

***Director's Report to  
the City Development Board  
18<sup>th</sup> November 2009***



***I wish to bring the following matters to the attention  
of the Board:***

**1. Update on the Cork City RAPID Programme**

***Community Safety***

- **Community Safety Forums** and Community Safety Units have met recently in each RAPID area with continued good attendance.

***Health:***

- The *Health Action Zones*, led by the HSE, continue to operate well with several practical on the ground actions being carried out with the support of local advisory groups e.g. walking groups, health checks, healthy eating courses etc.
- The RAPID/HSE leverage fund is managed by the HSE. Some of the local projects include community buses, meals on wheels etc. Most of the projects are being implemented while others have been delayed.

## ***Employment & Training Theme***

- The ReFocus Project training and employment project is a focused programme for 18 to 25 year olds. It is being rolled out in six parts of the city, including the four RAPID areas. It is a 'whole community' approach with all the relevant local agencies involved. The courses began in mid October.
- Additional FAS training places were allocated to each RAPID area. In Cork, a 14 week Exploring Your Options Programme will be run in each RAPID area.
- A new music course for young people in Knocknaheeny recently started, funded primarily by the Dept. of Social & Family Affairs.

## ***Physical Environment***

- The Lord Mayor, Cllr Dara Murphy, officially opened the new Gurrabraher/Churchfield Youth & Community Centre (the Hut) on Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Five tenants have recently taken occupancy of the new Knocknaheeny community building and are delivering services.
- The Lord Mayor, Cllr Dara Murphy, officially opened the new Cushing House Childcare Centre on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

## ***Education***

- The 3 Northside RAPID areas are working on a joint pilot project with Cork City Partnership whereby interactive whiteboards were recently installed in four schools, three national and one post primary. This is funded through the Dormant Accounts Fund.
- The 3 Northside RAPID areas are working with Junior Achievement on a new initiative with three post primary schools. It is called 'Enterprise Challenge' and focuses on the economic benefits of staying in school.

## 2. CORK CITY LEARNING FORUM

The Discovery Science event has just finished its 5<sup>th</sup> successful year. Workshops to schools were increased in 2009, in recognition of financial and supervision difficulties facing schools and families. These were rapidly allocated, and much enjoyed by the 1700+ students, who learned about the human body and space in 3D, built rockets to launch in the school yard, built robots to race each other and watched shows explaining the science of magic.

Two family sessions ran last weekend, welcoming up to 3,000 (capacity) to City Hall for the main interactive science exhibition. School groups then visited for the next two days, again filling City Hall to capacity.

Discovery in 2009 celebrated the International Year of Astronomy, Darwin 200 and Braille year. Prize winning entrants in several local and national competitions were displayed: Discover Sensors, the APC's Science Raps, Tyndall Science Snaps, and the Cork Chamber Schools Science Awards.

One very special event at Discovery this year is the Fusion Expo, a set of travelling exhibit pieces touring Europe explaining the high level research project EURATOM, in which UCC is a partner. This is sited in the Elysian building, and staffed by researchers in the field. **Members are welcome to visit this open day next Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup>.**

As in all areas of activity in the current climate, funding was a huge issue this year. The working budget for 2009 was approximately 40% down on that of two years ago. Running Discovery in the future will need to see funding returned to previous levels either from existing sponsors or in sourcing new channels. The event receives huge support from teachers and the general public indicating an appreciation of interactive science events in inspiring young people to investigate the sciences, along with an increasing understanding of the event as an innovative approach to support future recruitment into Cork high-tech businesses.

The School Completion brochure pack is still in the editing phase. Focus will return to this after the Discovery event.

The proposal for EU FP7 ICT funding has been submitted, and awaits a decision. This project will develop a location-based game to support the teaching of mathematical concepts. Partner groups in Sardinia, France, the Netherlands and Germany are involved.

### **3. Integrated Target Group Plan for Travellers**

#### ***Youth***

The youth sub committee meets regularly. Following on from the Traveller Youth Work project it recently agreed to establish a network of youth workers in the city that will focus on implementing the learning from the project.

The report on the youth work project is to be published shortly and the committee is looking to plan a high profile launch later this year.

#### ***Education and Childcare***

The education worker project is underway. Niamh Crudden, has been recruited to work with Traveller families to try to encourage children to stay in school to Junior Cert and beyond. This is being carried out in conjunction with a mentoring programme supported by UCC, CIT and Cork City Partnership. The Education sub group is meeting monthly to oversee and steer the management of the project

#### ***Enterprise/Training and Employment***

A grant of €186,000 has been approved by the FÁS Special Initiative to Travellers. Four traveler men are employed as general operatives following on from the completion of a FÁS Construction Skills course. It is intended that they will remain in employment with Cork City Council until October 2010.

#### ***Accommodation/Health***

The report on the co-ordination of services at Hollyhill Halting site has been published (Trotman Report). Two seminar days have been held with good attendance from all the stake holders at which an action plan is being developed for the co-ordination of services in Hollyhill. It is hoped that the AIT will be able to take a lead role in overseeing the actions arising out of the consultations. Details of how this might happen are being considered and will be put to the next meeting of the AIT.

#### **4. Service Needs of New Communities**

An application for funding has been made to the office of the Minister for Integration in respect of a number of projects identified by the steering committee of Cork City Integration strategy. No decision has been notified to us yet.

#### **5. Cork City Marathon 7<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

Preparations for Cork City Marathon 2010 are underway, again organised by Cork City Council, with the Cork County Board of the Athletics Association of Ireland, the Cork Business Houses Athletics Association, an Garda Síochána and the Health Services Executive with the assistance of several other statutory and voluntary groups and over 300 individual volunteers. The ongoing support of the Business community and the Cork public is anticipated to ensure the growing success of this event.

The 2009 title sponsor, Bord Gáis Energy, has already committed to the 2010 marathon, which will be officially launched in December. With support from BGE we hope to raise the local, national and international profile of the marathon, enticing more participation from home and abroad.

As in previous years, the organisers will put several measures in place to promote social inclusion. An important aspect of that promotion will be to focus on newly unemployed people in and around Cork City. Health, fitness and moderate exercise will be encouraged through the Team Relay Event. We hope to work closely with LeisureWorld Cork again to offer affordable training schemes for potential participants.

Despite a substantial decline in sponsorship in 2009, significant savings were made to bring the event in on budget. We will seek to increase the numbers again for 2010 and to achieve further savings through vigilant management of the 2010 budget. Overall participation has increased rapidly in the three years of this event, and the support of Bord Gáis Energy as title sponsor has helped ensure the viability and success of the Race as we look forward to June 7<sup>th</sup> 2010.

## **6. Cork Common Ground Project**

The Board is continuing efforts to progress this initiative. It is considering a number of possible locations in which to set up. Inspections and site visits are underway.

## **7. Marketing of the Cork Region**

Staff are participating in the various projects of the Cork Marketing Partnership including the Convention Bureau and Cork City Cares.

An Economic Marketing Plan for the region has been prepared and is being presented to the various stakeholders for consideration.

## **9. Connect Cork**

Connect Cork Winter courses have begun in the City Libraries.

## **10. Report on Work of the Gay & Lesbian Steering Group**

The L.G.B. steering group is coordinating a two pronged awareness campaign. The first will include the development of a brochure highlighting the resources available from the Cork Gay Mens Project and LinC. This campaign will also include a poster campaign.

The second will involve the development of a document to be distributed to staff, with responsibility for putting annual reports together, to guide them in how to specifically highlight where services are being accessed by the gay and lesbian communities.

## **11. Local Sports Partnership**

A Presentation will be made to the Board regarding future structures for the City and County Partnerships.

## **12. Project ReFocus**

Under the chairmanship of Mr. Athony Dinan. The City wide Steering Group has met on several occasions to clarify the work programme and support the implementation of the workplan. A revised budget and funding arrangement has been approved. Partner agencies have committed to supporting the programme as far as possible. The six local task groups have been meeting and the course is being started in each of the areas.

The process of engaging with private sector employers is ongoing.

## **13. Comhairle na nÓg**

An application for funding from the OMCYA is still under consideration. Any grant aid will focus on the development of an interagency steering group, the establishment of links to decision making bodies and steps to recruit young people from seldom heard and hard to reach groupings.

The Comhairle na nÓg co-ordinator will be contacting each of the agencies to enquire what decision making groups exist in their agencies and to identify the key staff working with young people.

The Comhairle na nÓg AGM will take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December. It is hoped that the numbers attending will be larger this year.

## **14. The Conversation on Democracy in Ireland**

The Conversation on Democracy in Ireland Project is

- an initiative of... **the Jesuits in Ireland**
- to promote..... **a more reflective and effective democracy**
- by inviting...
  - **citizens**
  - **politicians**
  - **public servants**
  
- to reflect together..... **on public life**
- with a view to..... **creating insights**
- to be made accessible... **for wider discussion and debate**

Local Juries were set up in Cork, Dublin, Louth and Galway.

The twelve members of each Jury include 4 elected representatives, 4 appointed public officials and 4 leaders in the community and voluntary sector.

In Phase 1 of the project (January to May 2009), each Local Jury met on three occasions.

A national Review Day was held at Farmleigh House, Phoenix Park in Dublin on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2009 where the four Local Juries came together, along with the Council for the Conversation on Democracy, to discuss their experience of the Project to date and to share insights.

Phase 2 of the project has commenced and it is intended that the four Juries will hold three further sessions each. In the second phase of the Project, the juries are being asked to change their focus. With this in mind, the Facilitators are inviting each of the Juries to consider the following three questions:

- Any insights?
- What has been achieved?
- How can this process be continued?

The Cork Local Jury met on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2009 and 9<sup>th</sup> November 2009. The next meeting of the Cork Local Jury will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

## **15. Cork City Joint Policing Committee**

Cllr. Patricia Gosch has been elected Chair of the new Cork City Joint Policing Committee. Guidelines for Local Policing Fora have been received and will be brought to the next meeting of the Joint Policing Committee.

***Jim O'Donovan***

*Director  
City Development Board*

*18<sup>th</sup> November 2009*