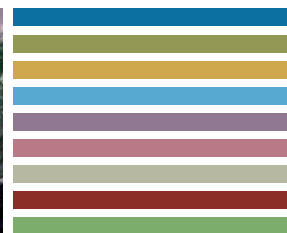




# Annual Report



# 2009

Excellence

Innovation

Creativity





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# CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

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Responding to global changes and harnessing regional strengths continued to be the focus of the Western Development Commission (WDC) to drive the economic future of the Western Region during 2009.

The Western Region is a largely rural region with the majority of its people living outside of the large towns and cities. Much of the recent thinking about planning economic development has been around city led development and increasing urbanisation. Unfortunately, there has been little debate about growing rural regions, as rural regions. The Western Development Commission's mandate is centred around pioneering development solutions for growing the economic activity in our largely rural region of the West and North West of Ireland. With this mandate, I set out some of the challenges that faced the Western Region and WDC in its work during 2009.

Among the significant challenges that faced the region in 2009 was unemployment. The job losses were throughout the region and across many sectors but of particular concern was the decline in construction employment. Those unemployed were dispersed across geographical areas, different age groups and different skill levels creating a challenge for the delivery of education and training in an era of reduced resources. The WDC addressed the particularities of these issues in the Western Region in 2009 and is concerned that those facing unemployment are quickly brought

back into alternative employment, training or education. The WDC in its activities has worked to accelerate opportunities in new areas such as the renewable energy sector, creative industries, and early stage venture capital funding.

The region advanced considerably over the last ten years however, competing in a global environment, further work is needed in the provision of physical infrastructure to allow the region to fully exploit its economic sectors. Improving access within, as well as to and from the region through road, rail and air remains a priority. As a peripheral region on an island off the North West of Europe, good direct international air access is crucial. Recession in global economies brought huge pressure to bear on the airline industries. State support for direct international air access to sustain and grow business and tourism industries in a fast changing environment will be critical to the Western Regions economic future. The development of our energy infrastructure becomes increasingly important as the region needs to reap more from its renewable energy resources. Availability of quality and competitive broadband is more common place throughout the region although improvements are needed in some rural areas.



The Western Region has advanced so much that throughout the years of economic growth in Ireland, it offered good job prospects across all sectors. It boasted an excellent quality of life in a beautiful environment with all modern amenities at a more affordable cost of living than other areas. We are concerned that we do not lose all we have achieved. Our LookWest initiative, [LookWest.ie](http://LookWest.ie) was set up in 2005 to build regional confidence, to present the strengths and positives aspects of living working and doing business in the Western Region. The initiative has evolved into a valuable tool to reach out to people both at home and world wide continuing to promote the Western Region and encourage people to move, invest and live here.

I would like to thank all those who worked with, and supported, the WDC during 2009, in particular Mr Éamon Ó Cuív, T.D., Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, members of the WDC and all those who participated in the various advisory panels, workshops and

seminars that enabled the WDC to carry out its remit in partnership with the public, private and community sectors.

I would also like to compliment all the staff, in particular Lisa Mc Allister, Chief Executive, who returned from leave in 2009 and Gillian Buckley who acted in her absence for their dedication and achievements throughout the year.



**Michael Farrell**  
*Chairperson*



# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

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In 2009, the work of the Western Development Commission (WDC) evolved from its mandate to promote development strategies for the Western Region where the population is largely rural based.

With few regional development strategies addressing anything other than increasing urbanisation and city led development, the WDC has been an asset to national thinking on developing rural regions.

2009 was the final year of the WDC strategic plan 2007-2009, and the annual report details the achievements in line with that plan.

## The Highlights of 2009

Re-thinking of national priorities for expenditure during 2009, a refresh of the National Spatial Strategy, the Regional Planning Guidelines and other national policy initiatives enabled the WDC to ensure the particular development issues pertaining to our Western rural region were considered.

The WDC addressed employment and unemployment in the Western Region identifying the challenges facing this rural region and how they might be addressed. In addition, substantial work identifying the labour catchments of the key towns in the seven counties of the Western Region was published to support planning strategies for these counties.

Economic infrastructure namely roads, rail, air, telecommunications and energy infrastructure remained a priority for much of our policy work. Although substantial improvements over the years have had a positive impact on the region, we are now in an era of significantly reduced resources. This reinforces the mandate of the WDC to articulate the case for infrastructural investment in a rural region for its economic future, growth and contribution to the national economy.

The WDC through its venture capital fund invested a total of €3.7 million in fourteen enterprises in 2009 which will offer highly skilled employment to over 550 people in the Western Region, many at graduate and post-graduate level. To date, the WDC has invested a total of €36.6 million in 87 projects in the Western Region.

Creative industries are those which rely on human creativity. The WDC through its research has identified that the Western Region has a considerable number of creative industries. Our report, *Creative West: The Creative Sector in the Western Region*, launched in 2009, highlights the size of this sector, opportunities for employment growth and the challenges to do this. The WDC



engaged in a number of activities to support creative industries including a conference and a promotional programme rolled out as part of the hugely successful Volvo Ocean Race stop over in Galway.

In 2009 the WDC was awarded European Union funding under the Northern Periphery Programme to stimulate growth in the renewable biomass (wood heat) sector. The project aims to commercialise this sector to create jobs, exploit a local renewable resource in the West and reduce carbon emissions.

Years of emigration has left the Western Region with a substantial Diaspora. Through the LookWest Initiative [LookWest.ie](http://LookWest.ie) in 2009 we connected with our Diaspora promoting the benefits of using the West of Ireland as an ideal location for a global base within Europe.

The availability of an educated work force has become critical in attracting and retaining business in the region. Concerned about people considering emigration, we launched a social media campaign through [LookWest.ie](http://LookWest.ie) to inform those interested in opportunities and activities in the Western Region along with news about the work of the WDC.

I would like to thank the Chairperson, Michael Farrell, and the Commission members for their commitment, the staff for their hard work and dedication to western development, and Mr Éamon Ó Cuív, T.D., Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and his officials for their ongoing support for the work of the WDC.

The WDC worked in partnership with other public, private and community sector bodies, to progress the social and economic development of the Western Region. I would like to acknowledge and thank all those organisations and individuals who have worked with us through out the years and in particular during 2009.



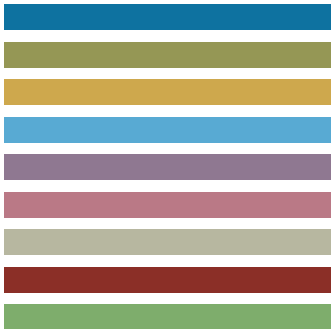
**Lisa McAllister**  
*Chief Executive*







# INTRODUCTION



# INTRODUCTION

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Members of the WDC Commission and CEO

## Our Vision

A confident and ambitious Western Region where excellence, innovation and creativity are rewarded, and the rich quality of life, clean environment and unique heritage are valued and safeguarded.

## Our Mission

To be the signature agency for the Western Region helping to build on the region's strengths, address weaknesses and create a reputation for excellence.

## Functions of the WDC

The WDC's core function is to promote the economic and social development of the Western Region. The region's productive sectors, infrastructure and rural communities are of particular concern. The WDC works to ensure that the interests of the Western Region are always considered at the highest levels of Government.

The WDC is responsible for the management and administration of the WDC Investment Fund. This dedicated fund addresses a funding gap experienced by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and social enterprises in the region through the provision of risk capital, equity and loans on a commercial basis.



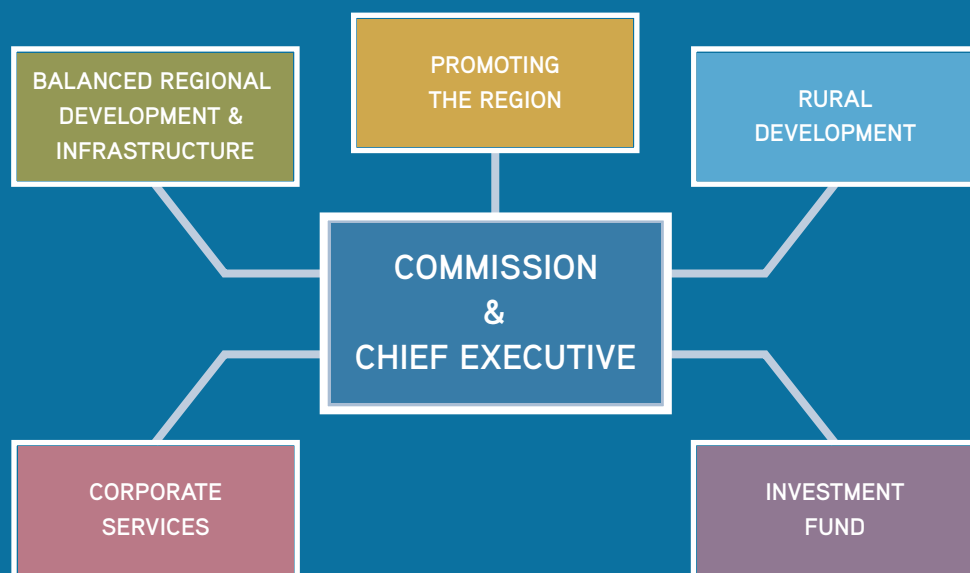
## Structure of the WDC

The WDC is made up of twelve members appointed by the Minister for Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Mr Éamon Ó Cuív, TD (see Appendix 1 for current membership).

The Commission is supported by a core executive of 15 staff members with expertise in policy analysis, regional and rural development, investment and administration. The offices are located in Dillon House, Ballaghaderreen, County Roscommon.

We also enlist the support of special advisory panels with representatives from the public, private and voluntary sectors to assist us with various projects. (see *Appendices 2 and 3*).

## Organisational Structure

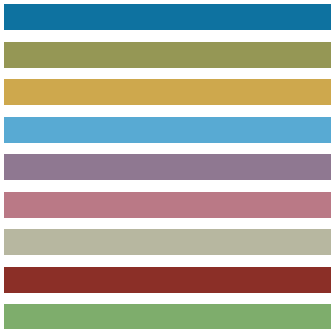


## The WDC's Strategic Aims 2007-2009

- Contribute to balanced regional development by ensuring that the Western Region maximises its full potential for economic and social development.
- Promote the benefits of living, working and doing business in the Western Region.
- Support the sustainable economic and social development of the rural economy.
- Provide risk capital to SMEs and social enterprises.
- Operate the WDC as a competent and effective organisation.



## SECTION I



## BALANCED REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

# BALANCED REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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**Contribute to balanced regional development by ensuring that the Western Region maximises its full potential for economic and social development.**

Balanced regional development is a national objective and highlighting its importance, range and implications for sectoral and broader policies is a key element of the activity of the WDC.

## Refresh of the National Spatial Strategy

The National Spatial Strategy (NSS) 2002-2020 set out the framework for achieving balanced regional development across the country. A process to 'refresh' the NSS, in order to enhance its effectiveness, began in 2009. The WDC was requested to make an input to the 'Refresh', with particular focus on the role of rural areas. The WDC's input highlighted:

- Key population, employment and infrastructural changes since 2002.
- Emerging pressures and trends in rural areas including job losses from construction, the continuing importance of manufacturing employment and the dispersed nature of rural jobs.

- The role of rural areas and the ways their potential can be harnessed, in particular by supporting the rural economy's small, indigenous business sector and facilitating the growth of the green and creative sectors.

The WDC input also set out policy initiatives aimed at enabling rural areas to fulfil their potential. These included the need for investment strategies to enhance the competitive strengths of rural areas, the need for regional innovation strategies and a policy focus on retaining rural regions' human capital. Specific policies in the areas of job creation, sustainable transport, town development, access to education and training, renewable energy development and development of the rural economy were also included.

## Review of the Regional Planning Guidelines

Each of the Regional Authorities is required to review their current Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) for the period 2010-2022. RPGs set out the strategic framework for planning and the sustainable development of the eight Regional Authority areas in Ireland, and aim to implement the NSS framework at regional level. As part of the consultation process, the WDC made submissions to the Border, West and Mid-West regions in April 2009. These are available at [www.wdc.ie](http://www.wdc.ie).

The WDC's submissions focused on the main enterprise and employment issues facing the respective regions, the priorities for road, rail and international air access for each region as well as energy and communications infrastructure. A particular emphasis was placed on

the critical role of smaller towns and rural areas in contributing to the overall economic development of the regions. It was argued that too narrow a focus in the RPGs on large urban centres as the sources of enterprise and job creation would result in the potential contribution of rural areas to economic recovery not being fully realised.

A Director's Report was prepared by each Regional Authority on the consultation process and in all of these the comprehensive nature and usefulness of the WDC's submissions were highlighted and it was recommended that the points made by the WDC should be incorporated in the revised RPGs. The WDC will make submissions on the draft revised RPGs in 2010.



## Submission to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Report of the Special Group on Public Service Numbers and Expenditure Programmes

An analysis of the impact of the recommendations contained in the Report of the Special Group on Public Service Numbers and Expenditure Programmes was conducted by the WDC. It focused on the implications of

the recommendations for rural and regional development generally, as well as on the Western Region in particular. The WDC's submission was sent to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Finance and the Public Service.

## Labour Markets and Employment

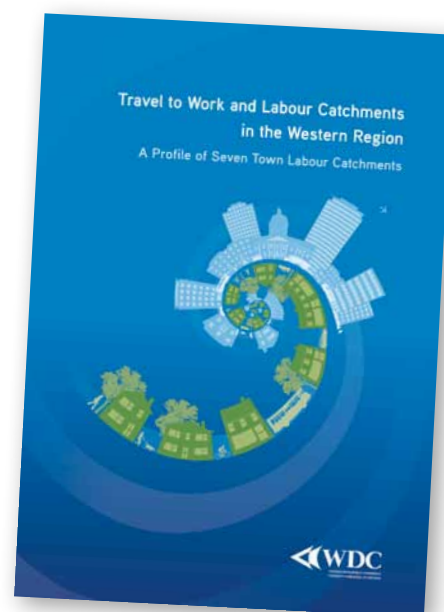
Differing patterns of labour market activity, the structures and characteristics of employment and unemployment in different areas and the need for a focused response have been

emphasised in the recent economic downturn. In 2009 the WDC produced two key reports on the particular labour market and employment characteristics of the Western Region.

## Labour Markets and Travel to Work

The WDC published *Travel to Work and Labour Catchments in the Western Region: A Profile of Seven Town Labour Catchments* in July 2009. This report draws on analysis of previously unreleased Census data and examines the travel to work patterns to each of the principal towns in the seven counties of the region: Galway, Ennis, Sligo, Letterkenny, Castlebar, Roscommon and Carrick-on-Shannon. The report maps the travel patterns and labour catchments of these seven towns for the first time and provides a detailed labour market profile of each. This report contains new information, highlighting some of the particularities with regard to employment in the Western Region, including:

- Identifying labour catchments, which show that towns have access to a much larger labour pool than the Census measure of a town's working population, (up to four times greater). This provides a more comprehensive measure of labour supply which is very important in highlighting the human resource base available to enterprises and potential investors.
- Showing the importance of rurally based employment (outside centres of 1,000+ persons). For example, in some catchments more people are employed in rural areas than in the town at the centre of the catchment. Much of this employment is not agriculturally based. These findings have informed the 'Refresh' of the NSS, and highlight the importance and complexity of the rural economy.
- Identifying the most important employment sectors as: commerce; the public sector and manufacturing. Compared to the national average, there is a higher share of public sector employment in the region.



- Showing the extent and range of travel to work patterns; important information for transport planners, service providers and regional and local authorities.

This research provides a valuable baseline for further research on labour catchments and towns in the Western Region. Census 2011 will provide a more up-to-date assessment of these labour markets and will allow an examination of trends since 2006.

## Employment and Unemployment

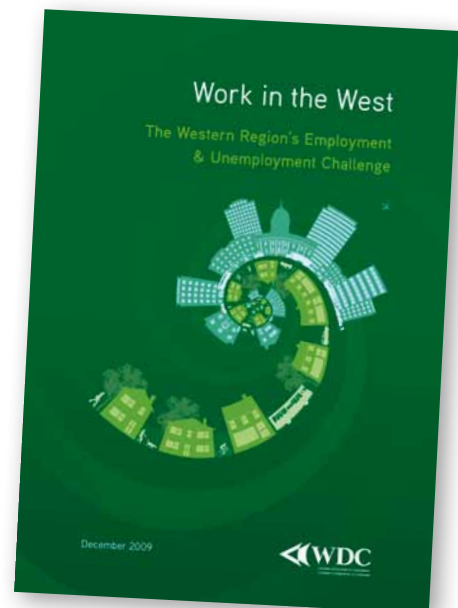
Declining economic activity, combined with rising unemployment, presents the most significant economic and social challenge that the Western Region has faced for some considerable time. The employment and enterprise structure of the Region creates particular challenges in the current recession. The Region has greater reliance on more traditional sectors of employment with fewer people working in the growth sectors of knowledge-intensive services and high-tech manufacturing. This pattern is pronounced in smaller towns and rural areas.

In this context, the WDC published *Work in the West: The Western Region's Employment & Unemployment Challenge* in December 2009 ([www.wdc.ie](http://www.wdc.ie)). It analyses the current employment and unemployment situation in the Western Region and identifies the three employment challenges which the WDC considers the most critical for the region's future as:

- Adjusting to the decline in construction employment
- The possibility of a return of the 'brain drain'
- Delivery of education and training in the region

The report also examines the prospects for the Western Region's future growth. Concerted action will be required if the region, particularly the more rural northern part, is to participate in the move towards a 'smart economy'. Without such a move, the regional development gains of the past decade could be lost and the gap between the east and west of the country might widen. It must be recognised that a vibrant and thriving regional economy will contribute to national recovery.

Eight sectors are identified in *Work in the West* as having particular future growth potential for the region. The sectors are: medical devices; software, financial and international services; creative sector; green economy; caring sector; food; tourism; and marine. The WDC believes these sectors should be developed to create jobs in a competitive and sustainable western regional economy.



*Work in the West* provides a constructive input for policymakers at both national and regional level involved in the development and implementation of labour market, enterprise, education and training policy. The identification of three key challenges for the region can help build a consensus among regional stakeholders on priorities, which will facilitate coordination of action at the regional level. The WDC will work to progress the recommendations of *Work in the West* during 2010.





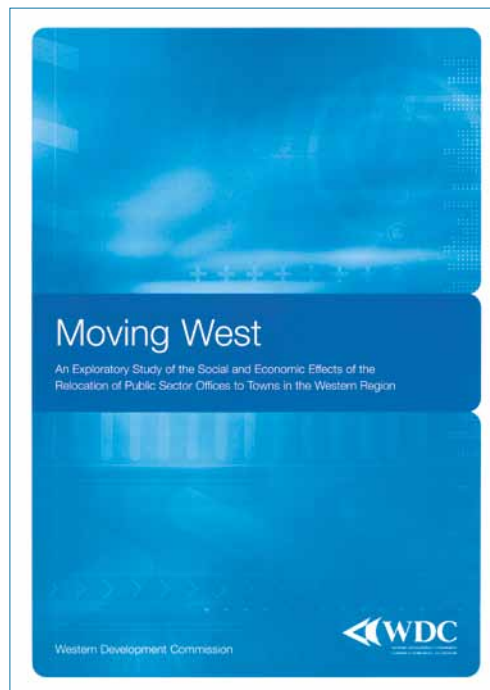
## WDC Relocation Study

*Moving West: An Exploratory Study of the Social and Economic Effects of the Relocation of Public Sector Offices to Towns in the Western Region* was published in 2009. Significant local development benefits can be associated with the relocation of civil and public service employment to regional locations. Decentralisation is, in effect, a form of inward investment in the services sector, and the stable nature of the jobs involved provides longer term security than is the case with many foreign direct investments. Relocation of public jobs can have a potentially strong positive impact on rural locations in the West, particularly small market towns.

*Moving West* was commissioned by the WDC and prepared by BiGGAR Economics. It examines the circumstances under which people chose to relocate and the impact relocation had on their behaviour and lifestyle; and the economic and social impact of the creation of a significant number of quality service jobs in the towns involved.

*Moving West* clearly demonstrates the substantial social and economic impact of the relocation of the posts to date, in terms of direct, indirect and induced employment and Gross Value

Added (GVA). These quantitative effects are complemented by an analysis of why people chose to relocate, their experience of relocation and the wider impact on the towns to which they relocated and the importance of quality of life in their decision. The report is available at [www.wdc.ie](http://www.wdc.ie)



## Agriculture and Rural Development Policy

The Western Region is a rural region with a significantly higher proportion of its population living outside cities and towns than elsewhere in Ireland. The WDC has, therefore, a particular focus on rural issues and recognizes the diversity of activities in the rural economy. The WDC regards agricultural and rural development policies as important components of the suite of policies required to achieve more balanced regional development generally and to drive economic growth and social development in lagging rural regions such as the seven western counties.

### Agriculture and the Common Agricultural Policy post 2013

Farming is the principal land use in the Western Region. Although the importance of the sector has declined it provides crucial rural jobs and makes a significant input into the local and regional economy. Thus developments in agricultural policy could have a considerable effect on farming in the region and consequently on the regional economy.

A submission was made to the Department of Agriculture in response to a consultation on 'The Shape of the Common Agricultural Policy



post 2013'. In this submission we provide a brief description of the rural and agricultural characteristics of the Western Region and highlight the work done by the WDC on the changes in rural areas and the changing role of agriculture in these areas. The submission describes the particular nature of farming in the Western Region with weak farm structure, low farm incomes, a reliance on part-time farming and a preponderance of cattle and sheep production.

The submission also addresses specific points on the shape of the CAP post 2013 and draws on WDC experiences in working in a rural region.

It emphasises that developments in the CAP should focus more support on marginal farming in our region. It highlights the importance of supporting farmers for the provision of public goods such as landscape and environmental maintenance which provide a wide range of public benefits.

The process of shaping the CAP post 2013 is only just beginning and the WDC believes it is important to provide Western Region input to the development of future agricultural policy and the shape of the CAP. It will continue to work on this area in 2010.

The submission is available on [www.wdc.ie](http://www.wdc.ie).

## Revision to Rural Development Programme (RDP)

An additional €120 million became available in 2009 for Ireland's Rural Development Programme (RDP) as a result of the CAP Health Check. The WDC was invited to make a submission on how the RDP should be revised to incorporate the additional resources. As the RDP was first written in 2006, the WDC highlighted

the changes in rural employment since then, in particular the loss of employment opportunities in the construction sector for part-time farmers. The WDC's input focused on the potential for renewable energy and in particular how the additional resources could be used to stimulate the wood energy sector.



## Infrastructure

Quality infrastructure is vital for access to, and within the Region, for communications and for energy supply and export. The WDC monitors policy and regulatory developments, expenditure and activity in relation to regional infrastructure investments and highlights its importance to developing the potential of the Region.

### Transport Infrastructure



#### Rail Infrastructure

On 1 May 2009, the WDC hosted its third conference on the Western Rail Corridor (WRC), *Sustainable Regional Transport at a time of Economic Constraint*, in Claremorris, in association with West-on-Track. The conference was addressed by the Minister for Transport, Noel Dempsey T.D., Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Éamon Ó Cuív, T.D. and Mr. Johann Colman, Cabinet Member of the EU Transport Commissioner. Various speakers highlighted the potential of the WRC to provide a sustainable, much improved public transport along the West coast, linking the urban and rural communities along its route. The tourism benefits and potential for rail freight were also highlighted. The delegates welcomed the Government's commitment to the rollout of services from Limerick to Galway and its support for the re-introduction of services on the next phase from Galway to Tuam.

The WDC continues to advocate the development of rail freight from the Western Region. In January, Forfás and the Irish Exporters Association convened a round table on rail freight in Ireland and this was followed by the establishment of a Rail Freight Working Group, on which the WDC is represented. The primary aim of this group is to identify if there is demand for rail freight and support it where possible.

A new rail freight service from Ballina to Dublin Port was launched at the WRC conference on 1 May 2009. This service will remove approximately 2,000 trucks from the roads annually, yielding environmental benefits and ensuring a safer road network. This is in addition to the existing Ballina to Waterford Port rail freight service. These services highlight the importance of quality transport links to support exports from businesses in the Western Region.



### Air Access

Air access is vital to the creation of a knowledge-based economy and direct access is also necessary to promote tourism. A globally competitive region needs global connectivity and a lack of such access militates against economic development.

It is important that the Western Region is well connected to international markets. The three largest airports in the country are located in the east, south and mid-west of the country. To ensure better spatial balance it is important to highlight and support the international air access role of the airports located in the Western Region. The WDC made a submission to the NSS 'Refresh' highlighting the importance of international air access to the Region.



### Road Infrastructure

Quality road infrastructure is essential to the connectivity of the Western Region. The WDC continued to highlight the importance of road infrastructure for the region's economic development and to monitor progress on national road investment during 2009.

The only Major Inter-Urban (MIU) route in the Western Region – the M6 to Galway – was completed during 2009 with both the Athlone-Ballinasloe and Ballinasloe-Galway sections opening during the year. A key component of the Atlantic Road Corridor, the N18 Gort-Crusheen project, continued construction throughout 2009.

However, the WDC expressed concern about the timelines for upgrading the N5/N26 national primary road serving Roscommon and Mayo, the N16 linking the Gateway towns of Sligo and Dundalk, and the sections of the Atlantic Road Corridor north of Gort. It is critical that investment in the economic infrastructure of less developed regions, such as the Western Region, is not unduly impacted by reduced public finances. This would further restrict the region's capacity for economic recovery.

The WDC welcomed the opening of the M6 Motorway



## Energy Infrastructure

### Electricity

Over the last decade the WDC has been working to highlight electricity infrastructural development and regulatory issues and the potential for the development of renewable electricity generation in the Western Region.

The WDC regards the provision of a quality electricity network and supply as important elements of the infrastructure required to underpin the economic development of the region. The development of the electricity generation system, and renewable generation in particular are areas of significant economic potential for the region. Hence the WDC monitors and comments on relevant developments and policies for the electricity and wider energy sector.

A written submission was made to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Energy Security and Climate Change in response to a request for



submissions on the topic of 'Meeting Ireland's Electricity needs post 2020'. In this submission, in addition to addressing the detailed questions, the WDC comments on the importance of the electricity provision for regional development in terms of transmission, distribution and generation. It also highlights the necessity of seeing the targets for 2020 and beyond in the context of energy strategy as a whole.

The submission is available at [www.wdc.ie](http://www.wdc.ie).

### Gas

The WDC considers that the extension of the natural gas transmission network throughout the North West is important for the development of the region. The WDC commissioned Enercomm International consultants to investigate the potential benefits of locating a gas fired generating plant in Sligo as a means of reducing possible curtailment of wind in a region, and to examine other possible benefits of extending the natural gas transmission grid.

Three case studies of local industries were also prepared which show the significant savings that would accrue to these industries if they had the option of switching to natural gas, from their current fuels. The findings of this work were compiled as a summary report by the WDC.





## Telecommunications

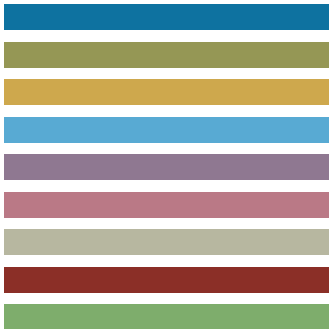
The WDC continued to highlight the importance of broadband infrastructure to businesses and homes in the region and the need to ensure that rural areas have access to a quality service. Following on from the WDC submission to the DCENR on Spectrum Policy in 2008, in 2009 the WDC publicly highlighted the potential opportunities for broadband in rural areas in the switchover from analogue to digital TV, planned for 2012.



In recognition of the significant work done by the WDC in relation to telecommunications, in autumn 2009, the WDC was invited to participate on a Working Group established by Comhar na nOileán Teo, to devise terms of reference for a feasibility study designed to examine the potential for video-conferencing facilities on twelve offshore islands. The study will be undertaken in 2010 and it is likely that the findings will also be relevant to many rural areas across the Western Region.



## SECTION 2



PROMOTING THE REGION

# PROMOTING THE REGION

Promote the benefits of living, working and doing business in the Western Region.



The [LookWest.ie](http://www.LookWest.ie) website is the central platform through which the WDC continues to address one of its key strategic aims - to promote the benefits of living, working and doing business in Ireland's Western Region. All [LookWest.ie](http://www.LookWest.ie) website promotional activities have a reference to [www.LookWest.ie](http://www.LookWest.ie) which serves as a virtual gateway to the region and is an indispensable resource that provides links and information for those considering a move to the West (with each county in the region having its own dedicated web page).

There have been almost 700,000 visits to the [LookWest.ie](http://www.LookWest.ie) website to date and traffic to the site continues to grow. There was growth of 26% in web visits in 2009 driving an average of almost 20,000 visitors to the site each month. This demonstrates that now more than ever people are interested in learning about what Ireland's Western Region has to offer.

[LookWest.ie](http://www.LookWest.ie) has evolved to ensure the WDC engages meaningfully with target audiences in their space and in their time. Key achievements for the [LookWest.ie](http://www.LookWest.ie) campaign in 2009 included:



## Enhancement of the LookWest.ie Website

Further development was carried out on the **LookWest.ie** website in 2009 to make the website more interactive and user friendly. The **LookWest.ie** website now:

- offers RSS newsfeeds for those who want to be alerted to all updates on the website
- features the latest in video technology via YouTube. The new video case studies on the website are a great opportunity to hear directly from people in their own words – why did they decide on the West as a location, what they see as the main advantages of locating here, what were the supports available etc.

By making the website so interactive, the Western Development Commission connects directly with people globally and highlights the advantages of living and doing business in the region. In November 2009 the **LookWest.ie** website was shortlisted in two award categories at the prestigious annual Golden Spider Awards – the *Best Community & Charity Website* and the *Best eGovernment Website* categories.

### LookWest.ie Using Social Media Channels

With the explosion in social networking as an accepted form of everyday communication the

WDC recognised an opportunity in 2009 to use the latest technology to promote all the benefits of the Western Region to a global audience. In April 2009 **LookWest.ie** successfully launched its new online social media campaign across a number of carefully selected channels including facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. After only 5 months **LookWest.ie** was shortlisted as a finalist in the 'Best Social Media Campaign' category for its integrated marketing activities on facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube at the Irish Web Awards.

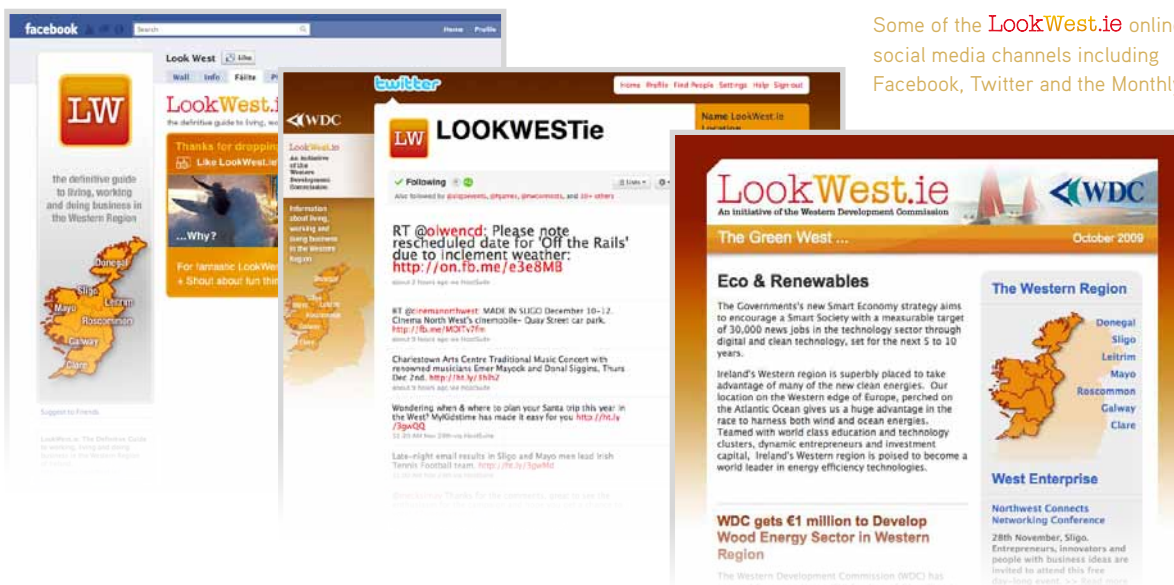
**LookWest.ie** had at the end of 2009 almost 1,100 fans on facebook, just under 500 followers on Twitter, and 175 business and corporate users on LinkedIn.

### The LookWest.ie Monthly Ezine

As well as communicating with audiences including Irish Diaspora communities all around the world using its website and a number of social media channels **LookWest.ie** launched its new-look monthly on-line newsletter in May 2009. Each month the ezine focused on a different regional topic providing timely information to its entire database of national and international readers interested in receiving news from Ireland's Western Region.



Some of the video case studies on **LookWest.ie**



Some of the **LookWest.ie** online social media channels including Facebook, Twitter and the Monthly Ezine



Pictured at the WDC Galway Volvo Ocean Race Prize Giving in Merchant's Hall, Galway August 20th.  
L-R David Beattie Director Let's Do It Global; Lisa McAllister CEO WDC; Ekaterina Petrova 3rd Prize Winner; Ger Conran 1st Prize Winner; Adi Tig 2nd Prize Winner; Eamon O'Cuiv TD, Minister for Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs; David Branigan, Marine Photographer and competition judge; John Killeen Chairman Let's Do It Galway.

### LookWest.ie – Connecting with our Diaspora

One of the main objectives of the [LookWest.ie](#) 2009 campaign activities was to communicate with the region's Diaspora. In doing this, [LookWest.ie](#) engaged in an ongoing consultative process with Diaspora business networks in North America and the United Kingdom (UK). This activity coupled with its integrated online marketing programme was complimented with a multi-media campaign focused on promoting the benefits of living, working and doing business in the Ireland's Western Region. [LookWest.ie](#) has received an extremely positive response to its activities and is well positioned as the voice of Ireland's Western Region to ensure the West is competitive in a global market place.

### Galway Volvo Ocean Race Festival

The WDC was invited to welcome the Green Dragon crew together with all arriving crews into Galway during the Volvo Ocean Race Festival. The Festival proved to be an unprecedented success. More than 650,000 people visited the Volvo Ocean Race Village and Salthill for the two-week stopover from May 23 to June 6.

During the Galway Volvo Ocean Race Festival the WDC, together with Let's Do It Galway and photo sharing website Pix.ie held an innovative photo competition which attracted over 17,000 images of all of the colour and action of the two week event uploaded to Pix.ie during a 4 week period.

Immediately after the event an exhibition featuring the best 100 photographs was assembled.

The best 100 photographs were exhibited all over Ireland in sailing clubs and shopping centres from September 2009 – December 2009, showcasing the Ireland's Western Region as a cultural hive of activity, a place that offers an unsurpassed quality of life and a location where real business success can be achieved.

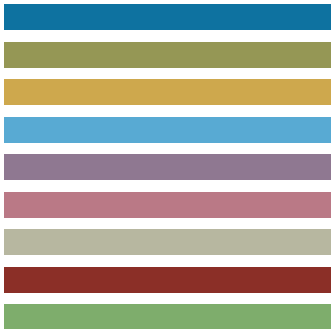


Volvo Ocean Race

The WDC *Creative West* – Galway Art Trail also ran throughout the duration of the Galway Volvo Ocean Race festival showcasing the best of creative talent from the Western Region. The WDC was delighted to have worked with the 22 galleries and venues in Galway City involved in the trail as it contributed to their work in positioning the West as the hub for creative industries in Ireland.



## SECTION 3



## RURAL DEVELOPMENT

# RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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## Support the sustainable economic and social development of the rural economy.

In 2009 the WDC remained central to the implementation of innovative and strategic regional development initiatives in the West through working with local, regional and national bodies to optimize economic and social development in the Region. This was achieved by identifying and implementing strategic development initiatives to grow regional

businesses and opportunities through innovative enterprise pilots and by facilitating their sustainable implementation by other relevant organisations in the longer term.

Below are direct examples of this support in practice in particular sectors important to the region.

### Renewable Energy

In 2009, the WDC moved the renewable energy debate for the region onwards towards an emphasis on employment and near term growth opportunities within the renewable energy sector, in line with regional potential and need.

In the autumn a submission was made to the Department of the Taoiseach's Innovation Task Force. In this, the case for a regional innovation centre based on inherent regional resources was made for the renewable energy sector. Wind and wave were emphasised as immutable regional resources on a worldwide scale and so the WDC laid out the framework for how such an initiative may serve to provide growth to the region and nation for decades to come.

#### Renewable Bio Energy

In December 2009 the WDC was awarded European Union funding under the ERDF Northern Periphery Programme to develop a partnership to stimulate growth in the renewable biomass sector. This is called the RASLRES project.

The key objective of this innovative endeavour undertaken by the WDC is the creation of employment opportunities in the renewable sector through development and application of market stimulation models (MSM's) unique to each bio fuel. A practical aim of this programme







is to increase the regional wood heat sector threefold and develop the marine biomass sector accordingly. The forecasted regional benefits for wood heat alone are almost 1000 extra jobs, €15 million per annum in GVA and the elimination of 692,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> (the equivalent of approximately 92,000 less cars on the road every year). Similar programmes are intended in Marine bio and reed canary grass. It is expected that up to 50 regional SME and micro producers will be involved.

### Local Resources - Local Energy - Local Solutions - Local Jobs

The RASLRES project provides a framework for the increased production of energy using locally produced biomass and increased local business development in the renewable energy sector. The RASLRES project will build awareness of opportunities for rural communities to produce and supply locally produced biomass (wood,

seaweed and energy crops) to towns and cities. It will also provide business development support to rural biomass producing communities and lead to the development of biomass supply chains through direct business and community engagement.

The RASLRES project is an international partnership which includes:

- Western Development Commission, Ireland
- Action Renewables, Northern Ireland, UK
- Environmental Research Institute, North Highland College, Scotland
- Municipality of Norsjö, Sweden
- Ocean Rainforest Ltd, Faroe Islands
- VTT, Technical Research Centre, Finland

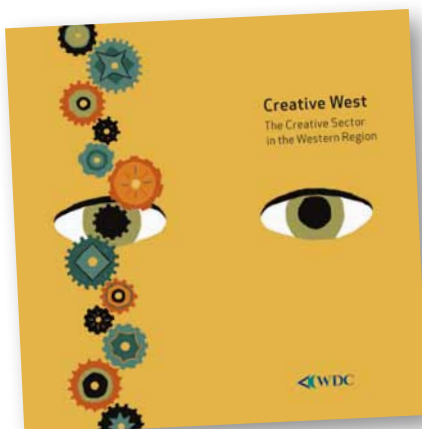
A promotional RASLRES leaflet



The RASLRES project will rely on this broad international expertise and best practice knowledge to provide comprehensive and sustainable local biomass production and bio energy solutions for rural communities through the following project objectives:

- Test three stimulation models designed to develop and grow businesses in renewable biomass energy markets.
- Promote rural community independence and self-sustainability by utilising locally-produced biomass fuel resources.
- Grow local businesses and increase jobs in rural communities through local renewable energy development.
- Help governments achieve their greenhouse gas reduction targets through increased use of biomass as an alternative renewable energy.

## Creative Economy



The WDC has identified that one of the regions key strengths and potential growth opportunities for employment and societal improvement lies in its burgeoning creative sector. However little or no data existed to inform government departments and local authorities in designing support instruments to avail of this opportunity. As such the WDC embarked on an innovative approach to engaging with the regional creative businesses and stakeholders in order to inform clear actions to grow employment and opportunities in the regional creative sector directly and indeed the wider regional economy indirectly.

### Creative West

During 2008, the WDC conducted baseline research on the size and nature of the Western Region's creative sector and to identify the sector's key issues. This resulted in the report *Baseline Research on the Creative Industries Sector in the Western Region of Ireland* (2008). Following this, the WDC produced a report summarising the research's key findings and setting out a number of recommended actions which would promote the creative sector's future growth in the region. This report, *Creative West: The Creative Sector in the Western Region*, was launched by Minister Éamon Ó Cuív on 16 February at the Dock in Carrick-on-Shannon.

*Creative West* has stimulated interest in the Western Region's creative sector from both within and outside the region and generated interest





Pictured at the launch of the Western Development Commission's (WDC) report *Creative West: The Creative Sector in the Western Region* were Ian Brannigan (WDC), Gillian Buckley (WDC), Gillian Marsh (Gmarsh TV), Minister Éamon Ó Cuív, Michael Farrell (WDC Chair), Damini Kumar (European Ambassador for Creativity & Innovation).

among stakeholders in working to progress the recommendations outlined. Following its launch, the WDC continued to work to progress the implementation of its recommendations. One of the key drivers for this was the comparison with similar regions internationally which indicated that up to 2,000 additional employment opportunities may be possible in this sector.

In 2009 the WDC was asked by the Sligo County Development Board to work with it in assessing growth priorities for its embryonic County Development Plan. Following from this interaction, Sligo has chosen to focus on cultural and creativity as one of the priorities in their new County Development Plan. Similarly the WDC has engaged with Mayo and Donegal County Development Boards in assessing how the creative sector in their counties may be developed.

Currently the WDC is seeking to design with partners including NUIG, a support programme for growing the regional creative sector, following on from the *Creative West* recommendations of increased support for exports and marketing in particular.

### Douglas Hyde Conference 2009

In October 2009, the WDC in association with Roscommon County Council hosted the Douglas Hyde Conference, themed on "Culture and the Economy – Creativity & Innovation in a post boom Ireland". The conference featured artists, thinkers and representatives from Culture Ireland, Fáilte Ireland, The Arts Council, Irish Film Institute, Business2Arts and the European Union among others to explore the concept of the Creative Economy. The two day conference was part of the WDC's work to position the Western Region as Ireland's hub for the creative industries and highlighted the potential of the creative sector to greatly contribute to the generation of high quality employment, and towards the stimulation of innovation in other sectors.



Attending the Douglas Hyde Conference 2009: L- R Philip Delemare, Roscommon Arts Council, Frank Dawson Roscommon County Manager, Joanne Grehan, Regional Development Executive WDC, Minister Dara Calleary, Cllr Tony Ward, Mayor Roscommon, Kathleen Martin, Roscommon County Council, Lisa McAllister CEO (WDC), Sarah Brown, Member of Board of Directors of CREAT

## Creative Industries, Innovation and the Smart Economy Seminar

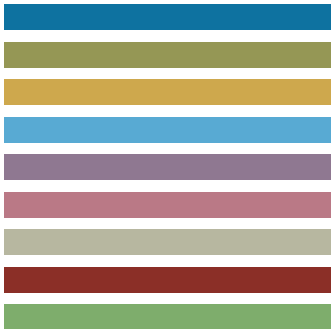
The WDC co-hosted a seminar on *Creative Industries, Innovation and the Smart Economy* with the Centre for Innovation and Structural Change at NUI Galway in November 2009 which brought together different sub-groups from within the broadly defined creative sector. The half day seminar examined whether there are better ways to depict the contribution of the

creative sector to innovation systems. It featured international and national keynote speakers, as well as a number of discussants from the public, education and enterprise sectors and provided an opportunity for a very constructive debate on the role of creative industries in Ireland's, and the West's, economic future. Presentations can be downloaded from [www.wdc.ie](http://www.wdc.ie).





## SECTION 4



WDC INVESTMENT FUND

# WDC INVESTMENT FUND

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## To provide risk capital to SMEs and social enterprises.

The Western Investment Fund (WIF) is a WDC managed fund of risk capital for small and medium-sized (SMEs). It addresses private sector market failure in the provision of risk capital to enterprises in the Western Region.

The WDC invests on commercial terms and all investments are repayable. The WDC works closely with its clients, supporting them on a long-term basis and helping them to achieve their growth targets. Through its growing investment portfolio, the WDC demonstrates the viability of western-based investments to the private sector and supports a venture capital culture in the Western Region.

In 2009, the WDC invested a total of €3.7 million in fourteen enterprises which will offer highly skilled employment to over 550 people in the Western Region, many at graduate and post-graduate level. In addition, over 100 construction jobs will be supported in 2010 in two of the enterprises supported.

The Government established the WIF as an Evergreen Fund which means that all its profits are reinvested in the region. In 2009, 40% of the total money invested was from these revolved funds. The 2009 exchequer allocation of €2.3 million levered a total of €18.6 million in additional investment into the region; for every €1 of exchequer funding invested through the WIF another €8 was levered for Western enterprises.

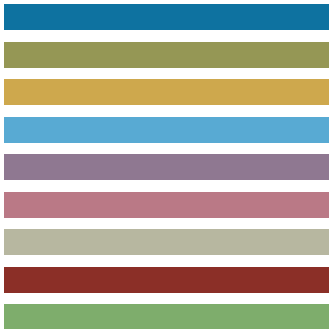
The WDC continues to monitor its companies closely, particularly in the current economic climate which is presenting many challenges for SMEs. In this regard, the WDC is supported by an expert Fund Advisory Panel (FAP) which advises the Commission on investment decisions. See Appendix 2 for membership of the FAP.

The Western Region with the availability of seed and venture capital offered by the WIF is fast becoming recognised as a centre of excellence for indigenous start-ups to locate. To date, the WDC has invested a total of €36.6 million in 87 projects in the region; the majority of SMEs supported are Smart Economy enterprises.

For further information on the WDC Investment Fund, see: [www.wdc.ie](http://www.wdc.ie)



## SECTION 5



## CORPORATE SERVICES

# CORPORATE SERVICES

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## To operate the WDC as a competent and effective organisation.

As an inherent part of its strategic goals, the WDC strives to run an efficient and effective organisation that complies with legislative requirements, public sector modernisation and best practice by adhering to the following:



## Corporate Governance

The board conducted its activities cognisant of the revised Code of Conduct for the Governance of State Agencies as amended in May 2009.

## Human Resources

Through the active participation of the WDC Partnership Committee, the organisation has continued its commitment to the public sector modernisation programme.



## Customer Care

The WDC is committed to providing its customers with a professional, efficient and courteous service in accordance with the WDC Customer Charter and the Principles of Quality Customer Services. A copy of the WDC's Customer Statement is available on: [www.wdc.ie](http://www.wdc.ie)

The WDC's website is regularly updated and, in 2009, a new feature was added to the website offering greater virtual access to visually impaired clients. Clients were kept informed of the work of the organisation through press releases, publications and submissions posted on: [www.wdc.ie](http://www.wdc.ie) No customer complaints were reported or recorded in 2009.

## Financial Management

The WDC's Financial Management System enables the Commission to operate a comprehensive budgeting and financial reporting process and to comply with best practice under the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies.

## Freedom of Information Acts, 1997 & 2003

There were no requests for information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Acts, 1997 & 2003.

## Data Protection Acts 1988 & 2003

The WDC had no queries under the Data Protection Act in 2009.

## Official Languages Act 2003

Under the Official Languages Act (2003), the WDC has adopted the *WDC Language Scheme 2007-2010*. This scheme is published in English and Irish and is available on: [www.wdc.ie](http://www.wdc.ie)

## Board Fees and Expenses

Full details of Board Fees and expenses are outlined in Appendix 5.

## CEO Salary and Expenses

Full details of CEO salary and expenses are outlined in Appendix 5.



## Chairperson's Report on WDC Compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies in 2009

### 1. Code of Business Conduct for Directors and Employees of the WDC

Codes of business conduct for all directors and employees have been signed by all relevant parties and complied with in 2009.

### 2. Internal Audit Function

I confirm that all appropriate procedures for internal audit as set out in the Code of Practice were complied with by the WDC in 2009. The following work was carried out in relation to internal audit:

(i) **Internal Audit:** The Internal Auditor completed the 2009 Internal Audit Work Programme.

(ii) **WDC Audit Committee:** The Audit Committee met four times during 2009 and reported on its activity to the WDC.

(iii) **WDC Audits:** A full financial audit relating to the 2009 WDC financial statements by the Comptroller and Auditor General (External Auditors) has been carried out in 2009.

### 3. Procurement

In 2009, the WDC complied fully with relevant procurement procedures as set out in the WDC Procurement Guidelines and in the 2004 Government Procurement Guidelines.

### 4. Disposal of Assets and Access to Assets by Third Parties

There have been no disposals of assets above the agreed threshold by the WDC in 2009.

### 5. Guidelines for the Appraisal and Management of Capital Expenditure

These guidelines are not applicable to the WDC.

### 6. Pay to Chief Executives and State Body Employees

The WDC has adhered to Government guidelines and to the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs' arrangements in relation to the remuneration of the Chief Executive and employees in 2009.

### 7. Travel

The WDC Adhered to Government Guidelines on Travel.


### 8. Payment of Directors' Fees and Expenses

The WDC adhered to Government guidelines and the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs' arrangements in relation to the payment of Directors' fees in 2009. Details of these fees and aggregate expenses are given in the annual accounts.

### 9. A separate Chairperson's report has been submitted to the Minister with the 2009 Annual Report.

### 10. I confirm that the WDC has complied in full with the appropriate tax laws and with its tax obligations in 2009 and that there have been no issues reported.

Signed:

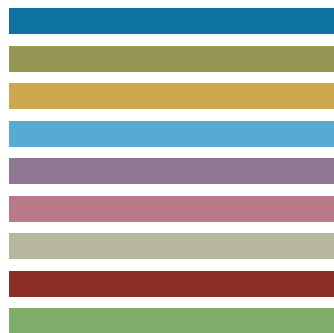
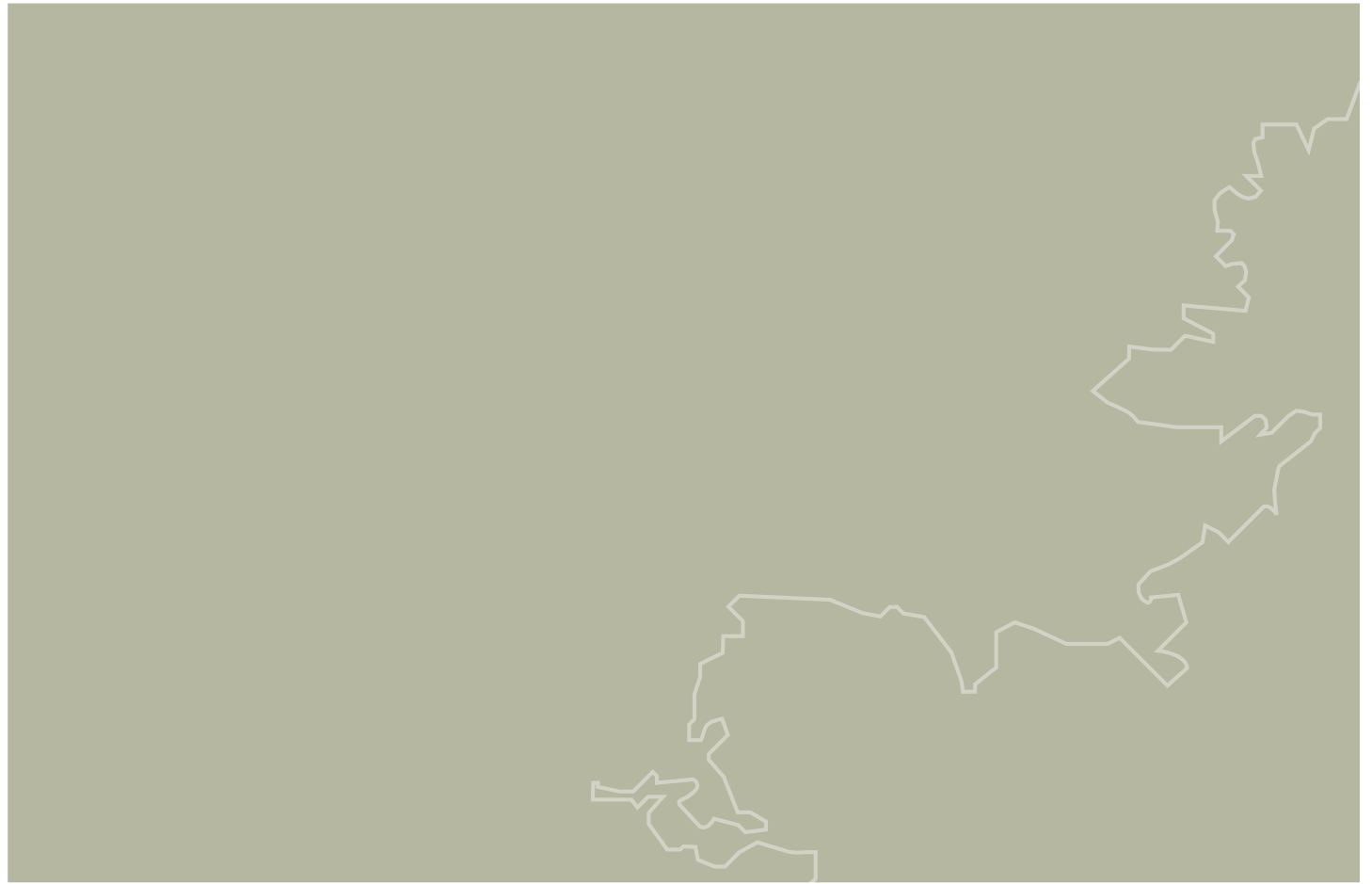


WDC Chairperson

Date:

31/3/2009





## APPENDICES



# APPENDIX I

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## Western Development Commission Members

### Chairperson

Mr. Michael Farrell

### Members

Prof. Seamus Caulfield

Mr. Jim Devenney

Mr. Pat Gilmore

Cllr. Mary Hoade

Ms. Martina Minogue

Mr. Diarmaid Mulcahy

Ms. Jackie Maguire

Ms. Mary Devine O'Callaghan

Mr Pádraig Ó Caomhánaigh

Ms. Helen Rochford-Brennan

Dr. Katie Sweeney

## Audit Committee

### Chairperson

Ms. Martina Minogue

### Members

Mr. Ben Bradish

Ms. Helen Rochford-Brennan

Mr. Michael Morley

Mr. Ray O'Donoghue





## APPENDIX 2

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### Fund Advisory Panel

#### Chairperson

Mr. Michael Farrell

#### Members

Mr. John Dillon

Ms. Judy Greene

Mr. Seán Hannick

Mr. Colm MacFhionnlaoich

Mr. John MacNamara

Mr. Diarmaid Mulcahy

Mr. Pádraig Ó Caomhánaigh

Dr. Katie Sweeney



## APPENDIX 3

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### Other Advisory Panels

#### Regional Wood Energy Advisory Group Members

Mr. Richard Browne	Dept of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
Mr. Pearse Buckley	Sustainable Energy Ireland
Mr. Philip Carr	Forest Service of Dept of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Mr. Peter Cafferkey	Forest Service of Dept of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Mr. Barry Caslin	Teagasc
Mr. Michael O'hÉanaigh	Donegal County Council (Community & Enterprise Division)
Mr. Conor Lawlor	Sligo Institute of Technology
Ms. Dóirín Graham	Rural Resource Development Ltd (Clare LEADER Company)
Ms. Christine Hutton	Rural Generation Ltd
Mr. Peter Keavney	Galway Energy Agency
Mr. Steven Meyen	Teagasc (Forestry)
Ms. Fiona Ní Mhurchadha	Údarás na Gaeltachta
Mr Frank Conlon	Údarás na Gaeltachta
Mr. Joe O'Carroll	Imperative Energy Ltd
Mr Hugo McCormick	Imperative Energy Ltd
Ms. Geraldine O'Sullivan	Irish Farmers Association (Forestry)

#### Creative Sector Industry Advisory Group Members

Mr. William Golden	NUI Galway
Ms. Geraldine Gray	Leitrim Design House
Mr. Jim Keogh	Udarás na Gaeltachta
Mr. Anton Mannering	Digital Media Forum
Mr. Nick Miller	Artist
Mr. David Power	Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland (RIAI)
Mr. Toby Scott	Centre for Design Innovation, IT Sligo
Mr. Ray Walsh	Enterprise Ireland



## APPENDIX 4

### 2009 Project Portfolio

Project	County	Investment Type	Description
Innovative Science Ltd	Sligo	Equity €200,000 (Follow on)	Medical equipment for hospital laboratories that prints data onto microscope slides and tissue cassettes.
Proxy Biomedical Ltd	Galway County	Equity €148,806 (Follow on)	Develop and manufacture next generation soft tissue implants using proprietary biomedical technology.
Zerusa Ltd	Galway City	Equity €25,000 (Follow on)	Develop an invasive medical device to make it safer, easier and quicker for physicians to access the vascular system.
Ansamed Ltd	Roscommon	Equity €17,766 (Follow on)	Medical device extrusion manufacturing company.
Crospon Ltd	Galway City	Equity €6,150 (Follow on)	Develops minimally invasive medical devices for monitoring, diagnosis and therapy of endocrinology and gastroenterology related illnesses.
Cambus Teo	Galway County	Equity €150,000 (Follow on)	Global Supplier of technologically advanced micro component solutions used in the manufacture of minimally invasive surgical devices.
Vysera Biomedical Limited	Galway City	Equity €200,000 (Follow on)	Medical Device company developing products to address the growing niche gastrointestinal medical devices market.
Amatech Ltd	Mayo	Equity €500,000	Production of transponder components to manufacture e-passport inlays, contactless cards and key fobs.
Solas Galway Picture Palace Teoranta	Galway City	Loan €650,000	The development of an art house cinema / cultural film space with 3 screens, cafe, bar, online archive and bookshop promoting film culture and education.
Vivasure Ltd	Galway City	Equity €186,413	Medical Device R&D for a vascular closure device targeted at an unmet market need for percutaneous large hold procedures such as Aortic Valve replacements and Aneurysm repairs
Halo Medical Ltd	Galway County	Equity €175,000	Outsourcing company providing a full range of technical outsourced services to Medical Device OEMs, specialising in particular in the disposable medical devices market.
System Label Ltd	Roscommon	Equity €125,000	Label printing company
Ovagen Group Limited	Mayo	Equity €950,000	A biotechnology company that has developed the process of producing germ free (GF) chicken eggs and GF birds in commercial quantities for use primarily in the pharmaceutical industry.
Neuravi Ltd	Galway City	Equity €400,000	Design, development, clinical trial and commercialisation of a novel thrombus removal device for acute stroke intervention



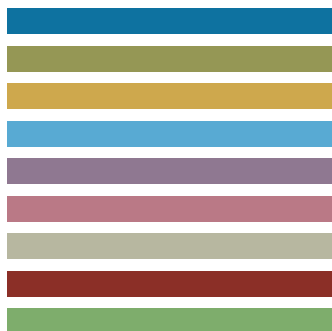
## APPENDIX 5

### Board Fees and Expenses

Board Fees and Travel and Subsistence Expenses 2009		
Name	Fees	Travel & Subsistence
Mr. Michael Farrell	€9,800	€3,396
Mr. Pat Gilmore	€6,533	€1,278
Ms. Helen Rochford Brennan	€6,533	€963
Ms. Jackie Maguire	€6,533	€443
Mr. Diarmaid Mulcahy	€6,533	€1,094
Prof. Séamus Caulfield	€6,533	€569
Ms. Martina Minogue	€6,533	€1,335
Cllr. Mary Hoade	€6,533	€2,054
Ms. Mary Devine O'Callaghan	€6,533	€173
Mr. Jim Devenney	€6,533	€2,357
Dr. Katie Sweeney	€6,533	€782
Mr. Pádraig O Caomhánaigh	€6,533	€1,390

CEO Salary and Travel and Subsistence Expenses 2009		
The CEO's salary scale is set at the level of Principal Officer (Higher) in the Civil Service. The WDC does not operate a performance related award scheme and superannuation benefit is included in the salary scale.		
CEO	Fees	Travel & Subsistence
Ms. Gillian Buckley (Jan - Mar 09)	€28,144	€1,409
Ms. Lisa McAllister (Apr - Dec 09)	€88,455	€4,745





# FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2009



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# MEMBERS OF THE WESTERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION 2009

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## Chairperson

Mr. Michael Farrell                      Co. Sligo

## Members

Mr. Pat Gilmore	Co. Galway
Ms. Helen Rochford Brennan	Co. Sligo
Ms. Jackie Maguire	Co. Leitrim
Mr. Diarmaid Mulcahy	Co. Galway
Prof Seamas Caulfield	Dublin 14
Ms. Martina Minogue	Co. Clare
Cllr Mary Hoade	Co. Galway
Ms. Mary Devine O'Callaghan	Co. Roscommon
Mr. Jim Devenney	Co. Donegal
Dr. Katie Sweeney	Co. Mayo
Mr. Pádraig Ó Caomhánaigh	Co. Galway

## Bankers

Bank of Ireland, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon

## Auditors

The Comptroller and Auditor General, Treasury Building, Dublin Castle





# STATEMENT ON COMMISSION'S RESPONSIBILITIES

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Section 22 of the Western Development Commission Act, 1998, requires the Commission to prepare financial statements in such form as may be approved by the Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs with the concurrence of the Minister for Finance and to submit them for audit to the Comptroller and Auditor General. In preparing these financial statements the Commission is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless that basis is inappropriate;
- disclose and explain any material departures from applicable accounting standards.

The Directors confirm that they have complied with above requirements in preparing the financial statements.

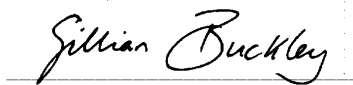
The Commission is responsible for keeping proper books of account, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Commission and which enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with Section 22 of the Act. The Commission is also responsible for safeguarding its assets and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**Chairperson:**



**Michael Farrell**

**Chief Executive:**



**Gillian Buckley**



# REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL

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## WESTERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

### **Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General for presentation to the Houses of the Oireachtas**

I have audited the financial statements of the Western Development Commission for the year ended 31 December 2009 under the Western Development Commission Act, 1998.

The financial statements, which have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein, comprise the Statement of Accounting Policies, the Income and Expenditure Account, the Western Investment Fund Income and Expenditure Account, the Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses, the Western Investment Fund Income and Expenditure Account, the Northern Periphery Programme Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes.

#### **Respective Responsibilities of the Commission and the Comptroller and Auditor General**

The Commission is responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with the Western Development Commission Act, 1998, and for ensuring the regularity of transactions. The Commission prepares the financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland. The accounting responsibilities of the Members of the Commission are set out in the Statement of Commission's Responsibilities.

My responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

I report my opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland. I also report whether in my opinion proper books of account have been kept. In addition, I state whether the financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.

I report any material instance where moneys have not been applied for the purposes intended or where the transactions do not conform to the authorities governing them.

I also report if I have not obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of my audit.

I review whether the Statement on Internal Financial Control reflects the Commission's compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies and report any material instance where it does not do so, or if the statement is misleading or inconsistent with other information of which I am aware from my audit of the financial statements. I am not required to consider whether the Statement on Internal Financial Control covers all financial risks and controls, or to form an opinion on the effectiveness of the risk and control procedures.



# REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL (Contd)

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I read other information contained in the Annual Report, and consider whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements. I consider the implications for my report if I become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements.

## **Basis of Audit Opinion**

In the exercise of my function as Comptroller and Auditor General, I conducted my audit of the financial statements in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board and by reference to the special considerations which attach to State bodies in relation to their management and operation. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures and regularity of the financial transactions included in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Commission's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

I planned and performed my audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations that I considered necessary in order to provide me with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming my opinion I also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

## **Opinion**

In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, of the state of the Commission's affairs at 31 December 2009 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended.

In my opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the Commission. The financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.



Andrew Harkness  
**For and on behalf of the  
Comptroller and Auditor General**  
26 October 2010



# STATEMENT ON INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROL 2009

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1. On behalf of the Board of the Western Development Commission I acknowledge our responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial control is maintained and operated.
2. The system can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely period.
3. The following procedures have been put in place by the Board designed to provide effective internal financial control:
  - i. The board has taken steps to ensure an appropriate control environment is in place by establishing:
    - a clearly defined organisational structure;
      - with defined lines of responsibility; authority limits; segregations of duties and delegated authority: a clearly documented system of financial procedures
    - reporting mechanisms to Management, Audit Committee and and to the Chairperson and Board
  - ii. The Board has established processes to identify and evaluate business risks by:
    - identifying the nature, extent and financial implications of risks facing the Commission
    - assessing the likelihood of identified risks occurring (detailed risk assessment carried out by internal auditors):
    - working closely with Government and relevant agencies to ensure that there is a clear understanding of the Commission's strategy
  - iii. The Commission uses an in house Financial Management System enabling it to operate a comprehensive budgeting process and ensure that any budgetary variances are promptly identified, examined and addressed. Monthly budget and expenditure reports are prepared for management and for the Department.
  - iv. The Commission has in place procedures for addressing financial implications of major business risks. These include:
    - an annual budget approved by the Board;
    - clearly defined set of operation financial procedures;
    - clearly defined and board approved investment procedures for the operation of the Western Investment Fund; including post investment procedures;
    - defined authorisation limits, segregation of duties.



## STATEMENT ON INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROL 2009 (Contd)

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- v. In 2009 the Commission had in place the following procedures to monitor the effectiveness of the internal financial control system:
- a. An Internal Audit Function, which was outsourced and operated in accordance with the internal audit work plan including a risk analysis. This audit plan and risk analysis was endorsed by the Audit Committee. The Internal Audit Function reported to the Audit Committee on its organisational expenditure reviews and this report reflected the internal auditors opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the system of internal financial control in the WDC.
  - b. The Board's monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the system is informed by:
    - the work of the internal auditor;
    - the audit committee (which oversees the work of the internal auditor);
    - the Commission executive who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the financial control framework; and comments made by the Comptroller and Auditor General in his management letter.
4. Annual Review of Controls
- I confirm that the Board carried out a review of the effectiveness of the internal financial controls in 2009.

Signed:   
WDC Chairperson

Date: 19 October 2010



# STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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## 1. Basis of Accounting

The financial statements are prepared under the accruals method of accounting, except as indicated below, and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles under the historical cost convention. Financial Reporting Standards recommended by the recognised accountancy bodies are adopted as they become operative.

## 2. Oireachtas Grants

Oireachtas Grants are accounted for on a cash receipts basis.

## 3. Fixed Assets

Fixed Assets are stated at their historical cost or valuation less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is charged to the income and expenditure account on a straight line basis, at the rates set out below, so as to write off the assets, adjusted for estimated residual value, over the expected useful lives.

Fixtures and Fittings 15%

Computers & IT 33%

## 4. Pensions

The Commission operates a defined benefit pension scheme which is funded annually on a pay as you go basis from monies available to it, including monies provided by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and from contributions deducted from staff salaries. Pension costs reflect pension benefits earned by employees in the period and are shown net of staff pension contributions which are paid over to the Department in accordance with the Commission's funding arrangements.

Actuarial gains and losses arising on scheme liabilities are reflected in the Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses and a corresponding adjustment is recognised in the amount recoverable from the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

Pension liabilities represent the present value of future pensions payments earned by staff to date. Deferred pension funding represents the corresponding asset to be recovered in future periods from the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

## 5. Capital Account

The Capital Account represents the unamortised value of income used for capital purposes.

## 6. Western Investment Fund

An overall fund of €28 million has been committed to by the Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs under the NDP 2007 - 2013. On approval of a project by the Commission, funds are drawn down from the Department and loans and investments are issued to the relevant body.



# STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Contd)

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## **7. Investment Income**

Investment income earned on the Western Investment Fund is credited to the Fund.

Interest on loans is calculated on a reducing balance basis and is taken to the Income & Expenditure account over the period of the agreement. Interest on loans in arrears is not accrued and is only taken to the Income & Expenditure account when received.

Dividends on equity investments are taken to the Income & Expenditure account as they are received.

## **8. Unquoted Investments**

Unquoted investments are stated at fair value (Fair value is defined as the amount for which an asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm's length transaction), based on management's assessments following a review process of each portfolio company using the latest available audited accounts and recent management accounts and other relevant business information. The guidelines followed by the WDC in arriving at valuations are in accordance with the valuation principles of the European and Irish Venture Capital Associations. Where the reasons for provisions in respect of impairment of value have ceased to apply, those provisions are reversed. Where management's assessment of the value of an investment is nil, due to insolvency or otherwise, these investments have been written off.

## **9. Provisions for Loan Losses Policy**

Specific provisions are made for loans when the WDC considers that the creditworthiness of a borrower has deteriorated such that the recovery of whole or part of the outstanding loan is in serious doubt. The amount of the specific provision is equivalent to the amount necessary to reduce the carrying value of the loan to its expected ultimate net realisable value.

## **10. Gains and Losses**

Realised gains and losses are recognised in the Income and Expenditure Account when they are realised.

## **11. Northern Periphery Programme**

The Northern Periphery Programme (NPP) is a project to develop the renewable energy sector in rural regions. The NPP commenced in 2009.

The NPP is funded 60% by the European Union (EU) and 40% by the WDC.





# INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

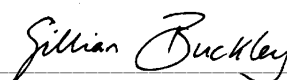
WESTERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION	NOTES	2009 €	2009 €	2008 €	2008 €
<b>INCOME</b>					
Oireachtas Grant	1	4,446,157		6,507,963	
Other Income		2,274		174,888	
Transfer to Western Investment Fund	8a	(2,300,000)		(3,995,362)	
Transfer to NPP		(51,736)		-	
Transfer from/(to) Capital Account	8	17,960		17,213	
Net Deferred Funding for Pensions		251,872		216,146	
			2,366,528		2,920,848
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Operating Costs	2a		2,222,898		2,981,717
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year			143,631		(60,869)
Surplus/(Deficit) at Beginning of Year			(67,561)		(6,692)
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) at End of Year</b>			<b>76,070</b>		<b>(67,561)</b>
<b>STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES</b>					
			<b>2009 €</b>		<b>2008 €</b>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year			143,631		(60,869)
Experience Losses/(Gains) Arising on the Scheme Liabilities			(20,000)		(255,000)
Changes in Assumptions			(98,000)		-
Actuarial Loss/(Gain) on Pension Liabilities			(118,000)		(255,000)
Adjustment to Deferred Pension Funding			118,000		255,000
Total Recognised Gain/(Losses) for the Year			143,631		(60,869)

The statement of accounting policies and the notes 1 to 12 form part of these financial statements.

Michael Farrell:  
WDC Chairperson



Gillian Buckley:  
WDC Chief Executive




# WESTERN INVESTMENT FUND

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

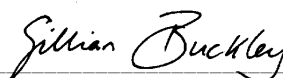
WESTERN INVESTMENT FUND	NOTE	2009 €	2009 €	2008 €	2008 €
<b>INCOME</b>					
Transfer from the Commission		2,300,000		3,995,362	
Interest Earned		434		10,907	
Investment Fund Income		654,610		415,722	
Arrangement / Management Fees		<u>24,477</u>		<u>17,471</u>	
			2,979,520		4,439,462
<b>DECREASE / (INCREASE) IN PROVISION AGAINST INVESTMENT</b>			<u>450,723</u>		<u>(6,328,942)</u>
Increase/(Decrease) in the Fund			3,430,243		(1,889,480)
Balance of the Fund at the Beginning of the Year			<u>16,626,639</u>		<u>18,516,119</u>
Balance of the Fund at the End of the Year			<u><u>20,056,882</u></u>		<u><u>16,626,639</u></u>

The statement of accounting policies and the notes 1 to 12 form part of these financial statements.

Michael Farrell:  
WDC Chairperson



Gillian Buckle:  
WDC Chief Executive




# NORTHERN PERIPHERY PROGRAMME INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

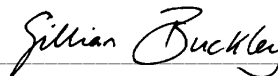
NORTHERN PERIPHERY PROGRAMME (NPP)	NOTE	2009 €	2009 €	2008 €	2008 €
<b>INCOME</b>					
Transfer from the Commission		51,736		-	
EU Grant		<u>77,605</u>		<u>-</u>	
			129,341		-
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>2b</b>		<u>(129,341)</u>		<u>-</u>
Increase/(Decrease) in NPP			-		-
Balance of the programme at the beginning of the year			<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>
Balance of the programme at the end of the year			<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>

The statement of accounting policies and the notes 1 to 12 form part of these financial statements.

Michael Farrell:  
WDC Chairperson



Gillian Buckley:  
WDC Chief Executive




# BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2009

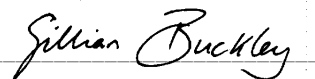
	NOTES	2009 €	2008 €
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible Assets	4	21,356	39,316
<b>FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>	5	20,056,882	16,626,639
		<u>20,078,238</u>	<u>16,665,955</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Bank Current Account		118,080	166,165
Debtors	6	83,414	8,503
		<u>201,495</u>	<u>174,668</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Creditors	7	(125,426)	(242,229)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>(76,069)</u>	<u>(67,561)</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities before pensions		20,154,307	16,598,394
Deferred Pension Funding		1,900,000	1,500,000
Pension Liabilities		(1,900,000)	(1,500,000)
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		<u><u>20,154,307</u></u>	<u><u>16,598,394</u></u>
<b>FINANCED BY:</b>			
Investment Fund		20,056,882	16,626,639
Northern Periphery Programme (NPP)		0	-
Income and Expenditure Account		76,070	(67,561)
Capital Account	8	21,356	39,316
		<u><u>20,154,307</u></u>	<u><u>16,598,394</u></u>

The statement of accounting policies and the notes 1 to 12 form part of these financial statements.

Michael Farrell:  
WDC Chairperson



Gillian Buckley:  
WDC Chief Executive




# CASH FLOW STATEMENT AT 31 DECEMBER 2009

## RECONCILIATION OF SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) TO CASHFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2009	2008
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year (including NPP)	143,631	(60,869)
Depreciation	22,205	26,051
Loss on disposal of assets	755	-
Transfer to capital account	(17,960)	(17,213)
(Decrease)/Increase in Prepayments	(74,911)	29,657
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors & Accruals	(116,804)	56,165
<b>Cash Inflow from Operating Activities</b>	<b>(43,085)</b>	<b>33,791</b>
<b>Capital</b>		
Funds to acquire fixed assets	(5,000)	(8,838)
<b>Net Cash Inflow</b>	<b>(48,085)</b>	<b>24,953</b>

## RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENTS IN CASH BALANCES

	2008	MOVEMENT	2009
Bank Current Account	166,160	(48,156)	118,004
Petty Cash	5	71	76
	<b>166,165</b>	<b>(48,085)</b>	<b>118,080</b>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. GRANT INCOME	NOTE	2009 €	2008 €
Operating Grant*		2,146,157	2,538,962
Less refund to Department re 2008		<u>-</u>	<u>(26,361)</u>
			2,512,601
WIF Grant		<u>2,300,000</u>	<u>3,995,362</u>
		<u><b>4,446,157</b></u>	<u><b>6,507,963</b></u>

\* Operating Grant is shown net of pension contributions

2a. OPERATING COSTS	NOTE	2009 €	2008 €
Salaries (including employers PRSI)	2d	980,777	1,018,785
Travel and Subsistence - Staff		95,722	112,435
Pension Costs		251,872	216,146
Training and Development		26,627	45,361
Public Relations (incorporating LookWest campaign) (i)		79,044	74,604
Professional Fees (incorporating LookWest campaign)		174,976	514,552
Professional Fees - Western Investment Fund		52,323	40,087
Board Members			
Travel and Subsistence	2c	15,834	23,621
Fees	2c	81,667	86,451
Meetings and Seminars		34,053	47,268
Board Sub-committee's/Advisory Panels			
Travel and Subsistence		3,727	4,650
Printing and Design		43,068	83,655
Office Expenses		12,202	27,079
Light and Heat		3,460	5,694
Repairs and Maintenance		39,717	58,120
Insurance		8,876	9,002
Audit Fee		11,500	11,500
Accountancy and Internal Audit		14,775	55,623
Advertising, Marketing & Subscriptions (incorporating LookWest campaign) (ii)		230,094	490,417
Telecommunications		36,624	29,337
Depreciation		22,205	26,051
Sundry		3,000	1,279
Loss on Disposals		755	-
		<u><b>2,222,898</b></u>	<u><b>2,981,717</b></u>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Contd)

## 2b. OPERATING COSTS

- NORTHERN PERIPHERY PROGRAMME	NOTE	2009 €	2008 €
Travel and Subsistence - Staff		5,225	-
Professional Fees		58,339	-
Meetings and Seminars	(b)	2,114	-
Printing		480	-
IT Maintenance		413	-
Wages and Salaries		49,801	-
Promotion and Publications		3,071	-
Office Expenses		9,898	-
		<b>129,341</b>	<b>-</b>

(i) There was a significant decrease in professional fees incurred during the year. This was due mainly from a reduction in professional support in research and creative design. The research and design activities of previous years supported WDC follow on activities in 2009, most notably in relation to the Wood Energy Strategy and the LookWest.ie initiative.

(ii) Expenditure on advertising and marketing through the LookWest.ie campaign at a national level was significantly reduced. The main concentration of the LookWest.ie initiative in 2009 was on the Irish Diaspora communities, predominantly in the UK and US.

## 2c. BOARD MEMBERS FEES AND EXPENSES

	2009 Fees €	2009 Travel & Subsistence €
Prof. Seamas Caulfield	6,533	569
Mr. Jim Devenney	6,533	2,357
Ms. Mary Devine O'Callaghan	6,533	173
Mr. Michael Farrell	6,533	3,396
Mr. Pat Gilmore	6,533	1,276
Cllr. Mary Hoade	6,533	2,054
Ms. Jackie Maguire	6,533	443
Ms. Martina Minogue	6,533	1,335
Ms. Diarmaid Mulcahy	6,533	1,094
Mr. Paraic O Caomhanaigh	6,533	1,390
Ms. Helen Rochford Brennan	6,533	963
Dr. Katie Sweeney	6,533	782

## 2d. CEO SALARY 2009

The CEO's salary scale is set at the level of Principal Officer (Higher) in the Civil Service. The WDC does not operate a performance related award scheme and superannuation benefit is included in the salary scale.

	2009 Fees €	2009 Travel & Subsistence €
Ms. Gillian Buckley (Jan-Mar 09)	28,144	1,409
Ms. Lisa McAllister (Apr-Dec 09)	88,455	4,745

## 2e. PENSION LEVY

€52,287 was deducted from staff by way of pension levy and was paid over to the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.



# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Contd)

## 3. PREMISES

The Western Development Commission is based in Dillon House, a building owned by Roscommon County Council and managed by the Office of Public Works. No provision is included in the accounts for rent.

## 4. FIXED ASSETS

	2009 €	2008 €
Cost/Valuation at 1 January	163,197	154,390
Additions in Year	5,100	8,838
Disposals	(7,801)	(31)
Balance at 31 December	160,496	163,197
Accumulated Depreciation	123,881	97,861
Charge for period	22,205	26,051
Disposals	(6,946)	(31)
Balance at 31 December	139,140	123,881
Net Book Value at 31 December	21,356	39,316

## 5a. FINANCIAL ASSETS

	NOTE	2009 €	2008 €
Equity Investments	5b	12,782,524	9,982,166
Loans	5b	7,160,543	6,494,372
Funds committed for investment		78,814	57,925
Balance available for reinvestment		35,001	92,176
		20,056,882	16,626,639

## 5b. EQUITY INVESTMENTS AND LOANS

	2009 €	2008 €
<b>Cost</b>		
Opening Value at 1 January	28,252,088	23,561,691
Additions	3,734,135	5,746,314
Disposals/Repayments/Write offs	(3,394,769)	(1,055,917)
Closing Cost at 31 December	28,591,454	28,252,088
<b>Provision for Diminution in Value</b>		
Opening Balance at 1 January	11,775,550	6,274,726
Movement in Provision	(3,127,163)	5,500,824
Closing Balance	8,648,387	11,775,550
<b>Closing Valuation at 31 December</b>	<b>19,943,067</b>	<b>16,476,538</b>
<b>Equity</b>	<b>12,782,524</b>	<b>9,982,166</b>
<b>Loans</b>	<b>7,160,543</b>	<b>6,494,372</b>
	<b>19,943,067</b>	<b>16,476,538</b>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Contd)

6. DEBTORS	2009 €	2008 €
Prepayments	5,809	8,503
NPP Grant Receivable	77,605	–
	<u>83,414</u>	<u>8,503</u>

7. CREDITORS	2009 €	2008 €
Accruals	125,426	242,229
	<u>125,426</u>	<u>242,229</u>

8. CAPITAL ACCOUNT	2009 €	2009 €	2008 €	2008 €
Balance at 1 January		39,316		56,529
Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account:				
Funds allocated to acquire Fixed Assets	5,000		8,838	
Loss on Disposals	(755)		–	
Amount amortised in line with asset depreciation	<u>(22,205)</u>		<u>(26,051)</u>	
		(17,960)		(17,213)
		<u>21,356</u>		<u>39,316</u>

The Commission disposed of assets for proceeds of €100 during the year and allocated a further €5,000 to acquire further Capital additions.

9. FUTURE COMMITMENTS	2009	2008
Opening Commitments	4,139,704	5,980,000
Approvals	2,236,150	3,906,018
Decommitments	(2,044,194)	–
Disbursals	(3,734,135)	(5,746,314)
Closing Commitments	<u>597,525</u>	<u>4,139,704</u>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Contd)

## 10. PENSION COSTS

### a) Pension Scheme

A defined benefit superannuation scheme applies to the staff of the Western Development Commission (WDC). Benefits are financed on a "pay-as-you-go" basis and there are no assets held in respect of the accrued pension liabilities of the WDC staff. The results set out below are based in an actuarial valuation of the liabilities in respect of WDC staff as at 31 December 2009. This valuation was carried out by a qualified independent actuary for the purposes of the accounting standard, **Financial Reporting Standard No. 17 - Retirement Benefits** (FRS 17).

The main financial assumptions used were:

	At 31/12/09	At 31/12/08	At 31/12/07
Discount Rate	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Rate of Expected Salary Increase	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%
Rate of Increase in Pension Payment	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%
Inflation	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%

### b) Net Deferred Funding for Pensions in year

	2009 €	2008 €
Funding recoverable in respect of current year pension costs	251,872	216,146
State Grant applied to pay pensions	-	-
	<u>251,872</u>	<u>216,146</u>

### c) Analysis of Total Pension Costs Charged to Expenditure

	2009 €	2008 €
Current Service Costs	210,000	190,000
Interest on Pension Scheme Liabilities	80,000	55,000
Employee Contributions	(38,128)	(28,854)
	<u>251,872</u>	<u>216,146</u>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Contd)

## e) Movement in Net Pension Liability During the Financial Year

	2009 €	2008 €
Net Pension Scheme Liability at 1 January	1,500,000	1,000,000
Current Service Cost	210,000	190,000
Interest Cost	80,000	55,000
Actuarial Loss/(Gain)	118,000	255,000
Benefits Paid in the Year	(8,000)	–
<b>Net Pension Liability at 31 December</b>	<b>1,900,000</b>	<b>1,500,000</b>

## f) History of scheme liabilities and experience losses/(gains)

	2009 €	2008 €	2007 €	2006 €
Amount	1,900,000	1,500,000	1,000,000	900,000

### Experience Losses/(Gains) on Scheme Liabilities

Amount	20,000	255,000	(115,000)	(125,000)
Percentage of the present value of the scheme liabilities	1%	17%	(11%)	(14%)

### Total Amount Recognised in Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses

Deferred pension funding represents the corresponding asset which will be recovered in future periods	118,000	255,000	(115,000)	(125,000)
Percentage of the present value of the scheme liabilities	6%	17%	(11%)	(14%)

## g) Average future life expectancy according to the mortality tables used to determine the pension liabilities

	2049 €	2029 €	2009 €	2008 €
<b>Average life expectancy used to determine liabilities</b>				
Male aged 65	22	22	22	18
Female aged 65	25	25	25	22

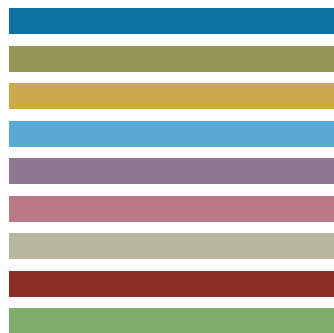
## 11. COMMISSION MEMBER'S INTERESTS

The commission adopted procedures in accordance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies in relation to the disclosure of interests by Commission members, and these procedures have been adhered to in the year.

## 12. BOARD APPROVAL

The Board of the Western Development Commission approved these Financial Statements on 19/10/2010





## ABBREVIATIONS



## ABBREVIATIONS

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CER	Commission for Energy Regulation
CSO	Central Statistics Office
FAP	Fund Advisory Panel
FTE	Full-time Equivalent
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
INTERREG	A European Union initiative for cross-border, transnational and inter-regional co-operation
NDP	National Development Plan
NIRSA	National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis
NSS	National Spatial Strategy
RASLRES	Regional Approach to Stimulating Local Renewable Energy Solutions
RDP	Rural Development Programme
SMEs	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
WDC	Western Development Commission
WIF	Western Investment Fund









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