

## Report to Cork City Development Board

**Jim O Donovan**  
**Director**  
**April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2006**

I wish to bring the following items to the notice of the Board:

### 1. **RAPID Programme (Dormant Accounts)**

Proposals have been submitted for Dormant Accounts Additionality Funding from the four RAPID areas in Cork City. These submissions have been identified as priorities and endorsed by the respective AITs. The deadline for applications was the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006. All projects will be appraised nationally by Pobal in accordance with the established guidelines.

#### **Project Submissions**

##### **Farranree/Fairhill/Gurranabraher**

<b>Project No.</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Capital Spend</b>	<b>Revenue Spend</b>
CKFG604	Feasibility Study into Bridevalley Park Community Facility		€30,000
CKFG605	Fencing at the Fairfield	€195,000	
CKFG606	Sunvalley Drive/Sprigg's Road Inter-Agency Group		€15,000
CKFG607	Cushing Place/Cushing Road Integrated Workplan		€30,000
CKFG608	Extension of Health Action Zone		€20,000
CKFG609	Sports Access Fund		€10,000

**Mayfield/ The Glen/Blackpool**

<b>Project No.</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Capital</b>
CKBG611	Sports Development Officer - Glen Resource & Sports Centre	€60,000	
CKBG08	Blackpool Community Development Work Programme	€40,000	
CKBG57c	Refurbishment of Kerrigan Tyrell Youth Centre		€90,000
CKBG12	Refurbishment of Our Lady Crowned Social Services Centre, Mayfield		€100,000
CKBG14	Sports Access Project	€10,000	

**Togher/Mahon**

<b>Project No.</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Capital</b>
CKTM 612	Targeted Action for Children in Togher Building Project		€230,000
CKTM 613	Togher Boys & Girls Pre School Project		€70,000

**Knocknaheeny/Churchfield**

<b>Project No.</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Capital Spend</b>	<b>Revenue Spend</b>
CKKC608	Cork Anti Poverty Resource Network	€37,802	€8000
CKKC609	Before Five Centre	€41,691	
CKKC045	St Mary's Senior Citizens Centre	€80,000	€50,000
CKKC610	Gurrabraher/Churchfield Youth Development Project	€3,300	
CKKC020	Barnardos		€60,000
CKKC611	Sports Access Fund		€20,000

## **2. Learning Forum**

The third Lifelong Learning Festival has had another very successful run this year, with over 150 events spanning a full week. The Festival was officially opened by the Governor of Mountjoy, John Lonergan, in Cork City Gaol. The programme for this year included a greater number of events that concentrated on the physical aspects of learning such as health education and sports activities.

The 'Learning Bus' visited various areas of the city during the week, providing computer training courtesy of the Connect Cork initiative.

The Learning Forum is currently seeking funding for the '*Discovery 2006*' Science and Technology Exhibition, which is to be held in November. This three-day event will coincide with National Science Week and has adopted 'Science at Work' as its theme. It is planned to have practical and wide-ranging inputs from local industries, careers information and curriculum links within the event, so that young people attending can see that choosing science subjects can lead to interesting careers in the science, engineering and technology fields in the Cork area. The continuing support of Discover Science and Engineering has been sought, and local industries are now being approached.

In addition, the Forum has begun looking at the area of pupil retention at secondary school level. A mapping exercise has begun and the Steering group will decide what value the Learning Forum can add once information has been gathered from all relevant stakeholders.

Finally, the national profile of the Cork City Learning Forum is also increasing. The Forum has recently been cited in a document on Access to Higher Education, '*Progressing the Plan*', published by the Higher Education Authority and has also been invited to speak at the inaugural meeting of a similar group in Clonmel.

## **3. Integrated Target Group Plan for Children aged 0-5 in Disadvantaged Urban Areas**

The integrated target group plan for "Children aged 0-5 in Disadvantaged Urban Areas" was approved by the Cork City Development Board at the end of 2004. Following this it was sent to the Dept of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs for its consideration.

Although the plan included detailed costings only limited additional resources have so far been secured (€10,000 from this years Improved Local Cohesion Fund). While it has been possible to progress some actions through the use of existing resources, other actions are dependent on receiving additional funding.

A meeting of the lead agencies will be convened in May to review progress on the strategy to date. This meeting will also consider how to progress actions for which no funding has been secured.

#### **4. Traveller Integrated Target Group Plan**

Four priority areas have been agreed by the steering group for inclusion in the strategy;

1. Education
2. Accommodation/Health
3. Enterprise/Training/Employment
4. Youth

A detailed range of actions have been agreed under the youth and accommodation/health headings.

Further consultation with the target group was necessary before education and enterprise/training/employment actions were finalised. The view of the Steering Group is that until all actions have been agreed, the plan should not be forwarded to the Dept of Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

This consultation is now complete. The two relevant working groups are currently developing actions for inclusion in the strategy. Once actions in these areas have been agreed the Steering Group will be re-convened to approve the final strategy.

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

The increasing number of people from other countries living in Cork poses new challenges for service providers to meet their needs. Individual service providers are developing initiatives to support these new communities (e.g. Cork City Partnership's asylum seeker support service and support for new immigrant-led groups, the HSE's Ethnic Minority Health Forum).

Furthermore, the CDB structure can facilitate a more integrated approach to meeting the service needs of new communities. A study of the situation and needs of people with refugee status or leave to remain in Cork, commissioned by the Reception and Integration Agency, will be completed shortly by UCC. The findings will be presented to the CDB and form the basis of an action plan to support the integration of this group of newcomers to Cork City.

Service providers meet with immigrant groups on a monthly basis through the Cork Networking Committee (CNC) and support projects such as the 2005 Soccer World Cup, website, newsletter etc. The Newcomer's Guide to Cork was published in late 2004 in English, French, Russian and Romanian. This will shortly be available in Polish.

## **6. C4 Centre**

C4 Centre, previously known as Commonground, is a project to develop a resource centre and accommodation centre for the Cork Voluntary and Community Sector. Cork City Council and the Health Services Executive have joined with the Sexual Health Centre, the Disability Federation of Ireland and the Social and Health Education Project to develop this accommodation. The group has recently established itself as a limited company and is registered as 'C4 Centre Ltd'.

The project has been included in Cork City Council's Capital Work Programme for 2005. Plans envisage a development that will provide office accommodation of varying sizes, meeting rooms, a conference facility, a canteen/cafe and a resource centre. The canteen/cafe and resource centre, which will provide internet access, will be open to the public.

Previous reports were made on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2002 and 11<sup>th</sup> June 2003 to the City Development Board. The first outlined the Commonground proposal and its objectives; and the second reported on the sample survey results and requested a letter supporting the formal application for a building to house the project.

Following these reports, the City Manager offered the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors of the Fire Station subsequent to the relocation of the Housing Directorate to the new Civic Office offices. The group is currently in discussion with Cork City Council regarding this space. Funding of €9,000 was received under 'Improved Local Cohesion' in 2005 and €200,000 was also received from the Health Services Executive.

## **7. Improved Local Cohesion**

A meeting of the steering group established to co-ordinate improved local cohesion was held on in the Ambassador Hotel on the 24th March, it was attended by representatives from each of the CDPs, Cork Local Drugs Task Force, RAPID AITs, Cork City Partnership and Cork City Council. It was agreed to extend the group to include Community Associations.

Arising from this meeting it was decided that a facilitated workshop would be organised to allow the steering group to develop a shared vision of the issues to be addressed in the context of improved local cohesion.

This session will also focus on preparing a brief for consultants to carry out a review of community participation structures, using the monies secured from the Improved Local Cohesion Fund.

## **8. Improved Access to School Facilities**

Schools offer a potentially valuable resource for the community in which they are located (e.g. space for meetings/events and leisure/recreational facilities). However barriers such as insurance and caretakers mean that this resource is not always utilised to its full potential.

The City Development Board in co-operation with the Dept of Education (regional office), school principals and community groups has undertaken to explore ways to improve access to schools outside normal hours. Thirteen schools responded to a letter from the CDB, which was sent to all primary and post primary schools in the city, enquiring about current practice – each provided details of the way in which they made the school available to local groups and the difficulties involved. The next steps are to convene a meeting of those who responded, to share information about the different approaches taken and develop an action plan on how to promote access to school facilities outside of normal hours.

## **9. Resource Centre for Youth Work, Cork City & County**

The development of a Youth Resource Centre was prioritised as one of the aims of the City Development Board in the review of its Strategy. This centre will provide a shared facility for the delivery of identified training to youth groups in the city and county and will enhance local cohesion among youth service providers. A number of recommendations were made following a feasibility study carried out by Exodea Europe Consulting. It is envisaged that this centre will become a flagship project for the youth sector and support the ongoing role of both volunteers and professionals working in this field.

Work to progress this project is being advanced through a sub group which represents the various youth organisations in the city and county. Work is continuing on the design of a presentation which will provide a clear overview of the youth work sector and outline the need for the development of a youth resource centre to coordinate and facilitate delivery of quality support and training programmes. A number of potential development sites have been identified and are currently being investigated by a site group. The issue of funding will be explored further by the group and discussed at the next meeting.

## **10. Gender Equality**

Alison Leo, Cork City Partnership will make a presentation on ‘Women in Focus’.

**11. Gay and Lesbian Bisexual Steering Group**

“Towards Objective 86”, a service needs analysis of the Cork City, Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Community was launched in June '05.

The GLB Steering group agreed a one year action plan based on the recommendations in this report. Two issues were prioritised; awareness raising and equality training. Working groups were set up to progress actions in both these areas. A campaign to highlight discrimination experienced by the target communities is currently being developed by these groups.

**12. Linkages and Information sharing processes between the Development Board and HSE Regional Committee and Interagency Fora**

Rebecca Loughry will provide an update at the meeting.

**JIM O'DONOVAN  
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CORK CITY COUNCIL**

**APRIL 3<sup>rd</sup> 2006**