment development within the existing pattern of settlements to improve the level of employment choice in the more remote parts of the County and strengthen the importance of these settlements in the overall County settlement hierarchy.

Dunmanway is classified as a town/district centre in the Cork Retail hierarchy, located a good distance from the influence of Cork City and the Metropolitan area. The CDP recognises Dunmanway as a principal location in terms of retail development in the rural areas of the County. The CDP states that county towns require an additional 2000sq.m. of convenience retail floor space in the period 2006-2011 and 5000sq.m. of comparison retail floor space in the same period. This would equate to 50sq.m. per annum over five years as per the provisions of the Cork Strategic Retail Study for designated County Towns. The Cork Strategic Retail Study 2002 notes that:

Dunmanway fulfills a County Town service function to a rural hinterland providing 2,900 m2 of retail floorspace, of which 1,700m2 (60 per cent) is comparison goods. The town has a well-defined centre (the Market Square), which provides an attractive setting, albeit currently in need of public realm improvements to address issues such as the comparative blandness of the shop frontages.

Dunmanway is classified as a main settlement within the Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan (LAP). The LAP states that the strategic aim for Dunmanway is the:

**Improvement of its important commercial, administrative and institutional functions serving a wide area; promotion of its potential as a rural (industrial / enterprise location).**

To assist the town in performing to its full potential, the LAP supports establishing the town as a strong tourist destination and encouraging the employment and enterprise sector.

‘Dunmanway – a Framework for Change’ emphasises that Dunmanway’s location in the heart of West Cork is an ideal focal point to become a centre for services (e.g. shopping) for the people of Dunmanway town and the wider area. It also notes that there appears to be an opening for a combined pub and restaurant (mirrored on what is available in Cork City) as well as the establishment of a shopping district that would include a discount store such as Aldi or Lidl. The Framework adds that Dunmanway is an ideal tourist destination and recommends that services including a caravan and camping park, holiday villages, the redevelopment of the existing hotel or the development of a new ‘star’ classified hotel should be considered. According to the Framework, the presence of these facilities would serve as an attraction for tourists and act as an alternative employment sector for the town.
3.3.4 Economic Profile

3.3.4.1 Employment and Enterprise Development

The total number of people at work in Dunmanway town increased from 489 persons in 1996 to 595 persons in 2002 while the persons at work in Dunmanway Rural Area increased from 2,534 to 2,866 or 13% in the same period. The unemployment rate was lower in the study area than in the state in 1996 and 2002 and saw a large decrease between 1996 and 2002. This is likely to result from national economic strength and an increase in job creation.

West Cork has a number of strengths including a very high-grade environment producing quality food products; a well educated workforce; a well developed Agricultural Co-op sector; a network of existing affordable enterprise space in most West Cork towns; modern facilities at the West Cork Technology Park and a rich cultural and natural heritage. Some of the main weaknesses include it’s peripheral location; low technology in several of the local industries; infrastructural deficiencies in roads, water and sewage facilities; dependence of the agricultural sector on mainstream activity and a narrow sectoral base of industry.

The major threats facing Dunmanway include continued reduction in farm based employment without the provision of alternatives; inadequate employment opportunities for third level educated local young people leading to an exodus of this cohort of the population; decline in traditional manufacturing operations due to competition, insurance costs and labour costs and increasing regulation within sectors leading to a greater cost of compliance and creating greater barriers to new start-ups.

Between 1996 and 2002 there was a decrease of 29% in the amount of people working in agriculture, a 73% increase in the amount of people working in building & construction, a 29% increase in professional services and a 28% increase in people working in commerce. These trends broadly reflect trends at state level, however, the study area still has a strong reliance on agriculture.

Underhill Commercial Park is the main industrial estate in the town, containing businesses such as Net Assist, Universal Pipework, TMC Windows & Doors, M & P O’Sullivan Cash & Carry and Weathermaster. Other businesses in Dunmanway include Cotter’s West Cork Bakery, McMahon Building Providers and Cotter & Keane Feed Mill & Merchants. Industries of note in the wider Dunmanway area include:

- Donovan Medical Equipment Limited, which designs and manufactures orthopaedic hip implants and related instrumentation. Established in 1980, the Irish operation in Dunmanway is part of a larger European group that has facilities in several European countries. The company employs approximately 55 people.
- Grainger Saw Mills, Enniskeane, who produce a range of products such as construction material, fencing, garden products, pallet and packaging markets and employ 115 people.
- Carbery Milk Products Limited is located between Dunmanway and Ballineen. Carbery manufactures a range of quality dairy products. Processing over 320 million litres of milk per annum, it is Ireland’s largest producer and exporter of cheddar and low fat cheeses and has approximately 285 employees.
- The West Cork Enterprise Board (WCEB) promotes and encourages local enterprise development in West Cork. It offers a range of business supports for enterprises in the areas of manufacturing, processing, international services and innovative local services, employing up to ten employees including; advice and guidance, training, business and management development programmes, mentoring, financial assistance, workspace units advice and after care service. Larger industries are supported by Enterprise Ireland and O’Donovan Medical comes under the remit of the IDA. West Cork LEADER also offers support to businesses in particular areas.
- WCEB use the Adult Education Centre in Dunmanway to hold training courses. In terms of start-up supports, County Council owned units have been rented out to new businesses by the WCEB in Dunmanway. The occupant can eventually buy out the premises.
3.3.4.2 Agriculture

Agriculture is an important industry in Dunmanway. According to the Census of Agriculture 2000, there were a total of 883 farms in the Dunmanway study area with the majority of this farming land used for pasture (14,910ha), silage (8,554ha) and rough grazing (8,003ha). 49% of farms in the area are between 30-100 hectares. This compares favourably with the average farm size of 33.2 hectares for the state in 2005. The average milk quota was in the region of 45,000 to 50,000 gallons. This is below the national average.

In 2006/2007 there were 130 grant scheme applications for farm buildings in the area. 70% of these applications were for dairy farm housing and slurry storage. This demonstrates that farmers in the area are moving to comply with new regulations.

There are 216 Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS) participants with a Dunmanway postal address. The REPS scheme rewards farmers for carrying out their farming activities in an environmentally friendly manner and making environmental improvements. It provides annual payments to participants.

In the Dunmanway study area, the number of people working in agriculture was twice the national average in 2002 (9% of people in the state worked in agriculture). As average Family Farm Income (FFI) has decreased, this impacts on the 770 agricultural workers in the area. Furthermore, at national level it was estimated that almost 60% of farm household income now comes from off-farm sources. Assuming a similar situation applies to the Dunmanway study area, this implies that there is a need to diversify the economy in the area as off-farm income is supplementing farm income.

3.3.4.3 Forestry

Approximately 8% of Ireland’s land is covered by forestry. According to the Heritage Council ‘forestry has the potential to enhance Ireland’s biological and landscape diversity, to offer aesthetic and amenity benefits while at the same time safeguarding our existing heritage and providing real economic benefit to local communities’.

As the topography of the land within the study area is very irregular, forests are common. A large part of the hinterland of Dunmanway is covered by forestry, some of which is in the ownership of Coillte. There are two Coillte Forests within 6km of Dunmanway – Clashacrona Forest on the R586 to Bantry and Mallabracka Forest, on the R587 to Macroom.

One of Ireland’s largest and most technologically developed sawmills is located within the study area; Grainger’s Sawmills. These sawmills have a processing capacity of 250,000m³ of timber per annum. The majority of their logs are sourced from renewable forests within a 120km radius of the sawmill.

The Irish National Forestry Foundation has developed a demonstration site at Manch, just east of Dunmanway. The foundation was established in West Cork in 2002 to research, demonstrate, and promote sustainable forestry practices based on native broadleaf trees, including forest management through continuous forest cover rather than clearfelling. The Manch Project involves the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for forestry and an Outdoor University to demonstrate and promote natural Irish forestry that is socially and environmentally beneficial and economically viable. Open days are held once a month through Spring, Summer and Autumn and there is an Education Centre at the site.

3.3.4.4 Food

The agri-food industry continues to make a significant contribution to the Irish economy. The combined agri-food and drink sector has annual exports of over €7 billion, accounts for almost 9% of GDP and directly employs 166,000 people. In particular, the industry plays a major role in the indigenous sector, with approximately 50% of exports from Irish owned companies deriving from agri-food and drink companies. The food industry is an important element of the local economy, some of the largest enterprises in the area being Carbery Milk...
Products and Drinagh Co-op and some of the newer business successes including Spice o’ Life and The Baking Emporium. The strong dairy traditions of the area are important in terms of the supply of raw material for some of the existing food production companies and other opportunities exist in the food production sector.

The Fuchsia brand is a symbol of quality for food and tourism products of the West Cork region. There are currently 3 to 4 food companies in Dunmanway with accreditation. As part of the accreditation process West Cork LEADER provides training for these companies.

The West Cork Enterprise Board also promotes the development of enterprises in the sector, providing finance, advice, training, mentoring and management development supports as well as export and networking opportunities for small companies in the area. Several food companies in the study area have availed of these supports and assistance.

Enterprise Ireland can provide support for companies in the food sector when initial expansion has occurred, allowing the companies to progress further if desired.

### 3.3.4.5 Tourism

Over 8.7 million overseas visitors came to Ireland in 2006. Of these, almost 2 million people, or 23% of total overseas visitors visited the South West region, the second most popular destination after Dublin. Irish residents took 3.8 million domestic holiday trips in 2006, with a slight decline in trips of four nights or more and an increase of 24% in trips of between one and three nights. The South West region was the most popular region in Ireland for domestic holidaymakers, accounting for 26% of domestic holidays and 31% of holiday nights in 2006.

Within the Southwest region, West Cork is a popular tourist destination due to its coastline and scenery. The area offers a broad range of activities, entertainment, cuisine and accommodation. The West Cork area is also easily accessible from Cork airport, which is located 8 km south of Cork City on the Kinsale Road.

There are a large number of three and four stars hotel in the region including Inchydoney Island Lodge and Spa (4 star); Trident Hotel, Kinsale (4 star); Westlodge Hotel, Bantry (3 star); West Cork Hotel, Skibbereen (3 star); Acton’s Hotel, Kinsale (3 star) and Dunmore House Hotel, Clonakilty (3 star). There are a number of golf clubs in the area such as Bantry Bay Golf Club, Kinsale Golf Club, Lisselane Golf club and a number of hotels in the area offer golf packages. There are a large number of golf events, rowing competitions, sailing regattas, open water swims and sea angling competitions held throughout the West Cork area, as well as cultural events and festivals.

Dunmanway and its hinterland have many advantages due to its location in the heart of West Cork. It is a gateway to several significant rural assets such as the Shehy Mountains, Nowen Hill, Sam Maguire’s Birth Place, Ballinacarriga Castle, Curraghalicky Lake and Kinneigh Round Towner. However, the area has not benefited from the tourism successes of the south west, with most visitors choosing the coastal areas of West Cork as their main destination. The town’s central location within West Cork and the possibilities for trips within West Cork or within the wider south-west region, such as to Keemore, Killarney, Mizen Head and Fota Wildlife Park for example, has not been exploited to date.

In terms of the marketing of Dunmanway, there are no immediately identifiable brandings that widely associated with the town outside of West Cork. There are some local products and industries and heritage aspects that would be familiar to some consumers or specific interest groups. Some older literature does refer to the town as ‘Heart of West Cork’ or ‘Gateway to the Mountains’ but these ‘slogans’ are not used in contemporary publications and are not established or widely known.

### 3.3.4.6 Commercial / Retail

Dunmanway contains two main bank branches and a Credit Union, which are important support services for the local community. The core retail area of the town is Market Square with the majority of the shops located here, including the shopping centre and a number of ground floor retail units. Market Square opens onto Main Street where there is a mixture of retail and residential units. Within this central area of the town, there are a number of ground floor vacancies and a number of properties that once had a ground floor retail unit which have been converted back into residential use. This
demonstrates a lack of demand for retail units of this size in the town. There is very little shopping provision outside the main thoroughfare and there are no out of town retail centres. Despite improvements to the public realm in Market Square it remains a heavily trafficked junction with significant on-street parking provision.

Comparison Retail
The comparison stores in Dunmanway are small scale with the majority of units occupying only the ground floor of three storey buildings. Many of the units are older with local operators. However, some new retail stores including a sports shop have recently opened within the town centre. The existing comparison stores offer a range of goods including men's and women's clothes shops, shoe shops, a hat shop, hardware, TV and electrical stores, furniture shops, stationery shop, florists, pharmacies and a discount shop. The Cork Strategic Retail Strategy estimated a total of 1700 sq.m. of comparison retail floorspace in 2002.

Convenience Retail
The main convenience shops in Dunmanway are Healy's Super Valu, O'Connell's Eurospar and Galvin's Centra. The largest grocery store is Super Valu with the main carpark in the town centre located to the rear of the building. The other shops in the town are top-up shops including Mac Carthaigh of Castle St., Haughney's Costcutters and Kingston's Checkout store. There is also a reasonable range of smaller shops and services that cater predominantly for a local catchment population including butchers and bakeries.

Retail Provision in the Hinterland
There is a limited amount of retail provision in the surrounding villages and development nodes (see Section 1). Convenience retail provision is generally comprised of local, top-up shops and some villages have a small selection of comparison outlets. The retail services provided include:

- A local shop and Drinagh Co-op (supermarket, hardware) in Drinagh
- Small convenience shop in Kilmeen
- New Centra shop, furniture outlet, pharmacy, Costcutters shop, hardware shop and butchers in Drimoleague
- Petrol station and shop in Coppeen
- Small, local shop in Castletownkinneigh
- Sásta convenience store, furniture shop, Pharmacies, Nursery equipment shop, antique shop, Bandon Co-op store (hardware, garden, household and electrical goods) and Centra in Enniskeane/Ballineen.

3.3.5 Analysis and Assessment
3.3.5.1 Employment and Enterprise Development
Industrial activity was very strong in the town during the 1980's as it was a centre for IDA inward investment. When the life cycle of industries such as Molnlycke ended no replacements were forthcoming. With the opening of the West Cork Business and Technology Park in Clonakilty new businesses tended to gravitate towards there. Most of those workers who lost jobs at Molnlycke found employment in Macroom and Clonakilty. The Molnlycke building is now underused (part of the buildings is used as a commercial centre for offices) and large-scale industry is effectively gone from the town.

Dunmanway is generally considered as being an economically weak town. A number of buildings within the town centre are dilapidated and derelict which is not attractive to outside investors. It is further recognised that, as a result of Dunmanway's size the town is unlikely to become a focus for large-scale external investment and there will be continuous leakage to the other towns of West Cork and Cork City.

There is a significant amount of land zoned for industry within the County Development Plan. Furthermore there are a significant amount of supports available from the West Cork Enterprise Board and West Cork LEADER for enterprises.

3.3.5.2 Agriculture
The area relies comparatively heavily on the agricultural sector with the number of people working in agriculture being twice the national average in 2002. As previously discussed, the agricultural sector has suffered a significant decline, which has placed pressure on rural populations. An indication of this trend is that the Electoral Divisions of Coolmountain, Dunmanway North and South, Ballingurteen, Manch, Castletown, Kinneigh, Ballymoney, all within the Strategy's catchment area, are included in the current CLAR programme, which aims to improve infrastructural, community and social services in areas where populations have declined by more than 50% between 1926 and 1996.

It is predicted that by 2010 in Ireland there will be 20,000 full time and 60,000 part-time farmers, with a further 20,000 in transitional groups. This will have significant implications for Dunmanway where 18% of the workforce (2002 Census) is employed in agriculture. There has also been an increase in the percentage of off-farm employment nationally with the National Farm Survey 2000 finding that on 45% of farms, the farmer and/or spouse had an off-farm job. It is therefore recognised that off-farm employment opportunities must
be made available and exploited. It is also important for Dunmanway to diversify into alternative industries or take advantage of the agricultural base to create significant value-added processing industry in order to minimise the impact of unemployment and underemployment in the sector.

The Agri-Food 2010 Committee estimated that in future full-time farmers would need outputs of at least 70,000 gallons of milk, or the equivalent in other enterprises, to be viable. This compares with current average outputs in the area of c.45,000 gallons. However, the strength of the dairy tradition in the area is noted and the forecast removal or relaxation in milk quotas may allow expansion in this area. The Teagasc Business Plan for Cork focuses on improving technical and financial performance on dairy farms under its Business and Technology Programme, which will be of benefit to farmers in the area seeking to expand and improve viability.

3.3.5.3 Forestry
Forestry has been recognised by the European Union as having a major role to play in the context of rural development. The Afforestation Grant and Forest Premium Schemes, introduced under EU Council Regulation 2080/92, support the afforestation of agricultural land. Through this Ireland hopes to increase afforestation cover from 8% to 17% by 2035. The afforestation grant covers costs associated with the establishment of the plantation, payable after planting, and also annual forest premiums to compensate farmers and non-farmers for the loss in income earning potential from the afforestation of their land. Such grants will be available for land in both single and multiple ownership. Dunmanway and particularly areas in the hinterland should seek to exploit the many opportunities presented through the afforestation programme.

It is clear from the success of industries and small businesses in timber-related enterprises in the area, that there is potential for increased employment opportunities from this sector.

The Manch Project is also a beneficial resource in the area and can act as a catalyst for the development of best practice in sustainable forestry in the area.

Forest recreation can also contribute significantly to rural income, development and employment. A recent study by the Department of Agriculture and Food estimates the value of leisure and recreation in Irish forests at €38m per year, with a potential to double this figure if adequate mixed species forests and facilities are provided. There are many opportunities for income generation for the owner, both directly from car-parking fees and the sale of permits and indirectly, where forest forms part of a business based on holiday cottages, an open farm, a horse-riding centre, caravan/camping park or outdoor adventure centre. Wider benefits also accrue to the surrounding community, as visitors from Ireland and abroad come to the area and use other attractions such as local B&B’s, shops, pubs and restaurants.

3.3.5.4 Food
According to the Department of Agriculture and Food, the latest available statistics demonstrate the central role of the food industry in the economy. It is our largest indigenous industry providing direct employment to over 40,000 people and supporting 200,000 in direct jobs in sub-supply industries and ancillary services.

There are ample opportunities for the development of food industry within Dunmanway such as small-scale local produce in the form of farm-fresh produce including crops, vegetables, cheeses, ice cream and preserves. It is a natural niche industry for the area. Organic farming and integrated farming also represent real opportunities on several levels, contributing to vibrant rural economies through sustainable development. As well as the environmental advantages, these farming systems can bring significant benefits both to the economy and the social cohesion of rural areas. The availability of financial support and other incentives for farmers to convert to organic production is designed to help the sector grow still further and to support associated businesses throughout the food chain. There is a lack of specialist food producers within the area and there are openings in this area. The strong traditions of farming in the area, including dairying, can be capitalised upon to develop this sector.

The proposed development of food production enterprise units in the town by the County Council and Enterprise Board would provide a good resource for the development of this sector. Supports for food producers are available through West Cork LEADER and the West Cork Enterprises Board.
3.3.5.5 Tourism

The Strategy recognises that Dunmanway suffers from a number of weaknesses, which have a resulting effect on tourism. In particular, not only does the catchment lack a sophisticated retail base but it also has a weak tourist accommodation offer. It is apparent the town is currently not catering for tourism with little tourist accommodation or restaurants within the town. The town has only one 2-star hotel ‘the Parkway Hotel’. On the West Cork Tourism website this is the only accommodation listed for Dunmanway although there are a few other listings in the wider area.

There are also very few events held in the area. The main events held are the Dunmanway Agricultural Show held on the 1st July and Ballabudhe Raids and horse fair held on the 5-8 August. While there is a heritage centre located within the town centre, opening hours are very limited and tourist information provision is poor within the town.

It is clear that Dunmanway currently has limited tourist offer with a poor range of accommodation, restaurants and activities/events in the area. There is therefore a need to develop the choice of accommodation in the form of a new hotel and options for independent travellers such as hostels or caravan and camping sites.

On a more strategic level, Dunmanway is not capitalising on the high number of visitors to the south west annually. The town is finding it difficult to compete with the coastal towns of Clonakilty, Skibbereen and Bantry. It is necessary to highlight Dunmanway as part of west Cork as a whole by providing driving routes with the town centre as a starting point. While, Dunmanway does not offer a coastline the town has natural assets encompassing the lakes within the town. Manch Forest, the graveyard, the statue etc or a riverside walkway could be opened up for greater visibility and awareness while paddle-boating and kayaking could also be encouraged. The proposed physical development framework seeks to exploit this opportunity.

As indicated in the discussion on the food industry, there are opportunities in this area to develop food products associated with the area and support visitor-oriented food production outlets to attract people to the area as well as providing additional custom for producers.

In terms of the promotion of the town and its hinterland, there is a need to develop a marketing strategy, which would be of benefit to both tourism development but also to economic improvement.

3.3.5.6 Commercial / Retail

There have been a limited number of planning applications for new retail in Dunmanway town in recent years, and these have been of a limited scale. There are limited modern comparison and convenience retail outlets in Dunmanway town. This creates leakage to other towns in West Cork, particularly Clonakilty and Skibbereen. There is also a limited amount of local services such as café’s, restaurants, financial services etc. The majority of the retail provision is located in the core area between Market Square and the main street and there are a number of opportunity sites within and adjacent to the town centre that could accommodate retail expansion, including buildings within the town centre that once had ground floor commercial uses that have been reverted back into houses, derelict buildings and undeveloped or underdeveloped sites.

Due to the lack of choice of modern facilities within the town, a proportion of the town's and hinterland's population are travelling to other towns in West Cork such as Clonakilty, Skibbereen, Bantry and even Cork City to shop and avail of other services. The provision of new and renovated shops, restaurants and services in general in Dunmanway will encourage people to spend their money locally. Traditions such as lunch-time closing and early closing are negative features of the commercial environment of the town as these reduce the opportunities to capture trade, particularly from those working in the town who would use their lunch break to undertake their business. Generally more customer-friendly hours would facilitate the changing shopping habits of modern lifestyles.

The potential of the lake as a tourist asset for the town is not being exploited. The area between it and the street could be opened up for greater visibility and awareness while paddle-boating and kayaking could also be encouraged. The proposed physical development framework seeks to exploit this opportunity.
There is a case to be made for the provision of a reasonably large anchor store by one of the country’s major retailers. This could have the impact of underpinning existing retail provision in the town by attracting new shoppers and retaining local business. It should be located in close proximity to the existing town centre to be of real benefit. It is necessary to maintain a presumption against large-scale retail development outside of the town centre so as to enhance the viability of Dunmanway town. Small-scale local services associated with out-of-centre residential estates could however be established.

In addition, the creation of an improved shopping environment would attract people into the town. Improvements to the public realm in the town could have a significant impact on the attractiveness of the shopping environment.

3.3.6 Basis for an Economic Development Strategy

The strengths of the study area in relation to economic development, especially in terms of growth in enterprise, include the structures and support available from organisations such as the West Cork Enterprise Board, Dunmanway Promotions, Teagasc and West Cork LEADER and the commitment of such organisations to the development of the study area. One of the main difficulties facing Dunmanway is the lack of awareness of business opportunities by the community. Opportunities for such include the development of local and micro enterprises and expansion into alternative forms of employment such as organic farming and forestry. These could be achieved with the assistance of the WCEB in terms of training and finance, training from Teagasc and funding from LEADER presents major opportunities for the area.

The lack of tourist activities and attractions within the study area also poses a problem in terms of appeal to foreign and national tourists. Opportunities include the possibility of exploiting on the historical features of the area and the establishment of walking routes, cycling routes and driving routes. There is also an opportunity for the expansion of the tourist accommodation within the town.

The following section outlines objectives for the economic development of Dunmanway and its hinterland and presents a range of actions to achieve these. Many of could be achieved with the assistance of local development agencies through supports such as training and finance.

3.3.6.1 Employment and Enterprise

As stated above in section 3.4.4.1 the unemployment rate within the study area is quite low compared to that of the state. However, while the unemployment rate is low the population of Dunmanway and its hinterland are heavily dependant on the agricultural sector with little expansion into alternative forms of employment or enterprise.

This strategy has recognises that growth of alternative forms of employment is necessary in order to reposition Dunmanway as a key inland town within West Cork. Education and training courses can provide the skills necessary to expand into other employment sectors and to help recognise niche markets, while the establishment of Business Groups and Business Associations can improve morale and act as a catalyst for the introduction of local initiatives while also offering support to business wishing to expand. Training programmes run by the West Cork Enterprise Board benefit businesses in the area and the increased availability of such courses in the town may encourage other businesses to avail of this support. Dunmanway could be a central location within West Cork for the delivery of such courses.

Essentially to develop this element of the Strategy three shifts in the economy of Dunmanway and the wider area should be progressed:

- Improving the existing business base of the area
- Attracting new types of businesses into the area
- Encouraging greater formation of new businesses from within the area

The proposed development of new food units in the town could encourage new businesses in this area to develop. The possibility of Community Enterprise Centre development through Enterprise Ireland should be investigated in terms of provision of a further suitable base for enterprise development.

This strategy proposes that Dunmanway should focus on the expansion of local indigenous businesses. This can be achieved by consolidating and expanding the food industry, for example, for which there is significant scope, and exploiting opportunities that arise out of this. It is also necessary to encourage small-scale businesses to locate within the town.

The following objectives and subsequent actions have been outlined in order to address such issues.
3.3.6.2 Agriculture

Agriculture was a traditionally strong sector within Ireland; however over the last number of decades there has been an obvious decline, which has placed pressure on the existing population, especially within the study area. This has resulted in some farmers expanding into off-farm employment opportunities. Nevertheless, off-farm employment opportunities within Dunmanway are limited. Diversification into alternative industries can help to minimise underemployment within the area. The development of the food industry provides other opportunities in agriculture in terms of the production of ingredients.

As such there are a number of actions which should be achieved in order to provide alternative opportunities for those seeking off-farm employment whilst also revitalising the farming sector within Dunmanway and its rural hinterland, such as the development of new training programmes for farmers and their families who wish to remain in agriculture or on alternative projects such as organic farming and forestry. Teagasc provides training and advisory services to promote and sustain a broad range of enterprise development in rural areas. Diversification will open up new opportunities and possibilities for expansion.

Opportunities in renewable energy exist around the growing, harvesting and preparation of biomass for energy production. Biomass fuel can be transformed to electric power and is produced by growing crops through agriculture and forestry.

**Objectives**

**Objective ED1:** To revitalise the farming sector whilst also providing alternative opportunities for those seeking off-farm employment, thereby preserving rural communities.

**Objective ED4:** To improve the economic sustainability and viability of agricultural enterprises.

**Actions**

**Short Term**

- Encourage collaborative working relationships between farmers and food processors i.e. co-ops
- Capitalise on the possibilities made available by the CLAR programme
- Development of niche markets for local agricultural and organic produce
• Continue to provide training programmes for farmers and their spouses and investigate methods of improving uptake in this area
• Provide a support and networking programme available to all farmers that includes technical and business assistance, re-training and support/social services

Long Term
• Investigate potential for the growing, harvesting and preparation of biomass for energy production

3.3.6.3 Forestry
Ireland’s woodlands and forests represent a multi-faceted resource that provides timber, employment, and recreational amenity, enhances the landscape and environment and promotes biodiversity.

As stated above in section 3.4.6.2 the number of people engaged in agriculture is declining. Therefore alternative sources of employment are necessary. Forestry is an ideal and sustainable form of rural development in an area rich in woodland. Schemes such as the Forest Premium Scheme and the Afforestation grant offer support for those interested in afforestation.

The Timber Industry has an important role to play in the development of the area. Wood is a natural, renewable resource from which a wide range of timber products is derived. Timber processing, as well as producing sawn timber, has co-products such as sawdust, woodchip and bark which can be used in the manufacture of medium density fibreboard (MDF), and paper, for chipboard manufacturing and for garden mulch respectively. Animal bedding is another potential co-product.

By-products from forestry can be used as biomass fuel, which can be utilised in producing renewable energy. Wood wastes are used in boardmills as feedstocks for production and within sawmills and boardmills to provide heat for drying or space heating and to produce steam for the manufacturing process. Forest thinning can provide a marketable by-product during the management of plantations during the middle years for the production of pellets for energy generation. Employment in timber product manufacture such as furniture and wood products is also a potential benefit.

Forest recreation can also contribute significantly to rural development and employment. It is a hugely versatile amenity and has considerable potential benefits what with being suitable to people of all ages and abilities providing activities from walking, picnics and more active uses such as orienteering. There are a number of forests/woodlands within the area such as Manch Woodland, Clonacreen Forest, Mallablack Forest and Cullenagh Forest, which could provide all of the above.

It is therefore an objective to encourage landowners to expand into forestry where appropriate and to consider providing access for recreational purposes while also encouraging landowners to work together to meet the required acreage so as to avail of grants.

3.3.6.4 Food
The food industry is the largest indigenous industry in Ireland, employing over 40,000 people directly. In 2006 the total turnover of Irish food and drink is estimated at almost €22 billion. In 1996, farming returned a yield of 12.67% per acre. In 2005 this had significantly reduced to 3.72% per acre while land prices had jumped from €6,474 per acre in 1996 to €17,318 per acre in 2005. It is therefore recognised that expansion into the food industry developed as a response to this decrease in agriculture and that there is still ample opportunity for the development of the food industry in terms of niche markets such as small-scale local produce in the form
of farm-fresh and organic produce such as vegetables, cheeses and preserves for example.

Opportunities can be developed to sell local food products through existing outlets and/or at farm shops or a farmers market within the town. A small-scale temporary venue for a market could be piloted to investigate interest. Farmers markets give local growers and producers the opportunity to sell produce directly to consumers and are an ideal opportunity for farmers to source new customers vice versa. They can facilitate the creation of a culture of enterprise within an area and can also have spin-off effects for local businesses by attracting visitors to a town.

The development of the food sector could link into ‘food tourism’ with visitor-oriented food outlets and artisan producers with potential for a food trail. Government policy is supportive to the development of the food industry and identifies knowledge-based support as the key dimension to maintaining Ireland’s competitiveness. Ongoing public support to agriculture and food through funding of research, training and extension will be key to the future competitiveness of the industry.

3.3.6.5 Tourism Development
Tourism development is important to Dunmanway and its surrounding area, due to the potential income generated by the consumption of goods and services by tourists and the opportunity for employment in the service industries associated within it. However, due to its location off the main routes and from the highly visited coast of West Cork, Dunmanway has not expanded into the tourism market with a lack of accommodation and lack of amenities/attractions being the both factors and symptoms. The town however can build on the strengths of its natural resources to promote tourist activities which can also provide recreational opportunities for local residents.

In order for the area to unlock its tourism potential and position itself as a tourist destination, a critical mass of tourism products and services needs to be developed in partnership with Fáilte Ireland South West and local tourism bodies’ plans. Key to this will be the development of a specific Dunmanway proposition that can be positioned within the overall strategic framework for tourism in the Southwest region. This will require proactive engagement with bodies with a tourism remit.

Objectives

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<tr>
<th>Objective ED6:</th>
<th>To develop the base of indigenous food industry.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Objective ED7:</td>
<td>To ensure the availability of practical supports for food producers</td>
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Actions

**Short Term**
- Carry out survey of local food producers
- Encourage local business outlets to stock local products
- Identify a site for a farmers market.
- Establishment of courses in association with Teagasc.
- Promote the development of a weekly food market within the town and hinterland
- Identify and develop niche markets for local and organic produce
- Develop specialist food production units in the town.

**Long Term**
- Identify site for permanent farmers market
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2. All levels are referred to Ordnance Datum, Malin Head.


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Issue Details
RPS Planning & Environment, Unit 3 University Technology Centre, Curraheen Road, Cork, Ireland
T: +353 21 480 4600  F: +353 21 480 4658  E: ireland@rpsgroup.com
W: www.rpsgroup.com/ireland

Title
Dunmanway Integrated Development Strategy

Legend

Key
1 Bandon Pottery
2 Kilcascan Castle
3 Kinneigh Roundtowner
4 Cashelagh
5 Aultagh Cottage Gardens
6 Manch Forest
7 Ballymacartha Castle
8 Manor Gardens
9 Curraghlicky Lane
10 Dromilly Lake
11 O’Donovans Castle
12 Nowen Hill
13 Cullenagh Forest
14 Coalville

Dunmanway Interagency Committee

Figure 4

Legend

ATTRACTIONS OF DUNMANWAY

1 Bandon Pottery
2 Kilcascan Castle
3 Kinneigh Roundtowner
4 Cahervagliar
5 Aultaghregh Cottage Gardens
6 Manch Forest
7 Ballynacarriga Castle
8 Manor Gardens
9 Curraghlicky Lane
10 Dromilly Lake
11 O’Donovans Castle
12 Nowen Hill
13 Cullenagh Forest
14 Coalville
While the town and its hinterland has a strong history and culture with a number of archaeological sites within a five-mile radius of the town and events such as the Sam Maguire and Ballabuidhe Festivals attracting visitors to the area, a number of local attractions are unknown to the visiting community such as Manch Forest, a 340-acre woodland, ideal for walking. It is therefore necessary that such attractions and events be promoted among both the receiving community and the tourist community. Themes such as food production and Sam Maguire in connection with other sites in West Cork could be developed. It would be worthwhile if a tourist information point were located within the town.

It is also been recognised that in order to develop the town as a destination and principal inland gateway of West Cork it is necessary to develop of additional accommodation types such as a new 3* or 4* hotel (or the refurbishment of the existing hotel to this standard) and a caravan and camping site within easy walking distance of the town centre. Within the wider area of a circuit of West Cork could be promoted, getting people to travel along the coast and back to Cork city via an inland route through Dunmanway or vice versa. Appropriate signposting, maps and marketing will be required to develop a strategic ‘Inland tourist route’ to offer an alternative to the current ‘West Cork Coastal Route’. Dunmanway should become the central focus of this ‘Inland Tourist Route’ that would begin in Bandon and end in Bantry. An indicative route with associated tourist attractions is identified in Figure 4. Furthermore, the encouragement of and support for the development of walking routes, cycling routes and driving routes throughout the area and the preparation of maps illustrating such routes is necessary (some examples are illustrated on Figure 5). All of these could be publicised on a well structured website designed by a qualified web designer which would allow users easy access to relevant information. Employees in the tourism industry could also be upskilled by enterprise supports available from Failte Ireland.
A comprehensive town website is one aspect of promotional activity that would benefit the area and could be included as a link on other relevant sites. However, on a larger scale, the marketing of Dunmanway based on a distinctive theme should be investigated as a method of revitalisation of the area. It is premature to propose a branding package for the town given that some of actions suggested in this Strategy would need to be implemented and reviewed or ‘tried and tested’ before a definitive concept can be marketed. Some themes and associations that may emerge through the development of a marketing strategy might include older concepts that have not been continued, such as the ‘Heart of West Cork’, the town colours of green and white, Sam Maguire, a natural food centre, outdoor recreation, or overall environmental excellence. The development of a marketing strategy should commence with research on case studies on rural Irish areas such as Ballyhoura Developments’ ‘Simply Different’ branding or international examples of inland areas promoting their strengths, such as ‘Umbria: Green Heart of Italy’.

**Objectives**

**Objective ED8:** To develop Dunmanway as a destination and the principal inland tourist gateway for visitors to West Cork.

**Objective ED9:** To develop a critical mass of tourism products and services.

**Objective ED10:** To ensure a strategic and collaborative approach to the delivery of tourist facilities in

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**Actions**

**Short Term**

- Establish a comprehensive website for the catchment area
- Encourage small B&B’s to register with Failte Ireland
- Conduct a survey of all tourist accommodation providers
- Publish a town map
- Investigate the possibility of developing a town heritage walk
- Co-ordinate the Sam Maguire theme in the area, including references on a town map and town heritage walk
- Redevelopment of the swimming pool and improvement of the range of events and activities available there
- Consider tourist facilities and amenities such as walks, picnic tables, boating and fishing in the context of the redevelopment of the Lakeside Park
- Establishment of an Information Point in a central premises within Dunmanway
- Encourage local tourism service providers to avail of enterprise supports to upgrade skills
- Encourage and support the development of walking routes, cycling routes and driving routes
- Investigate the potential for fishing as a tourist attraction
- Increase the mobility of tourists throughout the area by ensuring a standard of road signage in both English and Irish
- Develop the Sam Maguire festival
- Identify suitable sites for the development of a 3* or 4* hotel and caravan and camping site
Long Term
• Infrastructure improvements to minor roads in and out of Dunmanway so as to be pedestrian friendly, better signposting
• New hotel/substantial refurbishment of existing including coach parking and gym facilities
• Develop the idea of a circuit of West Cork, with Dunmanway at the centre of an ‘Inland Tourist Route’ which needs marketing, literature and maps and the development of facilities to make Dunmanway a worthwhile stop.
• Develop the Sam Maguire theme in the context of historical tourism within West Cork (e.g. connections to places of interest regarding Michael Collins) and forge links with Croke Park visitor centre
• Establish a better choice of accommodation
• Package activities and accommodation in a themed manner
• Seek to integrate a local website into the Discover Ireland website
• Develop a comprehensive marketing strategy for the area

3.3.6.6 Commercial / Retail Development
Dunmanway’s retail core is encompassed around Main Street and Market Square. Currently there is a lack of modern comparison and convenience retail within Dunmanway town centre with a number of disused ground floor units located within the core retail area. As a result, the receiving population are travelling to other towns within West Cork to avail of retail and local services. It is therefore an objective to improve the choice of retail and commercial services within the town centre so as to consolidate and enhance this sector. As such it is necessary to identify an area for the expansion of Dunmanway’s town centre and also an appropriate site for a new convenience retail anchor store/discount foodstore, which will together underpin the existing retail provision in the town by attracting new shoppers.

Objectives Commercial / Retail Development

Objective ED11: To consolidate and enhance Dunmanway’s retail/commercial sector including the retail sector in small towns and villages by improving choice of services within the town

Actions

Short Term
• Identify site for expansion of Dunmanway’s town centre
• Identify site for new convenience retail anchor store/discount foodstore
• Improve quality of retail and service delivery by introducing more customer friendly opening hours
• Encourage local retail and service staff to participate in customer service training

Long Term
• To attract more high profile retail outlets to the Town. This will occur as a natural consequence of an improved local economy, investment in the County’s infrastructure, and a vibrant tourism sector
• Upgrade derelict premises within the town centre
• Retain retail expenditure from within the catchment area and avoid large scale leakage to the larger towns of West Cork, i.e. Clonakilty, Bandon and Skibbereen
3.4 Key Driver 3: Social and Community

To enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors to the area, through the provision of core facilities and services that satisfy their physical, emotional and social needs, the strengthening of pride of place and community spirit throughout in the area and the improvement of opportunities for all ages and social groups to participate fully in society.

The Strategic Aim

3.4.1 Introduction

This section of the development strategy assesses the social issues that are facing the study area, and proposes objectives for the social development of the town and its hinterland as well as a range of actions, which can be implemented or investigated in the lifetime of the strategy to achieve these aims. Social development is key to improving the quality of life of existing residents of the area and to attracting people to remain in the area or choose to make their home here. It also encourages economic development as it provides basic supports and improves the environment for residents, workers and visitors.

The social and economic community begins with a statement of a strategic aim that sets out the policy context and profile of the study area before assessing the current issues that need to be addressed, discussing relevant aspects of social and community development and finally identifying objectives and actions in these areas. While the strategy has been subdivided into sections including Education and Training; Social Inclusion; Childcare, Children and Youth Services, Recreation and Amenity; Community Development, Community Facilities and Services; Health, Safety and Welfare and Culture and the Arts, there are clearly linkages between many of these topic areas and actions proposed under each may be interconnected with other areas. For example actions to improve participation in education will also improve prospects of social inclusion as educational disadvantage is a contributory factor to social exclusion.

3.4.2 Strategic Aim

To enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors to the area, through the provision of core facilities and services that satisfy their physical, emotional and social needs, the strengthening of pride of place and community spirit throughout in the area and the improvement of opportunities for all ages and social groups to participate fully in society.

3.4.3 Policy Context

The National Development Plan aims to redistribute the benefits of economic growth and ensure that young people in particular are provided with sufficient education and training to make the most of the opportunities that exist in the current climate. The importance of facilities for rural areas and the need to combat isolation are noted and funding is provided for services of benefit to such communities, for example through the Rural Transport Initiative.

The National Spatial Strategy includes rural development as a priority in achieving balanced regional development, with the important role of rural towns as service centres for surrounding areas highlighted.

The National Rural Development Programme will provide a range of social supports for the Dunmanway area, through schemes that boost incomes of farm families; funding provision for measures to improve quality of life in rural areas, such as supports for
alternative employment; the development of forests for countryside recreation; initiatives to provide amenity facilities, community infrastructure, arts and cultural activities and information networks; the fostering of community development; and environmental upgrades in villages.

The Local Development and Social Inclusion Programme supports schemes to tackle social disadvantage through targeted interventions aimed at specific groups at risk of social exclusion. The West Cork Development Partnership will oversee the administration of funding through this scheme and rural development initiatives, and the increased coverage of social inclusion measures throughout West Cork will serve to benefit the study area.

The South West Regional Planning Guidelines aim to ensure that towns like Dunmanway act as rural service centres, providing core local services and education and training facilities. The need for choice in relation to health and educational facilities is noted.

The North and West Cork Strategic Plan notes an ageing population, the migration of young people and the loss of local services in many towns and villages in its study area. A key aim is to promote access to social, recreational and cultural facilities. The importance of retaining distinctive local culture, past-times and traditions to promote pride of place and community spirit is noted.

The CLAR programme, which consists of targeted intervention to address issues of rural depopulation and decline in service provision, was extended to cover part of the study area and will provide opportunities for financial assistance for social and community infrastructure.

The Cork County Development Plan aims to promote a stronger settlement pattern and facilitate the provision of services and facilities through the achievement of critical mass in the main towns and villages.

The Review of the Cork County Development Board Strategy identified Dunmanway as one of nine priority projects for 2006-2008 and the Dunmanway IAC was established to oversee the implementation of projects to benefit the town, including social development projects.

The Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan aims to improve amenities within Dunmanway and aims to support the town’s service function. The plan covers the villages within the study area and notes the lack of community facilities in Ballingurteen for example. Dunmanway – A Framework for Change notes the need for recreational facilities within the town, physical improvements to the town that would make it more pleasant to live in and visit, and a parks and recreation strategy, which have both physical and social benefits.

The Dunmanway Needs Analysis focuses on social issues facing the town and its hinterland including the isolation of rural dwellers, the lack of public transport and difficulties in providing social and community facilities given low population densities. Patterns of out-migration are noted. Gaps in childcare facilities, community group meeting spaces, children’s activities, youth venues and supports and alcohol and drugs services are highlighted.

Local level strategies are to be devised for the implementation of the National Rural Development Programme and the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme and the needs of Dunmanway should therefore be reflected in both programmes.

Overall, a positive policy framework for the social and community development of the Dunmanway area is in place. This presents a favourable environment for the revitalisation and development of necessary services and facilities in the town and its hinterland.

3.4.4 Social and Community Profile

3.4.4.1 Population

The population of Dunmanway town in 2006 was 1522 persons, an increase of 95 persons or 6.7% between 1996 and 2006. In the last inter-censal period 2002-2006, the population of the town saw a slight decrease of 0.7%.

The population of Dunmanway Rural Area increased by 5.2% in the period 1996-2006 with a 3.5% increase in the most recent inter-censal period. This population increase is low compared to the 11% population increase in the State and the 26.1% population increase in County Cork from 1996 to 2006 and the 8.2% population increase in the State and the 11.4% increase in County Cork from 2002-2006.

There are significant variations in patterns of population change within the area. Dunmanway South experienced a large population increase of 39.6% between 1996 and 2006 due to new residential developments located on the R586 south of the town centre, while Dunmanway North experienced a population decrease of 18.3%. The population of Dromdaleague North and South increased by 8.9% and 14.6% respectively in the period 2002-2006. The Dromdaleague South Electoral Division experienced a high population increase of 24.4% between 1996 and 2006.
The spatial differentiation in the pattern of population change is also evident in the wider rural area surrounding Dunmanway. Some of the Dunmanway Rural Area electoral divisions showed a significant population increase between 1996 and 2006 include Dunmanway South (24.6%), Manch (21.2%), Beal Athan Ghaorthaidh (13.7%) and Teerelton (13.3%), while others saw a large decline in population within the same period including Dunmanway North (-14.8%), Bealock (-8%) and Coolmount (-6.7%).

3.4.4.2 Age Profile
The independent population cohort (age 15-64) ratio in Dunmanway town increased from 61.5% in 1996 to 65.4% in 2006. However, there was a lower percentage of people in the independent age category in the Dunmanway area than in the State and County Cork in 1996 and 2002.

There were a slightly lower percentage of people within the 0-14 dependent category in Dunmanway town than in Cork County in the period 1996-2006; while there was a higher percentage of people in this age category in the Dunmanway Rural Area than in County Cork in the period 1996-2002 giving an indication that young families were locating in some of the rural areas rather than in the town itself.

There was a higher percentage of people in the 65+ old dependent category in the area than both the state as a whole and County Cork.

3.4.4.3 Household Size
The emerging pattern in Ireland and Europe generally is towards smaller household sizes, due to factors such as marital breakdown, reduction in family size and increases in single-parent families and elderly people living alone. The average household size in Ireland has decreased from 3.14 in 1996 to 2.81 in 2006.

In 1996 and 2002, Dunmanway town had a smaller household size than average in County Cork or the state, while the rural areas in the study area had higher average household sizes compared to the state average. The figures for 2006 indicate a further decrease in household size, which is particularly prominent in Dunmanway town, which had an average household size of 1.75 persons, significantly lower than the state and county average.

3.4.4.4 Educational Attainment
The level of educational attainment of a population is important for a knowledge-based economy. Irish trends demonstrate that a smaller number of people are now leaving school after primary level and that there is a higher percentage of people completing second and third level education than was historically the case. These trends are also evident in the study area, with a decrease in numbers whose highest level of attainment was primary education and an increase in numbers who completed lower secondary, upper secondary and third level degree programmes from 1996 to 2002. Within that intercensal period, there was a 13.7% increase in the number of people completing either lower or upper secondary education compared to an 8% increase in the state. A School Completion Programme is active in the study area however. Regarding third level education, there was a 67% increase in those completing a third level degree course or higher between 1996 and 2002 nationally with a slightly lower increase in the study area of 64.5%.

3.4.4.5 Childcare, Educational and Training Facilities
Dunmanway Community Playgroup currently provides sessional community childcare and plans to expand its services in a proposed joint venture with Dunmanway FRC to provide full community childcare services including a crèche, full day care, sessional day care and after school care. There are also a number of private childcare providers in the area.

Within Dunmanway town there are three primary schools: St Mary’s National School (Junior and Senior) located on High Street, St Patrick’s Boys National School located on Sackville Street and The Model School located on Bantry Road. There are also a number of national schools in villages and the rural area around Dunmanway including: St. Enda’s NS, Togher, Ballinacarriga NS, Derrinacahara NS, Drinagh NS, St. Mary’s NS, Kilmeen, Castledonovan NS, Drimoleague NS, Coppeen NS, Castletownkenneigh NS and Enniskeane/Ballineen NS.
Maria Immaculata Community College, a modern, privately owned school, provides secondary education in the town. A school completion officer is in place in the school and also works in some of the primary schools experiencing difficulties with attendance levels in the area.

The Dunmanway Return to Education Centre is located on Park Road. This is an outreach centre, funded by the County Cork Vocational Educational Centre with the support of voluntary tutors. The centre provides ‘second chance education’ in skills such as reading, writing, maths and information technology skills such as work processing, email and internet on a one-to-one basis or in a group situation. Adult education evening courses are run annually in Maria Immaculata Secondary School but take-up of courses is poor. Teagasc provide agricultural training courses in their Dunmanway offices. West Cork Money Advice and Budgeting Services are based in the town and provide community education on financial management.

3.4.4.6  Sporting and Leisure Facilities and Activities

There are a number of sporting facilities and clubs in Dunmanway town and surrounding area. These include Dohenys GAA club (hurling and football), which has two full size pitches, four dressing rooms, a ball alley and a clubhouse, Dunmanway Rugby Club which has a clubhouse, gym and two pitches, Dunmanway 18 hole Pitch n Putt Club and the town park area adjacent the pitch and putt club which contains two tennis courts, a public indoor swimming pool and a playground and is an important resource for the town and wider area. An all-weather mini-pitch was completed in August 2007 across the road from the park. Other sporting clubs and facilities include Dunmanway Hillwalking Club, Dunmanway Horse Riding School, Dohenys Athletics Club, Dunmanway Town Soccer Club, Togher Celtic Soccer Club, Coursing Club, Dunmanway Clay Target Club, Dunmanway Golfers’ Society, St. Mary’s Badminton Club, Bridge Club and Dunmanway Ladies Football Club. There are several venues for fishing in the area. Sports clubs in the town use three indoor halls.

Dunmanway lake and picnic area is an amenity for public use that is to be upgraded. A Riverside Walk in the ‘Green Bridge’ area has improved the town’s connection to the river. Bol Chumann na hÉireann was recently granted permission to construct a road bowling training centre in Dunmanway.

Facilities and clubs in the area outside of the town include lakes such as Curraghlicky Lake, GAA clubs in Ballinacarriga, Drimoleague, Coppeen and Enniskeane, a soccer club in Drinagh, pitch and putt courses in Drimoleague and Ballineen, a playground in Drimoleague, tennis courts in Drinagh and Ballineen and an autocross car race track and table tennis club in Castletownkinneigh.

Dunmanway has a good sense of community spirit demonstrated through the large number of associations and organisations in the town. It is a former winner of the National Tidy Towns Competition in 1982 and more recently was nominated as Cork’s representative in the 2007 national Pride of Place competition. Dunmanway Promotions Association is a community representative group in the town undertaking important community works, such as fundraising for and campaigning for community facilities. Many voluntary groups exist in the area and cover a wide variety of interests. A library is located in the town centre and a mobile library also operates in the study area.

Some of the main events held in the area include the Dunmanway Agricultural Show, the Ballabuidhe Races & Horse Fair and the Sam Maguire Festival.

In terms of entertainment, the closure of the local cinema has left a gap that has not been filled by alternative non-sporting leisure pursuits. Venues for socialising in the town are limited with many of the bars of similar style and a limited number of eateries. St. Patrick’s Parish Hall is in need of refurbishment. There are no dedicated arts venues.
3.4.4.8 Health, Safety and Welfare Services
Resources in the area include Dunmanway Community Hospital, which provides long-stay and convalescent care for the elderly as well as a day care facility. A HSE Health Centre and new Primary Care Centre are located in the town. The Ballineen/Enniskeane Primary Care Team also operates in the study area with two GPs included on the team. The proposed Early Intervention Service/Development Centre to be located in Dunmanway will serve children with disabilities and their families in West Cork and aims to be a centre of excellence, providing resources to allow for flexibility in the provision of a range of assessments and interventions for these children and their families. The Dunmanway Family Resource Centre provides family and community supports including Meals on Wheels (with plans for expansion to increase the range of services for older people), a Baby and Carers group, a Parent and Toddler group, a Community Garden project, courses for parents, an Eco Youth Club for 8-12 year olds and drugs awareness information for 12-16 year olds. Migrant’s programmes are also available as are a Citizen’s Information Service, fortnightly FAS advice clinic and Work Start West Cork services. Dunmanway contains a Garda Station and Fire Station.

Social inclusion in the area is facilitated by some other HSE services such as the Community Welfare Service, the Family Resource Centre, West Cork Money Advice and Budgeting Service and the VEC. Dunmanway is linked to Bantry via two of the accessible transport routes operated by West Cork Rural Transport, one which takes in Togher Cross daily and another which connects the town to Drinagh and Ballingurteen. This is of great benefit to those lacking private transport, those living some distance from mainstream public transport and those with disabilities. However, accessible rural transport is not currently widely available in the Dunmanway area. Social inclusion measures in the area should be greatly enhanced by the roll-out of the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme through the West Cork Development Partnership, which will allow for measures currently in place in the West Cork Community Partnership area, based in Bantry, to be extended to the Dunmanway area as well as the development of new supports to all areas of West Cork.

3.4.5 Analysis and Assessment
3.4.5.1 Demographic trends
In general, population increases in the area are relatively low compared to increases in the State and in County Cork. Furthermore, the town is not expanding at the same rate as a number of other towns in West Cork and the last inter-censal period showed a slight decline, which has impacts for the vitality of the urban area. There are evident spatial variations in the growth of population within the town with the southern areas showing strong growth compared to decline to the north of the town and this is reflected in other trends such as the spatial distribution of higher unemployment rates. New development has largely been located at the southern side of the town which impacts upon localised population trends.

The age structure of the population has implications for housing demand, schools and health care services. The slight increase in the independent age cohort in the last available census figures should have positive implications for future housing and employment demand in the wider area, with more young adults with good labour market expectations, setting up independent households at an earlier age. However the relatively low levels in this cohort compared to state and county figures illustrates the impacts of out-migration from the area by people in this age cohort, which consists of those who are more likely to be economically active and producing children. Statistics for the area show an ageing population in comparison to national and county trends and this must be considered in conjunction with two other emerging trends nationwide: decreasing birth rates and smaller family sizes. The increase in
the percentage of the dependant elderly population has implications relating to health and social service needs in the region. Changing family structure and increased participation of women in the labour force are also likely to reduce the number of carers. The trend towards a very low average household size in the town corresponds with the population indicators of an older population.

The trends towards higher educational attainment in the study area are in line with national trends and are positive in terms of the creation of a higher knowledge base in the area but must be considered in conjunction with other indicators, such as an increase in the numbers travelling greater distances to work and the age profile of the study area. A factor in educational attainment trends may be the declining numbers of young people entering agriculture.

### 3.4.5.2 Social and Community Environment and Facilities

Childcare facilities in Dunmanway appear limited with gaps in full day-care and after school services noted. This has implications for the educational and economic status of parents and their ability to participate in the community.

There are a significant number of primary schools in the study area. However, it is evident from research that space is limited in many of the rural schools in particular and many appear to rely partially on portacabin classroom accommodation.

The new secondary school provides an impressive facility for secondary school pupils in the area but difficulties exist regarding community use given prohibitive costs of hire of facilities and thus the school is underutilised. School attendance is noted as a concern at both secondary level and primary level in areas within the study area and a lack of alternatives to mainstream education for some students has been highlighted in the consultation process.

There are opportunities for adult education and third level education within the town. However, take-up of evening courses is poor and there may be a need to reassess the range of courses available as well as encouraging FAS training programmes and university or otherwise accredited courses to locate in the town. The existing agricultural training programmes are under threat.

In terms of leisure and recreation, the redevelopment of the swimming pool complex, upgrading of the tennis courts, the funding for the Lakeside park, the riverside walk and other such developments are positive steps in the improvement of facilities in Dunmanway and a large number of sporting groups operate successfully. Improvements in facilities will benefit residents of the town and surrounding area and will make a positive contribution to the development of tourism. Problems regarding ownership and maintenance of indoor sports venues are an issue affecting the development of sport in the town however.

While the number of community and voluntary groups in the area is commendable as is the clear willingness of many residents to work towards the improvement of their town and its services, there is scope for a wider involvement in community matters and to enhance a sense of civic pride and positive outlook in the area. There would appear to be a gap in non-sporting social outlets for younger people in the area and this may have resulted from stagnation in a younger population, a limited amount of development of new ventures or renovations in venues such as restaurants and café bars, the lack of an available venue for arts and theatre groups, a cinema or a community-owned hall. This compares poorly for example with the modern cinema facilities in Bantry and Clonakilty.

The location of a community hospital and family resource centre in the town are positive aspects but concerns arise locally regarding capacity of the hospital and gaps in provision of services such as counselling. The development of the Dunmanway and Ballineen Primary Care Team structure in the area will have implications for the delivery of health care in the area as first points of contact for health and personal social services, using a team approach to discuss local health needs and specific needs of individual clients. Feedback from existing teams has been positive.
3.4.6 The Basis for a Social and Community Development Strategy

The strengths of the area in relation to community and social development include the commitment by the local community to the improvement of the town and the wider area, the consolidated area for active leisure near the modern secondary school facility, new and pending developments around the area of leisure such as the proposed new swimming pool complex, the new mini pitch, the refurbishment of the tennis courts, the permitted Bol Chumann na hÉireann training facility, the riverside walk and the opportunity to redevelop the lake area with approved funding. The Family Resource Centre, the Community Hospital and other such facilities have positive impacts on the lives of those connected to the town and its hinterland. Rural transport has a presence in the area and primary, secondary and adult education venues are available.

However, a limited number of people appear to be involved in promoting change and development in the town, non-sporting leisure and social outlets for younger people are not adequate for young people in the area and are not attracting young adults to the town at weekends with the cinema now closed and limited choice in terms of bars and restaurants. There are gaps in services, such as counselling supports and alternatives for teenagers who struggle with the mainstream education system, and the future of some existing facilities such as the Teagasc centre is uncertain.

Opportunities include the possibility of building on attractive natural features of the area and the possibility of enhancing community pride and social interaction based on facilities such as upgraded public spaces and walking routes capitalising on these features. The redevelopment of the convent site presents an opportunity to refurbish the sports hall. The Family Resource Centre can be a key resource for the co-ordination of services and the identification of those citizens with particular needs. The availability of numerous sources of funding for social, community development and sporting projects, the expertise available to Dunmanway and the opportunity for co-ordinated service delivery through the formation of the IAC also represent major opportunities for the study area.

The ageing population of the town represents a challenge in terms of providing for the needs of older people and in retaining young educated people in the town to energise the area. Ultimately, facilities and supports that cater for an older age group are needed to cater for the current demographic profile and facilities and supports for youth and young adults are needed to encourage these age groups to remain in the town and to attract new residents.

The strategy takes into account the existing characteristics of the area, the positive policy background in developing objectives for the social and community development of the area and in presenting a range of actions to achieve these objectives.

3.4.6.1 Education and Training

Education and training are ongoing processes and therefore should be accessible to people of all ages and from all sectors of the local community. It is widely recognized that a person's experience of education can have significant influence on their lives. To ensure all citizens participate in education and training and reach their full potential, barriers to education must be addressed, the needs of those who for various reasons did not or cannot participate in mainstream education must be catered for and the range of classes and subjects delivered must take into account changes to the economy and society as a whole. Resources must be provided to support those with difficulties in accessing and taking maximum advantage of the education system.

Education and training can provide the skills necessary for engaging in the labour market but education in life skills, which allows individuals to cope with the challenges of daily living, must also be prioritized. There are a number of institutions in existence in the town, which through establishing firm links can allow for mutually beneficial relationships through reciprocal education or the provision of focused courses.

A current review of Teagasc facilities may have implications for the future of the Teagasc centre in Dunmanway and this is a cause of concern as the town is currently a venue for agricultural training for a wide region, is accessible as a venue for other groups for training events and allows for a ready venue for courses relating to new agricultural activities. The area has a strong agricultural base, which presents opportunities for the area that should be supported by locally available training and the sustainable development of this centre should be considered.
Objectives

Objective SC1: To ensure that Dunmanway retains and attracts a sufficient level of accessible mainstream and alternative education and training facilities to provide for the needs of those who wish to commence or return to education, increasing the range of courses and improving attendance.

Objective SC2: To tackle physical, social and financial barriers to education.

Actions

Short Term
- Facilitate access to school transport and support work carried out through school completion programmes.
- Target schools in the area not already participating, to become involved in the Green Flag Schools scheme.
- Provide drug awareness programmes and road safety awareness programmes through schools and youth clubs.
- Establish links between the community hospital and day care centre and the secondary school through a Transition Year visiting programme.
- Provide courses in childcare, parenting, nutrition and first aid as part of evening adult education programmes.
- Improve take-up of evening courses through links between Maria Immaculata Community College, the Return to Education Centre and the Family Resource Centre.
- Ensure that agricultural training events are cognisant of the needs of both full-time and part-time farmers.
- Investigate potential links with UCC and CIT with a view to establishing Outreach higher education courses in Dunmanway and with FAS with a view to Dunmanway hosting apprenticeship training courses.
- Increase the use of the Adult Education Centre for training purposes such as Enterprise Board business courses and events.
- Encourage the provision of courses on a flexible, part-time and modular basis in adult education venues in the town.
- Promote adult education courses within the town itself but also in nearby villages, towns and rural centres.

Long-Term
- Organise an annual adult education information evening.

- Promote education around environmental awareness through establishing links between local schools and local environmental groups/establishments such as the Irish Natural Forestry Foundation Education Centre.
- Develop a Youthreach Centre in Dunmanway, to incorporate a scheme for 12-15 year olds not benefiting from mainstream schooling.
- Secure an Outreach third level course from UCC or CIT.
- Provide a local base for part-time students for evening access to internet facilities to facilitate on-line learning and participation in on-line courses.
- Secure one FAS apprenticeship-training course to be held in Dunmanway.
- Support the provision of a high quality conference venue in the town.

3.4.6.2 Social Inclusion

Groups vulnerable to social exclusion include the unemployed or underemployed, people with disabilities or long-term illnesses, early school leavers, immigrants, young people, lone parents, women, travellers, older people (particularly those living alone), those working and living on non-viable farm units, those in remote areas, homeless people, those living alternative lifestyles and members of low income households.

Integrated service provision can be of great benefit in relation to tackling social exclusion. Co-operative efforts can improve efficiency, coverage and impact of schemes and services. Examples of co-ordinated service provision currently being investigated include the use of rural transport service in delivering meals-on-wheels services. The use of such transport services in combination with Active Retired Group activities, the Community Hospital and adult education courses would be further such activities and services which might be co-ordinated. There are a particularly high number of older people living in the area and this might be one area that requires specifically strong attention from the relevant parties.

Immigration is a relatively new issue facing towns such as Dunmanway. Support services must be put in place to integrate new arrivals with potentially differing backgrounds in particular, with existing established communities. Such integration can be achieved through
education, social contact and practical supports such as welcome packs, providing information on local services, facilities and activities and important local contact numbers. It is also important to recognise the need to integrate sectors of the community who are established in the area but who are excluded from the services, facilities and sense of community that is available to others.

Agricultural restructuring will have an impact on the study area given its rural base, the size of farms in the area and the age profile of those involved in farming generally. There is a need to support farm families though a process that is changing the manner in which such family units traditionally functioned and survived.

Accessibility is a key facet of social inclusion. Where services and facilities are available, but not accessible, they fail to serve the needs of a proportion of the community which they are intended to serve. Accessible public transport is a key mechanism for those who for various reasons do not have access to private transport to access the necessary services for a comfortable and secure quality of life. As complete linkage is required for public transport to be of use to many who rely on this transport mode, the development of accessible rural transport routes is to be commended and should be developed in the study area as a means to provide public transport options where none exist and in other areas, to supplement the mainstream services. The promotion of public transport use is also a sustainable option in terms of modes of transportation.

It is also important that services that are required regularly by the local population are available locally and there is a need to support existing services in Dunmanway.

The establishment of the West Cork Development Partnership, will provide new opportunities for the area, as social inclusion measures previously limited in their geographical scope will now be available in the Dunmanway area. There will be scope for funding for schemes to tackle social exclusion under the LDSIP, including the expansion of existing schemes and the development of new social support structures.

### Objectives Childcare, Children and Youth Services

**Objective SC3:** To improve opportunities for all by tackling social exclusion, promoting integration and increasing awareness of social services and supports available in an inclusive, non-stigmatizing manner.

**Objective SC4:** To reduce poverty, relative deprivation and social exclusion in the area.

**Objective SC5:** To tackle prejudices to ensure all sectors of society feel secure in their environment and support, welcome and integrate new and existing residents into the community.

Children’s needs include safe places to play, social support networks for children in vulnerable situations and supervised outlets to participate in activities outside of the school environment as well as educational needs, which are considered above.

Youth services are increasingly necessary given the pressures facing young people in modern life given the pace of societal change in recent years. There is a need to improve provision for youth in the study area, both in terms of social outlets, particularly in terms of venues and non-sporting activities, and in terms of support networks.
Actions

**Short Term**

- Establish those local individuals/families/groups experiencing and at risk of social exclusion.
- Facilitate continued liaison between relevant agencies and groups at local level regarding integration of existing schemes and activities.
- Prepare a short list of social inclusion strategies with potential for LDSIP funding.
- Establish a working group/committee with specific focus on the needs of the elderly, particularly those living alone and in remote areas; and on opportunities for co-ordinated service delivery.
- Support the expansion of the meals on wheels service.
- Develop a welcome pack for new residents to be distributed through schools, the library and the proposed new council offices.
- Translate posters and flyers for community events, activities and important services into languages spoken by local residents.
- Provide continued support for those at risk of social stress and social exclusion by developing the range of social inclusion services available.
- Provide continued support for the integration of marginalised groups into services.
- Ensure farm families are aware of supports and opportunities to develop on-farm and off-farm income.
- Support the retention of local services and encourage others to locate within the town.
- Investigate the possibility of accessible rural transport routes focussed on Dunmanway, with times based on activities and facilities provided in the town.
- Review the pilot evening rural transport service in the Mizen area and investigate the possibility of such a service in the Dunmanway area.
- Encourage providers of facilities to ensure these are accessible to people disabilities and mobility difficulties.
- Promote the Citizens Information Service.

**Long Term**

- Establish an annual inter-cultural event as part of the Sam Maguire festival.
- Develop long-term social inclusion services.

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**Objectives**

**Childcare, Children and Youth Services**

**Objective SC6:** To improve the levels and types of childcare provision in Dunmanway, while acknowledging the role of parents and others who care for children full-time and providing for their needs.

**Objective SC7:** To recognise youth needs, provide facilities and supports that assist youth through education and pressures of modern living, ease the transition to adulthood, and provide options for living, learning and socialising locally in a manner that satisfies the needs of young people.

**Actions**

**Short Term**

- On production of the SAPS by the CSO, prepare and review report on current registered childcare providers in the area, SAPS data for the area and the resultant shortfall in spaces identified.
- Continue to support the Community Playgroup in efforts to secure a base and expand their services in line with demand in the area.
- Support the provision of other childcare services, including sessional care, full-day care and school age childcare.
- Investigate demand for the provision of courses on childcare as a small business.
- Increase awareness of supported and affordable childcare opportunities for mothers still in the education system or who wish to return to education.
3.4   Key Driver 3: Social and Community Development

Dunmanway Integrated Development Strategy

The redevelopment of same provides an opportunity for major asset to Dunmanway in terms of leisure facilities, and ensure that such beneficial facilities are well used. While the current swimming pool already represents a sports areas as well as the need to encourage clubs and ensure that such beneficial facilities are well used. While the current swimming pool already represents a major asset to Dunmanway in terms of leisure facilities, the redevelopment of same provides an opportunity for positive change in terms of opening hours, activities and accessibility to various groups. It is important that such facilities can be used by all and that operational structures are not prohibitive in this regard.

The availability of funding for the redevelopment of the Lakeside Park represents an opportunity to improve the amenity of this area for passive and active recreation. A comprehensive redevelopment programme should benefit both residents of the town and visitors to the area. Any redevelopment should consider the visibility of the lake and the associated park from the main street, which should be improved. Lakeside walks, grassed areas, picnic tables and some planting should also form part of the redeveloped area. The development of a small pontoon and boatshed to facilitate the operation of a paddle boat/kayak hire facility should be investigated.

A third area of recreation is a park area, currently zoned for open space in the Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan. This provides an opportunity to take advantage of the river as an amenity through the development of walking routes and passive amenity areas. It is important that careful thought is given to the design and layout of spaces such as the lakeside and riverside park to ensure that these areas are well used and that people feel secure in spending their leisure time in these areas.

There are clearly a number of spaces within the town that are well located in terms of access by the residents of the area. These spaces should be protected from development pressures that can push sporting facilities to locations removed from their users.

Indoor sports training facilities and competition venues are essential pieces of infrastructure for sports clubs in the area. While there are existing facilities, issues regarding ownership and upkeep have emerged as constraints to the continued development of sporting groups in the town in particular. Of the facilities within the town, the sports hall on the former convent grounds appears to be the best option for an indoor sports hall for the community given its size and its location within an opportunity site as designated by the afore-mentioned Local Area Plan. The location of the hall within the site allows for its refurbishment and use by the community without compromising other development potential within the overall site.

Spaces and buildings are necessary to promote participation in activity, however other actions are also necessary to improve levels of activity in the area. These include training and coaching and targeted intervention to groups at risk of inactivity. Some positive steps have been taken in the area, both through local initiatives and through support services provided by the Cork County...
Objectives

**Objective SC8:** To enhance quality of life for residents and visitors by improving the range and quality of leisure, recreational and social facilities and outlets and protecting playing pitches and public parks from inappropriate development to ensure such facilities remain accessible.

**Objective SC9:** To increase participation in exercise, particularly by those at risk of sedentary lifestyles or lacking opportunities to participate in established clubs and activities.

**Objective SC10:** To support and enhance the delivery of existing recreational facilities and opportunities in the area through best practice management structures.

Local Sports Partnership and these should be supported and encouraged with a view to further developing sports in the area. This strategy contains a number of actions to be implemented in this regard.

A key starting point is making sporting groups in the area aware of funding and supports available to them to allow them to develop and grow and keep up to date in terms of equipment, safety, insurance needs and coaching methods. Therefore it is recommended that a local register of sporting groups be compiled and used as a basis for the dissemination of information and the sharing of ideas among the large number of clubs that exist in the area. Castletownkinneigh Table Tennis Club, Drimoleague Community Association, St. Mary’s Badminton Club and West Cork Mugendo Kick-boxing Club were successful grant applicants in the area in 2007 and their experiences may be of benefit to other groups. Dunmanway FRC also received funding for sports facilities for the local School Completion Programme. The improvement in revenue from funding sources for groups can greatly assist sports clubs and other groups by reducing the need to rely on local fundraising.

Facilities for recreation and amenity should be accessible to all and there are clear merits to improving physical accessibility to existing facilities and considering this issue in the design of new projects.

**Actions**

**Short Term**

- Compile a local directory of sports clubs as part of an overall community group register.
- Encourage sports groups to register with the Cork Community and Voluntary Forum and avail of the Group Insurance Scheme.
- Encourage local sporting clubs to forge links with the Cork County Local Sports Partnership.
- Increase awareness among local clubs of funding and training available.
- Provide training in Ethics and Emergency Care for sports clubs in the area where requested.
- Provide local coaching courses.
- Encourage all local pre-schools to avail of the Buntus Start Programme.
- Encourage all local primary schools to avail of the Buntus Programme.
- Apply for CLAR funding for sports facilities for the local School Completion Programme.
- Encourage all local pre-schools to avail of the Buntus Programme.
- Apply for CLAR funding for outdoor play facilities for rural schools where these are lacking.
- Introduce Active 8 Programme to Maria Immaculata Community College.
- Provide access to sporting infrastructure and walks for people with disabilities.
- Encourage ‘Meet and Train’ events/Walking and Jogging groups.
- Develop opportunities for older people to participate in sports.
- Review existing indoor sporting facilities in the town and prioritise the most suitable existing facility for action regarding ownership, management and refurbishment.
- Complete riverside walk and improve amenity through planting and seating.
- Complete refurbishment of tennis courts.
- Develop programme for management of public facilities, i.e. tennis courts and mini-pitch.
- To support the development of the local Bol Chumann facility and the refurbishment of the swimming pool.
- To review the management structure and use of the swimming pool in terms of opening hours, types of slots available, categories of swimmers catered for and activities which could be held in the refurbished venue.
- Provide a composite sign for all recreational facilities (and Maria Immaculata Community College) on the Bantry Road.
- Implement Sli na Slainte walking routes in the town.
3.4.6.5 Community Development, Community Facilities and Services

Community spirit has traditionally been strong in Dunmanway as evidenced by recent efforts put in by many for the Pride of Place competition. However, some community groups are being held together by a very small number of people. There is a need to motivate the community to get involved in groups and voluntary activities to improve morale in the town and work towards achieving targets and ambitions set out by documents such as Dunmanway – A Framework for Change and this Integrated Development Strategy.

Physical improvements including upgrading a town’s appearance and development of walking routes within the town where people will meet can contribute greatly to a sense of pride of place and enhancement of community spirit and actions in this regard have been set out in the Physical Development Strategy. Other factors in improving the sense of belonging to and responsibility for an area include involvement and engagement with other members of a community through membership of groups and attendance at community events. Actions that can contribute to fostering enhanced community spirit are included below.

There are numerous groups that engage in some form of community or social development in the area. However, not all of these appear to have strong connections with each other or with representative bodies. For example, increased membership of the Cork Community and Voluntary Forum would allow such groups to avail of benefits such as representation on issues facing community and voluntary groups at county level and at national level to the relevant government departments, membership of a Group Insurance Scheme, access to an online facility identifying appropriate sources of funding for particular projects, access to a newsletter keeping groups up to date with events and developments of relevance and opportunities to participate in schemes being administered through the group. Awareness of supports and funding is an area that can be improved upon with numerous benefits available to individual groups and the quality of life of the community as a whole.

Morale of a community often damaged by a loss of services which support interaction between members of that community or provide support to more vulnerable members of a community or the community as a whole. For example, the current status of the Social Welfare Office in the town is a cause of concern as those relying on the facility are now dependent on access to the office in Bantry for weekly income supports. Where practicable, such services should be retained. While public bodies have a role in the provision of services, there is a need for the local community to support the services and also private businesses that are available in the town. There are opportunities to attract new services to the town and in light of the establishment of the West Cork Development Partnership, there is scope to provide for a presence of this organisation in Dunmanway given the relatively central location of the town to the area that it is intended to support.

Short Term continued

• Complete and launch the loop walks planned for the Coolkelure area.

Long Term

• Aim towards a network of parks and open spaces in the town, both small and large, well-connected, appropriately landscape and providing for both active and passive recreation.
• Support the development of cafes, café bars and restaurants to improve choice of non-active social outlets.
• Negotiate with current owner for community acquisition of one of the larger sports halls in the town and redevelop this facility as a community sports hall.
Objectives

**Community Development, Community Facilities and Services**

**Objective SC11:** To improve civic pride and positivity about the town and the surrounding area, foster a spirit of volunteerism to ensure continued development of community groups and improve participation in community events.

**Actions**

**Short Term**
- Develop a comprehensive and up-to-date town website and newsletter.
- Compile a register of all community and voluntary groups in the area and use this resource as a contact list for the dissemination of information.
- Encourage community groups to form a unit and nominate a representative to sit in the committee of Dunmanway Promotions.
- Encourage community groups to register with the Cork Community and Voluntary Forum.
- Examine Community Timebank as a model to see if some aspects of this method might work in the area regarding the establishment of a volunteer placement register.
- Establish a locally-sponsored community awards night to reward efforts in community and youth work, sporting achievements, business development, town enhancement and event development.
- Approach West Cork Development Partnership board with a view to their having a presence in the town.
- Encourage local schools and community groups to collectively participate in the An Taisce National Spring Clean day in 2008.
- Encourage elected representatives to attend local events and community facilities.
- Support the growth and development of the Family Resource Centre.
- Actively support new tenders for the local social welfare office on advertisement by the Department of Social and Family Affairs to retain this service in the town.
- CPO of a small number of high visibility derelict sites and redevelopment.
- Avail of LEADER and CLAR funding for community initiatives.
- Encourage groups which meet to consider using ‘adult education’ slots in Maria Immaculata Community College for sports and other activities.
- Promote and support local events such as Ballabuidhe and the Sam Maguire Festival.
- Run small-scale painting scheme for selected streets

**Long Term**
- Secure a permanent premises for the Family Resource Centre
- Investigate suitable premises for refurbishment as community hall and/or arts venues
- Re-name and restructure Dunmanway Promotions Association to Dunmanway Community Council.
- Maximise use of proposed new council offices
- Advertise available spaces for community groups at the proposed new offices
3.4.6.6 Health, Safety and Welfare

The structure of primary care provision in the study area is subject to change given the development by the HSE of primary care areas. This brings about its own requirements for the area and actions are included in relation to same.

One of the findings of the background research is the trend towards an ageing population in the area and the resultant pressure on health services and care services for the elderly. The need for additional beds in the Community Hospital has been strongly advocated through the public consultation process. It is generally accepted that care in the local community is the preferred option for people who are no longer able to live in their own homes or with family members and a space in a local facility often allows family and friends to visit more regularly.

The role of those who care for family and friends in their own home must be recognised, along with the pressures and physical difficulties that this can present. Supports which provide an opportunity for carers to share experiences, access appliances, training, respite and support need to be developed.

There is widespread concern that the Gardai in the area are under-resourced and that response times are therefore not always satisfactory. In the absence of resources, the development of community alert schemes to their full potential would be of benefit to security in the area. Where all on-duty Gardai are unavoidably out of the station, alternative contact details should be quickly available.

Through public consultation it has become apparent that while there is GP coverage in the town, women in the area are travelling to other nearby towns to avail of the services of female doctors. Women often feel more comfortable discussing their health issues with other women and this was highlighted as a gap in services. The existence of a female doctor in the town would be of benefit to young teenagers in particular around issues such as pregnancy and sensitive health concerns.

Objectives

- **Objective SC12:** To facilitate health promotion, healthy activities and general well-being among all sectors of the local population and to improve awareness of available health and welfare facilities.
- **Objective SC13:** To provide a range of health services and therapies in a co-ordinated manner, which are easy to access.
- **Objective SC14:** To encourage co-operation between relevant agencies in the provision of health and welfare services.
- **Objective SC15:** To make the area a safe place in which to live, work and visit.
Actions

Short Term

• Progress development of the Primary Care Teams in the area and intensify the level of activities.
• Construct and commission the new extension to Dunmanway Community Hospital to allow the provision of all patient accommodation at ground floor level.
• The provision of Lifestyle Clinics in Dunmanway as appropriate.
• Support the Carer’s Group.
• Develop a strategy for local responses to mental health issues, particularly those associated with ageing
• Expand provision of information on health and welfare services available in the West Cork/Cork County area for distribution in the Dunmanway area.
• Assess current access to appropriate counselling services for the needs of the area and identify gaps in provision.
• Provide access to appropriate counselling services as identified through an initial study.
• Target areas where there are specific health issues.
• Endeavour to establish regular sessional GP clinics on women’s health in Dunmanway.
• Develop business watch for Dunmanway town with liaison Gardai.
• Develop community alert schemes to full potential
• Use the community alert mechanism to tackle issues of speeding/racing on rural roads.
• Ensure adequate contact details are in place when the Garda station is unmanned.
• Investigate issue of Garda resources for the area

Long Term

• Provide additional residential beds in the Community Hospital.
• Investigate need for additional sheltered housing and/or supported sheltered housing

3.4.6.7 Culture and the Arts

The study area has a strong history and culture with events such as the Ballabuidhe Festival and Horse Fair, the strength of the local historical society and the existence of a branch of Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann in the town some examples of strong traditions.

Participation in cultural events and activities and engagement in the arts have benefits to areas such as the fostering of an increased sense of community and appreciation of heritage, social and recreational outlets and improved confidence.

West Cork has a particularly strong arts community and facilities to maximise opportunities for people to participate in and appreciate the arts could be developed in Dunmanway. There are also opportunities for the area in the crafts sector in terms of enterprise development.

Objectives

Objective SC16: To ensure the preservation of local culture and traditions through the support of relevant events, to generate new ways of celebrating such traditions and encourage participation in arts and cultural activities in the area

Objective SC17: To engage with the arts community to develop a vibrant agenda for art, creativity and culture in the area

Objective SC18: To encourage links that recognise the positive contribution that the arts can make to the broader development of the area

Objective SC19: To support the community context of the arts and culture of the area to address issues of public access, social inclusion and participation in and enjoyment of the arts
### Actions

#### Short Term
- Continue to develop Sam Maguire festival with appropriate activities to the theme.
- Include arts events on programmes for local festivals.
- Develop links between local bands/musicians and local venues to encourage the development of regular music venues.
- Liaise with County Council Arts Officer and local arts and crafts community with a view to hosting an arts event in the town.
- Encourage local businesses to host exhibitions.
- Compile a directory of local arts and crafts interests.
- Develop links with the West Cork Arts Centre/West Cork Music and the Crafts and Guilds Centre with a view to establishing outreach events in Dunmanway.
- Include craft producers in the development of stands at a farmer’s market.

#### Long Term
- Investigate options for a permanent home for the heritage centre.
- Identify site for a modern 2-screen cinema
- Support local craftspeople and artists through investigating outlets for sale of products within the town and developing a small number of studio spaces.
- Investigate the possible venues for community arts/theatre/music events and rehearsals.
- Investigate the possibility of incorporating art information/exhibition space in proposed new civic offices.
Chapter 4.0   Implementation and Monitoring
4.1 Introduction

The Strategy sets out an ambitious agenda for change that if successful, will result in positive outcomes for Dunmanway and its hinterland. It is important that tangible benefits of proposals outlined in this Strategy are delivered in the short term as well as the longer term. The structures for implementation and delivery are set out below.

Alongside this, it is essential that comprehensive performance measurement mechanisms are put in place so that the progressive impact of the Strategy can be assessed over time.

4.2 Strategy Implementation

The Strategy acknowledges that it is not possible – given inevitable constraints on finances and time resources – to implement all recommended actions as quickly as might be desired. There is a need for a pragmatic approach to implementation, implying a need for hard choices about priorities and what should be tackled first. There is, therefore, a need for a focused consideration of the proposed actions for the implementation of the Strategy. It is also acknowledged, however, that implementation must be flexible; circumstances can change, and the Strategy must be responsive to events and unexpected challenges and opportunities.

It is envisaged that the Strategy will be delivered within the following parameters.

1. It will be implemented in the main by those constituent members responsible for delivering services within the area – each agency will deliver different elements through their own operational plans and services for the area. Therefore, a range of bodies and agencies will have a role to play in the implementation of different elements of the strategy. It is envisaged that significant elements of the Strategy will be incorporated into individual agency’s operational plans and strategies that impact upon the area. Such plans include the County Development Plan and the relevant Local Area Plan. This will give these elements of the Strategy statutory status and make them a formal part of the planning and development process in the county. Other relevant bodies and agencies will also incorporate, where appropriate, the actions of this strategy into their own relevant operational plans for the area, using the objectives of the Strategy to inform their own work within the area.

2. It is however, clear that many of the recommended actions in the strategy involve more than one partner and therefore a collaborative approach is necessary for their successful delivery. The planning and delivery of actions in a manner which provides for their co-ordination across agency boundaries is important for the successful implementation of the Strategy. At this juncture the Dunmanway Inter-Agency Committee (IAC) is ideally positioned to act as the catalyst for the co-ordination and implementation of the Strategy. Part of the overall strategic goal of the IAC is to seek to “create a sustainable partnership approach to the development of the town and its hinterland” and this sustainable partnership approach will need to be developed as part of the work of the IAC. The IAC is a committee put in place on a temporary basis in response to the prioritisation of Dunmanway as part of the County Development Board Review of their Integrated Strategy for County Cork. Therefore, consideration needs to be given to the longer term structure and the mechanisms to be put in place to ensure continued linkages and co-ordinated work by the relevant agencies beyond the life-span of the County Development Board Prioritisation.

3. Implementation should commence through the Dunmanway IAC by the allocation of actions to the relevant IAC working groups, which are already established. These may change over time and there may also be a need to establish additional working groups to deal with issues that do not fall neatly within the remit of any of the existing working groups. A specific working group should be established to develop proposals for the continued implementation of the strategy in the longer term and to develop mechanisms to promote increased collaboration between the agencies and the community, including the enhancement of community involvement in the implementation of the Strategy beyond the life-span of the County Development Board Prioritisation.

4. Within the lifespan of the County Development Board prioritisation each working group of the IAC should set out a work programme for the implementation of the actions designated to that group, setting target dates for the achievement of each action and intermediate timescales for the achievement of performance monitoring indicators that should also be developed by the working groups at an early stage. The adoption of the standard County Development Board implementation plan template is recommended, to ensure continuity with the work already progressing.
5. In the immediate future the local community should consider making submissions, where the opportunity arises, to the reviews of any relevant plans and strategies that could incorporate elements of the Strategy to strengthen the possibilities for its implementation. It is important that the local community is involved in the implementation of actions where appropriate and that the community themselves take responsibility in shaping the future of the town and hinterland by supporting the agencies and local service providers in the strategy implementation. In the longer term the Strategy needs to be led by the community for it to be truly sustainable.

6. The Strategy should be viewed as a dynamic approach to the development of the town and hinterland and those involved in its implementation should make changes as are determined to be appropriate over time.

4.3 Key Principles

The key driving principles for Strategy implementation are:

- Full participation and involvement of all stakeholders including the local community which in the longer term should lead the process
- Active involvement of individuals and organisations with the levels of authority and resources to make things happen
- Making best use of existing structures and arrangements for its delivery and considering potential new structures that could have a role to play
- Actions that are required in order to achieve the objectives of the Strategy to be agreed and delivered
- Timescales and targets identified for each action with Year 1 being 2008
- Identification of Lead Partners who have responsibility for driving the action; as well as partners that will support lead partners in the implementation of the action
- Monitoring Performance Indicators to be developed to drive the implementation of the Strategy towards the achievement of its vision, provide a sense of direction and facilitate continuous assessment of the implementation of the Strategy
- Identification of the required resources and provision of these resources to undertake the actions

4.4 Monitoring and Review

Regular review of progress against targets and performance indicators will be necessary to assist in the evolution and refinement of Strategy and in future action planning for the area.

Each group of agencies identified to implement an action should meet and develop an implementation programme for that action, including the identification for targets and performance indicators, (e.g. for a physical improvement project, has planning permission been applied for or obtained or has any relevant funding been applied for or approved), and a timeframe for each target indicator to be achieved within. This will help in the periodical assessment of progress.

Progress reports should be prepared periodically to review the implementation of recommended actions. Initially, these should be presented to the County Development Board. The structure of this review process in the longer term, will form part of the work of the IAC in terms of the sustainability of this work outside the lifetime of the County Development Board Prioritisation.

After one year, i.e. at the beginning of 2009, a comprehensive review of short-term actions should be taken and the following questions answered and discussed in relation to each action:

- Has the action been completed?
- If the action has not been completed, why not?
- Is the action nearing completion? If so what is the
After three years, a comprehensive review of the entire strategy, including short-term and long-term actions should be undertaken. A similar process to that outlined above should be undertaken with a view to establishing the level of progress on the strategy, taking account of factors which have changed since the generation of this strategy and developing priority actions for the following three to five years, after which further review will be necessary.

It is inevitable that all identified actions in the Strategy will not be implemented. However, it is hoped that with the impetus in place, success will breed success and the achievements to date of the IAC will encourage further progress on the development of the town. It is crucial to the implementation and review of the strategy that any member of the IAC, should they move on from their current role or remit, ensure that a replacement member from their respective agency is co-opted onto the Committee, so that the links developed to date continue to flourish.

The Strategy will build on the work of the IAC to date and encourage the continued development of a co-operative approach to development by the agencies. It must be acknowledged however, that the Strategy has not been produced by the IAC or its constituent members and full agreement from all parties to all elements of the Strategy is not inherent. The experience of the Dunmanway IAC to date has brought a recognition that much more can achieved by adopting a joint, collaborative approach to addressing socio-economic needs and realising opportunities. The focus of the Strategy therefore is on ‘integration’ that is, developing a framework that encourages the community, organisations and agencies to work in partnership.
4.5 Indicative Timeframes

Key Driver 1: Physical Development

### Urban Structure / Town Development
Objective PD1: To ensure that the future development of the town is focused on the consolidation of the existing urban area with a view to creating a compact, sustainable and attractive town.

Objective PD2: To support the current settlement policy of facilitating and encouraging the growth of designated towns and villages within the area.

Objective PD3: To strengthen the vitality and viability of the town centre through a number of physical improvements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Indicative Timeframe</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prepare strategy for development of backland and infill areas</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support the development of an anchor retail store in close proximity to the town centre</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rezone lands within the proposed development framework through the Local Area Plan process</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Movement and Accessibility
Objective PD4: To create an integrated movement and accessibility network that will bring significant benefits to the town in terms of the pedestrian environment and vehicular movement

Objective PD5: To improve the attractiveness and patronage of public transport in the wider area by improvements in the coverage and frequency of bus services

Objective PD6: To promote and facilitate safe and convenient walking and cycling routes and enhance the pedestrian environment within the town

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Indicative Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prepare a Traffic Management Plan for the town with reference to the recommendation of this Strategy</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop a parking strategy for the town that identifies sites for the provision of off street parking and enhances the public realm.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To identify key sites in need of upgrading to enhance the pedestrian environment</td>
<td>✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carry out an accessibility audit for the town</td>
<td>✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-align the Quarry Road/Park Road junction</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upgrade regional road infrastructure, in particular the R586 and R587</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progress projects to upgrade the public realm within the town</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upgrade bus services, facilities and bus designation areas and enhance connections to other county towns and the rural hinterland</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avail of community funding to upgrade signage within the town and in the wider area, including community engagement with the relevant schemes</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support the construction of the identified relief link roads</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key Driver 1: Physical Development

### Built Environment / Public Realm

| Objective PD7: | Encourage the protection and enhancement of structures listed in the Record of Protected Structures and ensure new development enhances the character or setting of such structures |
| Objective PD8: | To promote and facilitate the development of a high quality built environment in terms of both buildings and public spaces |
| Objective PD9: | To ensure that new development within the town are built to the high standards in terms of sustainable building practices |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Indicative Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop Masterplan for enhancement of lakeside area and potential links to the other amenity areas in the town</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage the development of a Masterplan for the convent site, which should comply with the provisions of the Skibbereen Electoral Area LAP and be agreed with the local authority</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify key development opportunity sites in the town</td>
<td>✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepare a Town Heritage Plan</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve approach roads and entrance points to the town</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initiate local energy co-operatives</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design, develop and manage significant buildings in the town such as the redeveloped swimming pool and the new civic offices to the highest level of energy efficiency</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish a painting scheme for the town</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigate future sustainable uses for the Methodist Church which are appropriate to its status and history.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signalise the junction of the R687 with the R586</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop opportunity sites at key enhancement sites</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepare urban design scheme for improvement of Market Square</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve linkages to the park area through the provision of new walkways</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Infrastructure

| Objective PD10: | To promote and facilitate the provision of new social, community, tourist and cultural infrastructure in the area |
| Objective PD11: | To support the progression of key infrastructural projects, particularly water supply and wastewater treatment, to ensure there is sufficient capacity to allow for the future growth of towns and villages within the area in an environmentally sensitive way. |
| Objective PD12: | To promote alternative and sustainable energy consumption and production practices. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Indicative Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Short Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision of Monitored Bring Site at Kilbarry Road</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision of Broadband Infrastructure</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote progression of key infrastructural projects particularly water supply and wastewater treatment</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigate community funding options for small-scale infrastructural projects in villages under the CLAR programme</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of new civic offices at the former Coláiste Cairbaire site</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing community owned hall or refurbishment of existing for sports and large gatherings</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refurbishment of Garda Station or building of new station for Dunmanway Town</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progress extension to Community Hospital</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop Food Grade Units</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop tourism accommodation including the identification of sites for a 3 or 4 star hotel and a suitable caravan and camping park</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop tourist information office</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop a sustainable community centre</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify site and progress development of new cinema/ arts venue within the town</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigate the potential for alternative energy sources at a local level</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Natural Heritage and Recreation

| Objective PD13: | To strive to create a network of natural heritage and recreation open space areas and promoting linkage between these areas through the use of walkways and cycleways |
| Objective PD14: | To promote and support the conservation and protection of the area’s environment, in particular designated sites, as valuable resources for present and future generations |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Short Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support refurbishment of local swimming pool to a high standard of energy efficiency</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote walking as an active lifestyle in the area</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progress the replanting and renovation of Lakeside Park</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete the construction of Riverside Walk beside Sally River – Phase 1</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refurbish tennis Courts at Town Park</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop Dunmanway as A Centre for Walking</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigate opportunities to develop amenity walks within the town and into the wider countryside</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To investigate recreational opportunities in the wider area and their input and linkage with an overall recreation and amenity strategy for the area.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop network of strategic walkways throughout the town, particularly along the rivers</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop a network of walking and cycle routes into the wider countryside beginning within the town</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximise public amenity value of green areas close to the town centre</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve the range and quality of recreational facilities in the town park area</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Employment and Economic Development

**Objective ED 1:** To develop and support innovative and small/micro enterprises in the wider area  
**Objective ED 2:** Support the competitiveness of existing local enterprises and businesses on a county and national scale.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Indicative Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support the Development of local and micro enterprises</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote an enterprise culture</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishment of Business Groups</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhance the current enterprise support system</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide for the coordination between the relevant agencies and the IAC, on the promotion and marketing of Dunmanway as a location for investment</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carry out consumer audit of businesses in Dunmanway to identify gaps in service provision and identify new business opportunities</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve access to affordable finance through loan finance and venture capital.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigate potential for Community Enterprise Centre</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase the number of WCEB training programmes available in Dunmanway</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage eligible businesses in the area to avail of the CLAR supported single-phase to three-phase electricity conversion scheme</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhance the labour quality in the manufacturing, construction and services sectors through education and training in order to strengthen the employability of individuals</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue the provision of relevant training courses on a flexible, part-time and modular basis</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop and implement innovative projects for disadvantaged people over 50 in line with the National Development Plan</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase the supply of start up space</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formation of a business Association for Dunmanway (and hinterland) to drive business development and improve morale and act as the catalyst for the introduction of local initiatives</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide support to businesses wishing to expand</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secure a use for the Molnlycke building for indigenous activities</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Agriculture

**Objective ED3:** To revitalise the farming sector whilst also providing alternative opportunities for those seeking off-farm employment, thereby preserving rural communities  
**Objective ED4:** To improve the economic sustainability and viability of agricultural enterprises

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Indicative Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Encourage collaborative working relationships between farmers and food processors i.e. co-ops</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capitalise on the possibilities made available through the CLAR programme</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of niche markets for local agricultural and organic product</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue to provide training programmes for farmers and their spouses and investigate methods of improving uptake in this area</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide a support and networking programme available to all farmers that includes technical and business assistance, re-training and support/social services</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigate potential for the growing, harvesting and preparation of biomass for energy production</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Forestry

**Objective ED 5:** To support the expansion of timber co-products and encourage landowners to expand into forestry as an alternative and sustainable form of rural development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Indicative Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Implement sustainable forestry management that allows for a mixture of coniferous and broad leaved trees including native species.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage farmers to work together to meet the acreage requirements for forestry grants.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support the development of the Centre for Excellence for Sustainable Forestry at Manch</td>
<td>✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage farmers to expand into forestry as an alternative and sustainable means of employment</td>
<td>✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigate and promote the use of forestry thinnings in energy production at a local level</td>
<td>✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of recreational activities within nearby forests in Coillte ownership</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Rural Development and Diversification

**Objective ED6:** To develop the base of indigenous food industry  
**Objective ED7:** To ensure the availability of practical supports for food producers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Indicative Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carry out survey of local food producers</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage local business outlets to stock local products</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify a site for a farmers market</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishment of courses in association with Teagasc</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote the development of a weekly food market</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify and develop niche markets for local and organic produce</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop specialist food production units in the town</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify site for a permanent farmers market</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Tourism

**Objective ED8:** To develop Dunmanway as a destination and the principal inland tourist gateway for visitors to West Cork  
**Objective ED9:** To develop a critical mass of tourism products and services.  
**Objective ED10:** To ensure a strategic and collaborative approach to the delivery of tourist facilities in Dunmanway.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Indicative Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establish a comprehensive website for the catchment area</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage small B&amp;B's to register with Failte Ireland</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduct a survey of all tourist accommodation providers</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publish a town map</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigate the possibility of developing a town heritage walk</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-ordinate the Sam Maguire theme in the area, including references on a town map and town heritage walk</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redevelopment of the swimming pool and improvement of the range of events and activities available there</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consider tourist facilities and amenities such as walks, picnic tables, boating and fishing in the context of the redevelopment of the Lakeside Park</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishment of an Information Point in a central premises within Dunmanway</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage local tourism service providers to avail of enterprise supports to upgrade skills</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage and support the development of walking routes, cycling routes and driving routes</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigate the potential for fishing as a tourist attraction</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase the mobility of tourists throughout the area by ensuring a standard of road signage in both English and Irish</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop the Sam Maguire festival</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify suitable sites for the development of a 3* or 4* hotel and caravan and camping site</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure improvements to minor roads in and out of Dunmanway so as to be pedestrian friendly, better signposting</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New hotel/substantial refurbishment of existing coach parking and gym facilities</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop the idea of a circuit of west Cork, with Dunmanway at the centre of an ‘Inland Tourist Route’ which needs marketing, literature and maps and the development of facilities to make Dunmanway a worthwhile stop</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop the Sam Maguire theme in the context of historical tourism within West Cork (e.g. connections to places of interest regarding Michael Collins) and forge links with Croke Park visitor centre</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish a better choice of accommodation</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Package activities and accommodation in a themed manner</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seek to integrate a local website into the Discover Ireland website</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop a comprehensive marketing strategy for the area</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Retail / Commercial

**Objective ED11:** To consolidate and enhance Dunmanway’s retail / commercial sector including the retail sector in small towns and villages by improving choice of services within the town.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Indicative Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identify site for expansion of Dunmanway’s town centre</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify site for new convenience retail anchor store/discount foodstore</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve quality of retail and service delivery by introducing more customer friendly opening hours</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage local retail and service staff to participate in customer service training</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retain retail expenditure from within the catchment area and avoid large-scale leakage to the larger towns of West Cork i.e. Clonakilty, Bandon, Skibbereen</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attract more high profile retail outlets to the town</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upgrade derelict premises within the town centre</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key Driver 3: Social and Community Development

Education and Training

Objective SC1: To ensure that Dunmanway retains and attracts a sufficient level of accessible mainstream and alternative education and training facilities to provide for the needs of those who wish to commence or return to education, increasing the range of courses and improving attendance.

Objective SC2: To tackle physical, social and financial barriers to education.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Indicative Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Short Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilitate access to school transport and support work carried out through school completion programmes</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target schools in the area not already participating, to become involved in the Green Flag Schools scheme.</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide drug awareness programmes and road safety awareness programmes through schools and youth clubs.</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish links between the community hospital and day care centre and the secondary school through a Transition Year visiting programme.</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide courses in childcare, parenting, nutrition and first aid as part of evening adult education programmes.</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve take-up of evening courses through links between Maria Immaculata Community College, the Return to Education Centre and the Family Resource Centre.</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure that agricultural training events are cognisant of the needs of both full-time and part-time farmers.</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigate potential links with UCC and CIT with a view to establishing Outreach higher education courses in Dunmanway and with FAS with a view to Dunmanway hosting apprenticeship training courses.</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase the use of the Adult Education Centre for training purposes such as Enterprise Board business courses and events.</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage the provision of courses on a flexible, part-time and modular basis in adult education venues in the town.</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote adult education courses within the town itself but also in nearby villages, towns and rural centres.</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organise an annual adult education information evening.</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote education around environmental awareness through establishing links between local schools and local environmental groups/establishments such as the Irish Natural Forestry Foundation Education Centre.</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop a Youthreach Centre in Dunmanway, to incorporate a scheme for 12-15 year olds not benefiting from mainstream schooling.</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secure an Outreach third level course from UCC or CIT.</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide a local base for part-time students for evening access to internet facilities to facilitate on-line learning and participation in on-line courses.</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secure one FAS apprenticeship-training course to be held in Dunmanway.</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support the provision of a high quality conference venue in the town.</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Social Inclusion

Objective SC3: To improve opportunities for all by tackling social exclusion, promoting integration and increasing awareness of social services and supports available in an inclusive, non-stigmatizing manner.

Objective SC4: To reduce poverty, relative deprivation and social exclusion in the area.

Objective SC5: To tackle prejudices to ensure all sectors of society feel secure in their environment and support, welcome and integrate new and existing residents into the community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Indicative Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establish those local individuals/families/groups at risk of social exclusion.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilitate continued liaison between relevant agencies and groups at local level regarding integration of existing schemes and activities.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepare a short list of social inclusion projects with potential for LDSIP funding.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish a working group/committee with specific focus on the needs of the elderly, particularly those living alone and in remote areas; and on opportunities for co-ordinated service delivery.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support the expansion of the meals on wheels service.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop a welcome pack for new residents to be distributed through schools, the library and the proposed new council offices.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translate posters and flyers for community events, activities and important services into languages spoken by local residents.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide continued support for those at risk of social stress and social exclusion by developing the range of social inclusion services available.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide continued support for the integration of marginalised groups into services</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure farm families are aware of supports and opportunities to develop on-farm and off-farm income.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support the retention of local services and encourage others to locate within the town</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigate the possibility of accessible rural transport routes focussed on Dunmanway, with times based on activities and facilities provided in the town</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review the pilot evening rural transport service in the Mizen area and investigate the possibility of such a service in the Dunmanway area.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage providers of recreational facilities to ensure these are accessible to people disabilities and mobility difficulties.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote the Citizens Information Service</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish an annual inter-cultural event as part of the Sam Maguire festival.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop long-term social inclusion services</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Childcare, Children and Youth Services

**Objective SC6:** To improve the levels and types of childcare provision in Dunmanway, while acknowledging the role of parents and others who care for children full-time and providing for their needs.

**Objective SC7:** To recognise youth needs, provide facilities and supports that assist youth through education and pressures of modern living, ease the transition to adulthood, and provide options for living, learning and socialising locally in a manner that satisfies the needs of young people.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Indicative Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On production of the Small Area Population Statistics by the CSO, prepare and review report on current registered childcare providers in the area, SAPS data for the area and the resultant shortfall in spaces identified.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue to support the Community Playgroup in efforts to secure a base and expand their services in line with demand in the area.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support the provision of other childcare services, including sessional care, full-day care and school age childcare.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigate demand for the provision of courses on childcare as a small business</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase awareness of supported and affordable childcare opportunities for mothers still in the education system or who wish to return to education.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continued provision of parents and toddlers activities.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigate possibilities of engaging counselling services linked to the Family Resource Centre and Maria Immaculata Community College/provision of counselling information and contacts for support groups through FRC.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organise regular school visits by the Juvenile Liaison Officer.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop an action plan for identification of specific youth needs in the area and the development of appropriate youth services</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide accessible youth services including regular supervised outings and activities.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish youth café in Dunmanway.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide information on social and sporting outlets, education and training opportunities and youth support services at a Dunmanway Youth Cafe.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Recreation and Amenity

| Objective SC8: | To enhance quality of life for residents and visitors by improving the range and quality of leisure, recreational and social facilities and outlets and protecting playing pitches and public parks from inappropriate development to ensure such facilities remain accessible |
| Objective SC9: | To increase participation in exercise, particularly by those at risk of sedentary lifestyles or lacking opportunities to participate in established clubs and activities |
| Objective SC10: | To support and enhance the delivery of existing recreational facilities and opportunities in the area through best practice management structures |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Short Term</th>
<th>Long Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compile a local directory of sports clubs as part of an overall community group register.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage sports groups to register with the Cork Community and Voluntary Forum and avail of the Group Insurance Scheme.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage local sporting clubs to forge links with the Cork County Local Sports Partnership.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase awareness among local clubs of funding and training available.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide training in Ethics and Emergency Care for sports clubs in the area where requested.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide local coaching courses.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage all local pre-schools to avail of the Buntus Start Programme.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage all local primary schools to avail of the Buntus Programme.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply for CLAR funding for outdoor play facilities for rural schools where these are lacking.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduce Active 8 Programme to Maria Immaculata Community College.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide access to sporting infrastructure and walks for people with disabilities.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage ‘Meet and Train’ events/Walking and Jogging groups.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop opportunities for older people to participate in sports.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review existing indoor sporting facilities in the town and prioritise the most suitable existing facility for action regarding ownership, management and refurbishment.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete riverside walk and improve amenity through planting and seating.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete refurbishment of tennis courts.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop programme for management of public facilities, i.e. tennis courts and mini-pitch.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To support the development of the local Bol Chumann facility and the refurbishment of the swimming pool.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To review the management structure and use of the swimming pool in terms of opening hours, types of slots available, categories of swimmers catered for and activities which could be held in the refurnished venue.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide a composite sign for all recreational facilities (and Maria Immaculata Community College) on the Bantry Road.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implement Sli na Slainte walking routes in the town.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete and launch the loop walks planned for the Coolkelure area.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aim towards a network of parks and open spaces in the town, both small and large, well-connected, appropriately landscape and providing for both active and passive recreation.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support the development of cafes, café bars and restaurants to improve choice of non-active social outlets.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negotiate with current owner for community acquisition of one of the larger sports halls in the town and redevelop this facility as a community sports hall.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Indicative Timeframe**
Community Development, Community Facilities and Services

Objective SC11: To improve civic pride and positivity about the town and the surrounding area, foster a spirit of volunteerism to ensure continued development of community groups and improve participation in community events.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Indicative Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop a comprehensive and up-to-date town website and newsletter.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compile a register of all community and voluntary groups in the area.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage community groups to form a unit and nominate a representative to sit in the committee of Dunmanway Promotions.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage community groups to register with the Cork Community and Voluntary Forum.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examine Community Timebank as a model to see if some aspects of this method might work in the area regarding the establishment of a volunteer placement register.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish a locally-sponsored community awards night to reward efforts in community and youth work, sporting achievements, business development, town enhancement and event development.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approach West Cork Development Partnership board with a view to their having a presence in the town.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage local schools and community groups to collectively participate in the An Taisce National Spring Clean day in 2008.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage elected representatives to attend local events and community facilities.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support the growth and development of the Family Resource Centre.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actively support new tenders for the local social welfare office on advertisement by the Department of Social and Family Affairs to retain this service in the town.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPO of a small number of high visibility derelict sites and redevelopment.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avail of LEADER and CLAR funding for community initiatives.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage groups which meet to consider using ‘adult education’ slots in Maria Immaculata Community College for sports and other activities.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote and supporting local events such as Ballabuidhe and the Sam Maguire Festival.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run small scale painting scheme for selected streets</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secure a permanent premises for the Family Resource Centre</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigate suitable premises for refurbishment as community hall and/or arts venues.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-name and restructure Dunmanway Promotions Association to Dunmanway Community Council.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximise use of proposed new council offices</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertise available spaces for community groups at the proposed new offices</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Key Driver 3: Social and Community Development

#### Health, Safety and Welfare

**Objective SC12:** To facilitate health promotion, healthy activities and general well-being among all sectors of the local population and to improve awareness of available health and welfare facilities.

**Objective SC13:** To provide a range of health services and therapies in a co-ordinated manner, which are easy to access.

**Objective SC14:** To encourage co-operation between relevant agencies in the provision of health and welfare services.

**Objective SC15:** To make the area a safe place in which to live, work and visit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Indicative Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Short Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progress development of the Primary Care Teams in the area and intensify the level of activities</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construct and commission the new extension to Dunmanway Community Hospital to allow the provision of all patient accommodation at ground floor level</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The provision of Lifestyle Clinics in Dunmanway as appropriate</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support the Carer’s Group</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expand the provision of information on health and welfare services available in the West Cork/Cork County area for distribution in the Dunmanway area</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop a strategy for local responses to mental health issues, particularly those associated with ageing</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assess current access to appropriate counselling services for the needs of the area and identify gaps in provision.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide access to appropriate counselling services as identified through an initial study</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish regular sessional GP clinics on women’s health in Dunmanway</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endeavour to establish female-led GP clinics in Dunmanway</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop Business Watch for Dunmanway town with liaison Gardai</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop Community Alert schemes to full potential</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use the community alert mechanism to tackle issues of speeding/racing on rural roads</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure adequate contact details are in place when Garda station is unmanned</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigate issues of Garda resources in the area</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide additional residential beds in the Community Hospital</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigate need for additional sheltered housing and/or supported sheltered housing</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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*Page 92*
## Culture and the Arts

**Objective SC16:** To ensure the preservation of local culture and traditions through the support of relevant events, to generate new ways of celebrating such traditions and encourage participation in arts and cultural activities in the area.

**Objective SC17:** To engage with the arts community to develop a vibrant agenda for art, creativity and culture in the area.

**Objective SC18:** To encourage links that recognise the positive contribution that the arts can make to the broader development of the area.

**Objective SC19:** To support the community context of the arts and culture of the area to address issues of public access, social inclusion and participation in and enjoyment of the arts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Indicative Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continue to develop Sam Maguire festival with appropriate activities to the theme.</td>
<td>✔️ Long Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Include arts events on programmes for local festivals.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop links between local bands/musicians and local venues to encourage the development of regular music venues to retain young people in the town at weekends.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liaise with County Council Arts Officer and local arts and crafts community with a view to hosting an arts event in the town to stimulate interest in this activity.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage local businesses to host exhibitions.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compile a directory of local arts and crafts interests.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop links with the West Cork Arts Centre/West Cork Music and the Crafts and Guilds Centre with a view to establishing outreach events in Dunmanway.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Include craft producers in the development of stands at a farmer’s market.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigate options for a permanent home for the heritage centre</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify location for modern 2-screen cinema</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support local craftspeople and artists through investigating outlets for sale of products within the town and developing a small number of studio spaces within the town.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigate possible venues for community arts/theatre/music events and rehearsals with options to use as meeting rooms for community groups</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigate the possibility of incorporating art/information exhibition space in proposed new civic offices.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter 5.0  Environmental Appraisal
5.0 Environmental Appraisal

5.1 Introduction

A significant amount of legislation at both national and European level has been passed recently with regard to the assessment of the environment impact of implementing plans and programmes.

Under Section 10 (5) (a) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 a Development Plan shall contain information on the likely significant effects on the environment of its implementation.

Since this Act was published, an EU Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was published. This directive was then transposed into Irish law through the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 434 of 2004). The Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government, subsequently published their own SEA Directive / Circular BC 14/2004 and guidelines, on the 26th November 2004, in accordance with Sections 23 (5) and 28 (1) of the Planning & Development Act 2000.

The Dunmanway Integrated Development Strategy is a non-statutory document, which seeks to provide strategic guidance on the future development of the town and its hinterland rather than to formally change existing policy. The Strategy does not therefore have to comply with the above abovementioned Regulations.

While this Strategy does not fall within the remit of these Regulations, an environmental appraisal of the Strategy’s proposals and policies can still be useful in assessing the wider long-term environmental impacts of implementation.

5.2 Environmental Appraisal

The following table represents an appraisal of the likely significant impact on the environment of the implementation of the objectives outlined in the Strategy in line with the environmental categories outlined in Table 4B of the Department’s Guidelines: Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment. The assessment also follows the same approach set out in paragraphs 4.24 – 4.26 of those Guidelines.

It must be recognised that the assessments simply have regard to the perceived positive and adverse environmental impacts, associated with the proposed objectives and while the tenet of the policies and proposals is positive it is accepted that the process of development taking place may be disruptive over a long period of time with consequent environmental implications. This however needs to be understood within the context of the wider development process and the gradual realisation of beneficial impacts in both the town and within its hinterland.

Overall it is considered that the proposals and objectives outlined in the Strategy are important to the social, economic and environmental well being of the area.

The review and monitoring of the environmental impacts of the strategy’s policies will continue over a number of years and will more likely be associated with the implementation of other statutory plans particularly the future Skibbereen Local Area Plan which is likely to incorporate a significant number the Strategy’s development proposals. This review and monitoring process is likely to become more comprehensive as more detailed guidance on the methodology of environmental appraisal becomes available.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Driver</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Human Health</th>
<th>Water</th>
<th>Soil</th>
<th>Air Quality</th>
<th>Cultural Heritage</th>
<th>Landscape</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>× - Negative</td>
<td>0 - Neutral</td>
<td>✓ - Positive</td>
<td>? - Uncertain</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective No.</td>
<td>Objective</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective PD1</td>
<td>To ensure that the future development of the town is focused on the consolidation of the existing urban area with a view to creating a compact, sustainable and attractive town.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective PD2</td>
<td>To support the current settlement policy of facilitating and encouraging the growth of designated towns and villages within the area</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective PD3</td>
<td>To strengthen the vitality and viability of the town centre through a number of physical improvements</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective PD4</td>
<td>To create an integrated movement and accessibility network that will bring significant benefits to the town in terms of the pedestrian environment and vehicular movement</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective PD5</td>
<td>To improve the attractiveness and patronage of public transport in the wider area by improvements in the coverage and frequency of bus services</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective PD6</td>
<td>To promote and facilitate safe and convenient walking and cycling routes and enhance the pedestrian environment within the town</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective PD7</td>
<td>Encourage the protection and enhancement of structures listed in the Record of Protected Structures and ensure new development enhances the character or setting of such structures</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective PD8</td>
<td>To promote and facilitate the development of a high quality built environment in terms of both buildings and public spaces</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective PD9</td>
<td>To ensure that new development within the town area is built to high standards in terms of sustainable building practices</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective PD10</td>
<td>To promote and facilitate the provision of new social, community, tourist and cultural infrastructure in the area</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective PD11</td>
<td>To support the progression of key infrastructural projects, particularly water supply and wastewater treatment, to ensure there is sufficient capacity to allow for the future growth of towns and villages within the area in an environmentally sensitive way</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective PD12</td>
<td>To promote alternative and sustainable energy consumption and production practices</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective PD13</td>
<td>To strive to create a network of natural heritage and recreation open space areas and promoting linkage between these areas through the use of walkways and cycleways</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective PD14</td>
<td>To promote and support the conservation and protection of the area’s environment, in particular designated sites, as valuable resources for present and future generations</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Economic Development

<p>| Objective ED1 | To develop and support innovative businesses and small/micro enterprises in the wider area | ✓ | ? | ? | ? | ? | 0 | ✓ | 0 |
| Objective ED2 | Support the competitiveness of existing local enterprises and businesses on a county and national scale. | ✓ | 0 | 0 | 0 | ? | ? | ✓ | 0 |
| Objective ED2 | To revitalise the farming sector whilst also providing alternative opportunities for those seeking off-farm employment, thereby preserving rural communities | ✓ | ✓ | ? | ? | ? | 0 | ? | ? |
| Objective ED4: | To improve the economic sustainability and viability of agricultural enterprises | ✓ | ✓ | ? | ? | ✓ | ? | ✓ | ? |
| Objective ED5 | To support the expansion of timber co-products and encourage landowners to expand into forestry as an alternative and sustainable form of rural development | X | 0 | ? | ? | ? | ✓ | ✓ | 0 | ? |
| Objective ED6 | To develop the base of indigenous industry | ✓ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ✓ | 0 |
| Objective ED7 | To ensure the availability of practical supports for food producers | 0 | ✓ | ? | 0 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ? |
| Objective ED8 | To develop Dunmanway as a destination and the principal inland tourist gateway for visitors to West Cork | ✓ | 0 | ? | ? | 0 | ? | 0 | ✓ |
| Objective ED9: | To develop a critical mass of tourism products and services. | 0 | 0 | ? | ? | ? | ? | ✓ | ? |
| Objective ED10: | To ensure a strategic and collaborative approach to the delivery of tourist facilities in Dunmanway | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ✓ | 0 |
| Objective ED11 | To consolidate and enhance Dunmanway’s retail sector including the retail sector in small towns and villages by improving choice of services within the town | ✓ | ✓ | 0 | 0 | 0 | ✓ | ✓ | 0 | 0 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Driver</th>
<th>Objective No</th>
<th>Objective Description</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Human Health</th>
<th>Flora / Fauna</th>
<th>Water</th>
<th>Soil</th>
<th>Air Quality</th>
<th>Climatic Factors</th>
<th>Material / Assets</th>
<th>Cultural Heritage</th>
<th>Landscape</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social and Community Development</td>
<td>Objective SC1</td>
<td>To ensure that Dunmanway retains and attracts a sufficient level of accessible mainstream and alternative education and training facilities to provide for the needs of those who wish to commence or return to education, increasing the range of courses and improving attendance.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Objective SC2</td>
<td>To tackle physical, social and financial barriers to education</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Objective SC3</td>
<td>To improve opportunities for all by tackling social exclusion, promoting integration and increasing awareness of social services and supports available in an inclusive, non-stigmatising manner.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Objective SC4</td>
<td>To reduce poverty, relative deprivation and social exclusion in the area</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>✓</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Objective SC5</td>
<td>To tackle prejudices to ensure all sectors of society feel secure in their environment and support, welcome and integrate new and existing residents into the community.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>✓</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Objective SC6</td>
<td>To improve the levels and types of childcare provision in Dunmanway, while acknowledging the role of parents and others who care for children full-time and providing for their needs.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>✓</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Objective SC7</td>
<td>To recognise youth needs, provide facilities and supports that assist youth through education and pressures of modern living, ease the transition to adulthood, and provide options for living, learning and socialising locally in a manner that satisfies the needs of young people.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>✓</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Objective SC8</td>
<td>To enhance quality of life for residents and visitors by improving the range and quality of leisure, recreational and social facilities and outlets and protecting playing pitches and public parks from inappropriate development to ensure such facilities remain accessible</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Objective SC9</td>
<td>To increase participation in exercises, particularly by those at risk of sedentary lifestyles or lacking opportunities to participate in established clubs and activities</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Objective SC10</td>
<td>To support and enhance the delivery of existing recreational facilities and opportunities in the area through best practice management structures</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Objective SC11</td>
<td>To improve civic pride and positivity about the town and the surrounding area, foster a spirit of volunteerism to ensure continued development of community groups and improve participation in community events</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Objective SC12</td>
<td>To facilitate health promotion, healthy activities and general well-being among all sectors of the local population and to improve awareness of available health and welfare facilities</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Objective SC13</td>
<td>To provide a range of health services and therapies in a co-ordinated manner, which are easy to access</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Objective SC14</td>
<td>To encourage co-operation between relevant agencies in the provision of health and welfare services</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Objective SC15</td>
<td>To make the area a safe place in which to live, work and visit</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Objective SC16</td>
<td>To ensure the preservation of local culture and traditions through the support of relevant events, to generate new ways of celebrating such traditions and encourage participation in arts and cultural activities in the area</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Objective SC17</td>
<td>To engage with the arts community to develop a vibrant agenda for art, creativity and culture in the area</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Objective SC18</td>
<td>To encourage links that recognise the positive contribution that the arts can make to the broader development of the area</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Objective SC19</td>
<td>To support the community context of the arts and culture of the area to address issues of public access, social inclusion and participation in and enjoyment of the arts</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>0</td>
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</table>