

Report to Cork City Development Board

Patrick Ledwidge
Director
9th November 2005

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

- a) **Connect Cork - Cork City Council's ICT Plan for 2005:** three main Connect Cork events have been held so far - technology for business; wireless and mobile technology; and technology for education. These events have been targeted at schools and the SME sector. The results of the Business Makeover Competition will be announced on November 10th in the City Hall. Schools competitions are currently underway also.

In 2006, Connect Cork will operate a mobile learning bus demonstrating ICT to communities and SMEs. It is also hoped to develop the ICT Village, which is one of the City Council's Cork 2005 Capital Projects.

Further details are on the website: www.connectcork.ie This website averaged 137 visits per day in October last.

- b) **Endorsement of Community and Local Development Agency Plans:** Circular Letter LG 20/25 has been issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government requesting the Endorsement Process for 2006 to commence. Letters will be issued next week to the relevant Community and Local Development Agencies in Cork City. The Endorsement Process for 2006 will be aligned with the proposals developed under Improved Local Cohesion.
- c) **Race Against Waste:** Circular Letter LG 20/25 has been issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government inviting Development Boards to participate in this campaign. I recommend this action be implemented through the RAPID Area Implementation Teams who have all identified this topic as an issue in their respective areas.
- d) **Survey of Refugees and Persons with Leave to Remain currently living in Cork City:** Following a presentation to the Cork City Development Board in April 2005 by the Reception and Integration Agency (RIA), the Board agreed to work with RIA on a needs assessment project for refugees and "those with leave to remain" in Cork City. A public tender process in the summer RIA awarded a research contract to Piaras McEinri and Liam Coakley at UCC, Dept of Geography.

The primary objectives of the survey are:

1. With regard to refugees and persons with leave to remain living in Cork City and in relation to a range of headings which include housing, health, education and employment;
 - to identify their current socio-economic circumstances
 - to identify their views of their integration needs

2. With regard to service providers on Cork City Development Board dealing with this particular client base
 - to assess the current levels of services provided
 - to establish their perception of client needs and their plans to meet those needs
3. To present the overall findings of the survey in such a manner as to facilitate the development of appropriate strategies for addressing the integration needs of the client base. The results of the survey will be presented to the Cork City Development Board (Phase 3) and used by them as an action plan under their direction to deliver integration services for this specific client group.

Interviews with members of the target group are currently underway and should be completed by mid December 2005. "Service Needs of New Communities" is one of the priority actions identified in the Review of "Imagine Our Future".

- e) **Young Citizen Award to recognise Active Citizenship:** this award scheme has been endorsed by the President of Ireland and is aimed at young people aged 12-25 who are involved in their local communities through active citizenship projects such as environmental work, caring for people with special needs or affirming diversity. The scheme has been established to mark the European Year of Active Citizenship Through Education.

The Young Citizen Award is organised in conjunction with Citizenship2005 - the Department of Education & Science and Development Co-operation Ireland. It is supported by County and City Development Boards who will co-ordinate the local gathering and assessment of applications.

The closing date for applications is Monday 19th December 2005. Information sheets and application forms can be downloaded from www.president.ie or contact Michael O'Brien @ 0214924596 or email michael_tobrien@corkcity.ie for more information.

- f) **Progress Report Traveller Integrated Plan:** All agencies and relevant community groups were requested in September to outline their current range of Traveller-specific services, to identify gaps in service provision and to make recommendations for collaborative actions. A meeting of these organisations was held on the 25th of October in the Clarion Hotel to agree priority themes/actions based on responses to the above letter.

Four priority groups were agreed - Formal Education, Enterprise/Training Employment, Accommodation/Health and Traveller Youth. Working groups were established to develop actions under each of these themes and to report back by the 11th of November next.

- g) **RAPID Programme:** projects selected by the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism under the National Lottery-funded 2005 Sports Capital Programme were announced in July. The Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs has now allocated up to 30% top-up funding to successful RAPID projects that were endorsed by the RAPID Area Implementation Teams. This top-up funding is subject to overall public funding not exceeding 80% of project cost or the amount originally requested by the organisation. The projects that benefited in Cork City are set out overleaf.

Strand I RAPID Areas	Applicant	Dept. of Arts, Sport & Tourism Grant	Top-Up Funding	TOTAL FUNDING
Blackpool / The Glen / Mayfield	Mayfield United AFC	€160,000	€48,000	€208,000
Fairhill / Gurranebraher / Farranee	Na Piarasigh Hurling and Football Club	€300,000	€90,000	€390,000
Knocknaheeny / Churchfield	St. Vincent's Hurling and Football Club	€100,000	€30,000	€130,000
Togher/Mahon	Cork City Council - Cork Parks Tennis	€50,000	€15,000	€65,000
	Cumann Peile Michil Naofa	€200,000	€60,000	€260,000
	St. Finbarr's National Hurling and Football Club	€120,000	€36,000	€156,000
Total		€930,000	€279,000	€1,209,000