

***Director's Report to
the City Development Board
20th April 2011***



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

1. Update on the Cork City RAPID Programme

Local Programme Update:

Community Safety

- Community Safety Fora and Community Safety Units continue to meet and respond to local issues
- Focus on specific anti-social behaviour hotspots through interagency initiatives
- District Policing Fora Management Committees have now been established in all Garda districts. These will liaise with and report to the Joint Policing Committee.

Physical Environment

- Funding was received from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government for a number of local initiatives:
 - The development of a community garden
 - The refurbishment of Terence Mc Swiney sports hall
 - The development of sports pitches

- The City Council has developed a partnership with the probation service to remove graffiti in the RAPID areas and this is having a significant impact on the local areas.

Education

- The One Book One Community scheme has been launched again this year on the north-side by Home School Community Liaison teachers. This year's book is "The Firework Maker's Daughter." Events showcasing the project took place during the 8th Cork Lifelong Learning Project (April 11 – 17).
- An application has been made through Cork City Partnership to the National Early Years Access Initiative for an early learning and language development project in the Mayfield/the Glen RAPID area. This has proved successful, receiving €400,000 over three years. This will be matched by a local private donor.

Youth

- Following meetings between representatives of Munster Rugby, Cork City Council, Cork Sports Partnership, FÁS and RAPID, the successful Knocknaheeny rugby initiative will be expanded across the northside.

Family Support

- The 'Strengthening Families Programme' has proved to be very effective and is currently being rolled out in Mayfield. This is funded by the HSE Drug & Alcohol Service.

Employment & Training

- The main focus is on Project ReFocus. This has proved very successful to date and new groups have been recruited in each area. Phase 2 has begun and the participants will be going on work experience shortly.
- FÁS in conjunction with Munster Rugby are running a rugby coaching course focused on the RAPID areas.

Health

- The Health Action Zones continue to operate at a local level with various initiatives such as health checks, walking groups etc. A new HAZ worker has been appointed to work on the north-side.
- The 'Friendly Call' service is currently being expanded across the northside. This free service provides a call Monday to Friday to people who are socially or emotionally vulnerable.

2. CORK CITY LEARNING FORUM

The **Cork Lifelong Learning Festival** ran this year from the 11th to the 17th April. It was the eighth year of the festival, which continues to expand and to achieve its aim of celebrating and showcasing learning opportunities across all ages, interests and abilities.

The President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, officially opened the festival at Ringmahon House on Monday April 11. The venue was chosen because it's owned by Cork City Council & leased by City of Cork VEC, the two main organisations behind the festival. Ringmahon House a Youthreach project, and residents in sheltered housing in its grounds use the house for recreation, interacting with the young people – a great example of lifelong learning.

This year's programme included almost 400 events – all free – which took place across the city, with satellite events in Youghal, Ballincollig, Carrigaline. As usual 18,000 copies of the printed version were distributed and the complete programme could also be downloaded from www.corkcity.ie and www.corkvec.ie

The Evening Echo & 96FM were media sponsors again.

€13,000 of the €25,000 additional sponsorship needed after contributions from CCVEC was secured from FETAC, CIT and new funders the Higher Education Authority (HEA), the National Association of Principals and Deputies (NAPD) & Blacknight Solutions before the festival began. It is hoped that sponsorship from O'Callaghan Properties & UCC will also be received.

The Lifelong Learning Festival has a growing relationship with Belfast's Féile an Phobail, which runs three festivals annually. Their Féile an Earraigh (3-6th February) hosted three events from Cork, and visitors from Belfast took part in this year's Lifelong Learning Festival. Reciprocal visits will continue.

The Cork Lifelong Learning Festival has twinned with the Hume Global Learning Village in Melbourne, Australia – where the Co-ordinator gave a presentation earlier this year. As a result the festival was invited to join a new worldwide initiative, PASCAL International Exchanges (PIE), linking Cities of Learning. As part of this project Cork is now one of nine cities across the globe sharing ideas and best practice on initiatives for learning in their areas. (Other members include Vancouver, Glasgow, Bari, Hong Kong).

An EU project is also under consideration, which would use the Cork Lifelong Learning Festival as a prototype – recognising the festival is unique in Europe – the only event of its kind catering for all ages and which, since its inception has been inclusive.

The **Discovery** Science Festival report has been completed and will be forwarded to all major stakeholders following approval by the organising committee. A short video of the event appears on www.corkcity.ie/discovery. Funding applications are being prepared for the 2011 event and for broadening the impact of the International Year of Chemistry (IYC) project begun for the 2010 event. Subject to the engagement of key corporates and science communication event organisers, the IYC project will be featured in national events in 2011 and 2012.

A 5-year review of Discovery is in progress.

Cork Science Café on April 1, themed for April Fool's Day, heard from Prof. William Reville (Assoc. Professor of Biochemistry, UCC, Irish Times columnist and UCC's public understanding of Science Officer) and Colm Ryan (Cork Skeptics) on the subject of misleading and fraudulent claims in science, while the lecture and workshops on the night dealt with illusions and mythology.

The 2011 Engineers Ireland STEM communication conference will be held in Cork on June 23. Collaboration among Cork science communication groups, particularly with respect to Discovery, will be the focus of the Best Practise presentation at the event.

The Advisory Council for Science, Technology and Innovation, supported by Forfás, has been asked by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Innovation (DETI) to lead a national consultation process which will result in a position paper on Framework Programmes for Research and

Technological Development in advance of Eighth Framework Programme 2014-2020 and the Common Strategic Framework for Research and Innovation. As a partner in the Forfás Discover Science and Engineering programmes, Discovery has been invited to comment on the draft response.

3. Cork City Inter Agency Services Plan for Travellers

The interagency Education sub group recently launched '**Guidelines for Mentoring Traveller Students in Post Primary Schools**'. The guidelines are a pack produced for schools that would intend to provide mentoring to Traveller students. The publishing of the guidelines is timely in light of the decision of the Department of Education to integrate Traveller Education into mainstream schools.

The Lord Mayor is awaiting a formal response from the Minister for Education Mr. Ruairí Quinn to his letter relating to the withdrawal of specific Traveller education resources.

4. Service Needs of New Communities

Going Forward

Following its review of the Cork City Integration Strategy the CCIS Monitoring Group believes that it is now time to develop new actions in the City to further promote integration to include in a new Cork City Integration Strategy for 2012 – 2014. It is expected that the Group will have developed the new Strategy between now and the first quarter 2012.

The new Strategy will be informed by the information gained from the mid-term review processes. It is intended to develop a number of areas requiring action going forward and to meet with service providers and other organizations in Cork City to develop these into definite actions for the next Strategy.

**In summary there are definite themes emerging from our review.
These include:**

- The need for more activities to promote integration and to combat racism in Cork City, such as parades, celebrations, local community activities and inter-faith events.
- That local media needs to be more culturally inclusive plus there needs to be a commitment in the City to challenge racist and negative media coverage.
- The need to commit to intercultural awareness in Cork City, such as good practice on anti-racism and diversity. These good practices need to become the norm in organizations.
- The continued demand for English language classes.
- The need for improved reporting of racist incidents.
- The need to raise awareness about Ireland's equality laws.
- The need to safeguard equal access of employment for ethnic minority and immigrant groups.

5. Cork City Marathon 6th June 2011

Preparations are now at an advanced stage for the 2011 Bord Gáis Energy Cork City Marathon on Bank Holiday Monday 6th June. A month out from the closing date, the number of participants is already up on 2010. There was tremendous enthusiasm for the newly introduced Half Marathon, and we could probably have filled upwards of 2,000 places. However, it was felt that in year one it would be prudent to restrict the numbers participating in order to manage the event successfully. A cap of 1,000 was imposed at the end of April and the event is now full.

The Cork Marathon is now a fully certified International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) course, raising the status and international profile of the event. IAAF certification establishes the Cork Marathon as a qualifying course for the most prestigious marathons in the World.

The Team Relay remains central to the development of our marathon. As an ideal event to encourage moderate exercise and a healthier lifestyle, the relay has also been central to our social inclusion ambitions. We've seen a small but steady growth in participation from the RAPID areas and organisations and from the Health Action Zones.

This year, we've widely publicised the availability of concession fees for welfare recipients. While the uptake for concessions in 2010 was small (c. 1% for the marathon; 3% for the team relay), it was noticeably up on the previous year. To date, over 6% of 2011 marathon entry fees have been

concessions and 2% of the half marathon. The vast majority of these concessions were for those in receipt of job-seekers benefit, with a small number of fulltime students and pensioners also paying concession fees. The Cork Marathon remains the only event of its kind in Ireland to offer concession fees for welfare recipients (50% of the full entry fee).

We don't have an associated charity for the 2011 event. Instead, we are assisting a wide range of charities in their fund-raising efforts by posting information and contact details on our website www.corkcitymarathon.ie. Though not compulsory, participants are encouraged to fundraise for a charity of their choice.

6. Cork Commonground Project

The Board of Cork Commonground Ltd. has been offered the use of part of the North Mon building. The Board intends to take up this offer. The City Council is carrying out work to protect the envelope of the building. It is hoped this work will start shortly. The Commonground board is putting together a design specification for the internal fit out and is considering how the service needs of the various users can be addressed. There will be a significant fund raising requirement to be considered by the board.

7. Report on Work of the Gay & Lesbian Steering Group

“The gay, lesbian and bisexual communities will be enabled to fully participate in the social, cultural and economic life of Cork City”
(Objective 86 of Imagine Our Future).

The sub group is arranging a gay and lesbian awareness week from the 13th to the 22nd of May. The purpose of the week is to raise awareness of the existence of gay and lesbian people in the community. A number of events will be organised to highlight issues for gay and lesbian people in the community and in the workplace.

The launch of the Awareness week will take place on the 17th of May, Idaho day, the international day against homophobia. It is hoped that the board members will be in a position to offer the support of your organisations for this event.

8. Project ReFocus

A further phase of Project ReFocus is underway. The local task groups are continuing to meet and to support the participants and the mentors. The city wide group has been changed and new members added and is reviewing its role and functions.

9. The Conversation on Democracy in Ireland

A draft final report dated 7th May 2010 on the Conversation on Democracy in Ireland Project was drafted by Edmond Grace, SJ. Following Edmond Grace's presentation to the Cork City Development Board on 16th June 2010, he advised us that he is currently working on developing a marketing strategy with a view to a public launch for the Conversation on Democracy. In doing this we will be responding to the sentiment of the Final Plenary Review of the Local Democracy Project which took place last March in Dublin City Library, Pearse St. At that meeting there was general agreement that the process of the Conversation on Democracy was timely and needed to be developed in a manner which reached as wide a network of citizens as possible.

On 6th April 2011, Edmond Grace attended a meeting in Cork to discuss the future development of the project. Plans are underway to progress same under the new name called "**People Talk**". We are currently awaiting further information on these developments.

10. Cork City Joint Policing Committee

The joint Policing Committee met in committee on 7th February 2011 to consider and agree its workplan for 2011. Arrangements for setting up the District Local Policing Fora management committees have been completed and first meetings have been held.

11. Comhairle na nÓg

The Comhairle na nÓg group has chosen to carry out research among their peers on the type of youth space young people would want. The choice of this theme arises from the AGM in December where recreational spaces and the availability of alternatives to drugs and alcohol were considered. It is intended that the research will be contained in a leaflet to assist service providers when planning youth spaces, particularly in the City Centre.

The group intends to showcase their work in June and will continue its deliberations in the autumn if necessary.

12. Healthy Cities

Work continues on the development of a City Health profile. This work is being led by the Health Promotion Department of the HSE with considerable support from UCC, Niche and other HSE sections as well as City Council. The next step, later in the year or early next year, will be to engage the community in an health needs assessment with a view to developing the first health plan for the city. Key stakeholders will be invited to contribute. Board members are encouraged to make the resources of their organizations available for this assessment when the time comes.

13. Music as a Tool for Social Inclusion

The process of establishing a Music Education Partnership has progressed. A task group has been working since December 2010 on developing the application for the U2 and Ireland funds National Music Education Programme. An extensive programme of research and planning has been finished and the application for funding has been submitted to the national Music Network and is being considered .

14. Community Participation (Making it work in Cork)

The toolkits for Community Consultation and Community representation have been launched by Mr. Pat Carey, TD, Minister for Community Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs. These toolkits provide valuable information in an easily read format for community groups and their representatives.

The committee will continue to oversee the delivery of the other areas.

Below is a summary of the activities proposed:

A community website has been developed which will be managed by the Cork Volunteer Centre in conjunction with Cork City Partnership.

A programme to support community associations situated outside of Rapid areas will be developed. It is intended that the Community Associations Network will be revived. Community & Enterprise will lead this process.

15. LAPSIS and Social Inclusion Strategy

The European Anti Poverty network (EAPN) research project on social exclusion is progressing and it is hoped to present draft documents to an early meeting of the City monitoring group.

Jim O'Donovan

Director

City Development Board

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