

## Report to Cork City Development Board

**Jim O Donovan**  
**Director**  
**8<sup>th</sup> February 2006**

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

- a) **Comhairle na nÓg:** The City and County Development Boards are responsible for the implementation of the National Children's Strategy at a local level. The first goal of this strategy is that children will have a voice in matters which affect them and that their views will be given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity. The main mechanism by which this is achieved is through the Comhairle na nÓg, which each Development Board is expected to arrange in their area. The purpose of this event is to:

- Consult with children on issues of local and national importance
- Ensure that children are given a voice in issues that affect them
- Select representatives to attend Dail na nÓg.

This years Comhairle will be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February. This will be the fourth Comhairle organized by the CDB and, as with the previous two years, the event will be supported by Ógra Chorcaí. A full report on proceedings will be circulated at the next Board meeting.

- b) **Connect Cork Phase 2:** Phase 2 of the Cork City ICT Plan entitled Connect Cork is currently under preparation. Consultants are due to be re-appointed for phase 2 in the coming weeks. The objectives of the Cork ICT Plan are:

- To advance Cork's ICT environment to assure the city's future competitiveness;
- To position Cork as a truly e-enabled city
- To increase ICT usage in businesses, particularly the SME market
- To improve general level of ICT skills across the community
- To educate non-users of ICT as to the benefits of using the internet.

There are three aspects planned for Phase 2:

- Further development of the Connect Cork website which has been receiving a daily visit of 137 visits on average;
- a Mobile Learning Bus to bring training and awareness of ICT benefits into the community; and
- Further events and activities (following sponsorship feedback).

- c) **Lord Mayor's Community and Voluntary Awards:** This year's event is due to be launched on the 24<sup>th</sup> February. The purpose of the event is to acknowledge groups who, through their commitment to voluntary and community activities, have had a significant role in enhancing the quality of life of their communities in Cork City. The awards will be open to all groups in Cork City. The awards ceremony will be held in April.

- d) **Dormant Accounts:** The Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs has announced a new round of Dormant Accounts Funding for 2006. Under this round, €24 million has been earmarked for programmes and projects dealing with social and economic disadvantage. Of this figure, €1.5 million has been ring-fenced for priority projects put forward by RAPID AITs. Pobal will carry out the preliminary appraisal process for this funding measure on behalf of the Department.

Under this measure, €300,000 is being made available to each of the 25 RAPID Strand 1 areas. In order to assist in the allocation of this funding, AITs are requested to submit a list of their priority projects up to a total value of €300,000. In addition, they are requested to ensure that the value of proposals submitted should comprise at least 50% capital funding.

All proposals will be assessed against the assessment criteria as set out in the General Guidelines. It will be the responsibility of the RAPID AIT to endorse each proposal submitted confirming that the project is a priority in its plans and that there is clear evidence of need for the project. AITs will also be required to certify how each proposal submitted demonstrates additionality and to confirm that the project is unlikely to proceed without funding from the Dormant Accounts Fund.

- e) **Tracking System:** The online City Development Board action tracking system (<https://cdb.lgcsb.ie/>) is live and contains details of all the actions in “Imagine Our Future”. The site can be searched by Theme, Objective, Goal, agency (or user within an agency) responsible for the action, status (complete, underway, etc.), etc.

In light of the review of “Imagine Our Future”, training in use of the system is to be postponed; this will enable the system administrators to update the online database and to review its application in the context of the reviewed strategy.

- f) **Cork Lifelong Learning Festival 2006:** Plans are underway for the third annual Cork Lifelong Learning Festival, which takes place from Monday 3 to Sunday 9 April 2006. As in previous years the festival will involve a wide variety of learning providers – from early childhood learning to third level, community education networks to arts and sports. Festival patron the Lord Mayor of Cork Cllr Deirdre Clune hosted a reception on 26 January last to thank all those who organised events in the 2005 festival and to launch the 2006 festival. The festival is supported by the City of Cork VEC, Cork City Council, FETAC, Evening Echo and others.