

Directors report to The City Development Board

12th February 2008

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

1 Update on the Cork City RAPID Programme

RAPID is now focused to deliver increased investment and improved public services under seven strategic themes, which are: -

- Community safety and Anti-social Behaviour
- Health
- Family Support
- Youth Support
- Physical environment
- Education
- Employment and Training

The National Monitoring Committee is expected to launch three of these themes in January 2008 with a view to each RAPID area producing a local strategy for each of those three themes by April 2008. These first three themes are – Community Safety and anti-social behaviour, Health and Family Support.

Cork City RAPID AIT's, due to the commitment of partners locally, have already made significant progress in some of the themed areas, through both new investment and service integration projects. For example: -

(a) Community Safety and Anti-social Behaviour:

- A RAPID-wide Community Action Plan was produced in 2007 and progress has already been made through the establishment of community safety units in each RAPID area, establishment of public safety forums in some areas and proposed roll out across the RAPID areas,
- City Council has secured funding through the Sustainable Communities Fund for 6 Community Wardens focused on the RAPID areas and linked to the Community Safety Units.
- Garda have increased investment in Community Policing, focusing on RAPID areas.
- Capital funding has been received for a community based CCTV scheme in Blackpool. A feasibility study is also being carried out on same in Knocknaheeny.

(b) Update on other Investment:

- Dormant Accounts Fund (1.2m in 2006 and awaiting outcome of appraisals)

of 800k in 2007/08 to support range of projects under all of the themes)

- Funding for a further 6 new or refurbished playgrounds in 2008, including one older persons' playground in Mahon.
- Sports Capital recently announced in 2008, with top-up for RAPID areas and matched-funding requirement for RAPID areas further reduced to 10%.
- City Council has invested in additional car parking and tree planting as part of the north-side environmental enhancement scheme.

(c) Community Participation

Community participation remains a key objective of the programme. Each community is represented on the Area Implementation Team by a local resident. These are linked back to the local community through various mechanisms. Following the national evaluation of the RAPID programme, new community participation structures are being recommended for each RAPID area.

(d) Agency participation:

The NMC has also recently agreed new guidelines on agency participation in the RAPID programme which are to be rolled out during 2008. Guidelines for the participation of CDP's, FRC and Youth Groups are to be agreed and rolled out in 2008.

2 Gender Equality

Women in Focus –

- As part of International Women's Day, 5th March, the group will hold a women's health day to raise awareness
- The group is also trying to refocus and include more women from across a broader social spectrum in order to represent more inclusively the issues affecting women. The aim is to hold an increased number of public meetings and to invite guest speakers to discuss specific and relevant concerns.
- The proposed gender audit will be carried out as part of a research MA.

3 Community Participation Research

The research is in its final draft stage. In addition to the research document, a toolkit will also be launched as an aid to groups involved in community development. There are wide ranging recommendations arising from the research which will have implications for Agencies including the City Council, The Cork City Partnership and the Community Development Projects in how they interact with voluntary representatives and Community groups as well as for the community groups themselves. Support and resources for the implementation of the recommendations will be sought over the coming months. The steering group will continue for a further twelve months following the completion of the research, to ensure the implementation of the agreed recommendations.

4 Discovery 2007

Now recognised one of the key events of Science Week Ireland, Discovery in 2007 aims to encourage the uptake of sciences at second level and beyond with an interactive exhibition in City Hall, plus a range of site visits and workshops. Supported by Forfás, Cork City Council, local companies and third level institutions, the event is organised by Cork City Learning Forum. The budget for 'Discovery 2007' was €127,000, but added to this is at least €50,000 in voluntary contributions.

The Lord Mayor, Cllr. Dónal Counihan, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Micheál Martin, Peter Brabizon (Forfás) and Leo Enright (science communicator) attended the launch event.

Participating groups included Techniquet from Wales, Madlabs from Scotland, Cork Electronics Industry Association, Lifetime Lab, Blackrock Castle Observatory, Cork City Council's Water Department, UCC, CIT, Fota and Millstreet Wildlife parks, the Janssen group of Companies, EMC2 and the Defence Forces.

Attendance (approx): City Hall 6000, Offsite events 1000.

5 Integrated Target Group Plan for Travellers

The four thematic working groups are continuing to progress the actions agreed in the plan.

- (a) **Youth** – the working group has just secured additional funding of €75,000 from Pobal (subject to confirmation of match funding) to support the extension of the Traveller youth project whereby two youth workers are employed by the Traveller Visibility Group to develop links between Traveller youth and mainstream youth services. This additional funding will enable the project to continue for another year. During that time efforts to mainstream the project will continue, eg an application is being submitted through the City of Cork VEC for the future mainstream funding of this programme through the Special Project for Disadvantaged Youth programme (SPY).
- (b) **Education and childcare** – Cork City Partnership has provided funding to a number of schools to support the participation and retention of Traveller children in primary and post primary school (eg through support for homework clubs and mentoring programmes). Cork City Childcare Company has concluded the actions it undertook to lead – eg preparation of resource packs for pre-school services which reflect Traveller culture, training for childcare workers, working with the Visiting Teachers for Travellers to target Traveller families who are not using services etc. The working group is reviewing its workplan for 2008 and will identify new actions.

- (c) ***Enterprise/Training and Employment*** – 11 of the 12 original participants are still employed by Cork City Council as part of the pilot Traveller Employment Project. They are now over 3 months in to the initial 6 month contracts and are progressing well in the FAS Construction Skills course.
- (d) ***Accommodation/Health*** – Work on Health Impact Assessment is expected to start following agreement on a specific proposal in relation to a city halting site. Tenders have been received for work regarding mapping and co-ordination of services to residents of the Hollyhill halting site

6 Service Needs of New Communities

See separate presentation on Cork City Integration Strategy

7 Improved Access to School facilities

We are still awaiting establishment of Active Citizenship Office and agreement on its implementation plan, which will include details of how they plan to progress its recommendation re use of school facilities.

8 Cork City Marathon 2nd June 2008

The Cork City Marathon 2008 will again be organised by a partnership of The City Council , The Athletics Association of Ireland , The Cork Business Houses Athletics Association , An Garda Siochana , The Health Services Executive and many statutory and Voluntary groups as well as over three hundred volunteers . The support of the Business community and the wider Cork community will be vital to ensure ongoing success and enjoyment from the day
The intention is to increase participation to over 8,000 and to promote inclusion . A workshop looking at how to promote Social inclusion through the Marathon was held on 7th February which was well attended by groups working in this area.
The Relay event will be a feature of the Marathon again this year

9 Cork Common Ground project

The Board of The Common Ground project is continuing its efforts to secure matching funding to enable the project to proceed

10 Economic Strategy Group

Staff are participating in the various projects of the Cork Marketing Partnership including the Convention Bureau , Cork City Cares and an economic working group which is drafting an Economic Marketing Plan for the Cork region .

11 Connect Cork

Connect Cork is the Information and Telecommunications Action Plan for Cork City prepared as part of the implementation of the Cork Information Technology and Telecommunications Study published in 2004.

A number of Events and Activities have occurred as part of the plan. More recently, following the pilot on-line learning club with Cork City Libraries funded through the ASC (Access, Skills, Content) Initiative of the Department of An Taoiseach and supported by FÁS eCollege, Connect Cork has teamed up with Cork VEC to bring tutor-based computer training courses to four participating local libraries in Cork city; Tory Top Road, Hollyhill, St. Marys Road and Mayfield. Courses are six weeks in duration and a second course commenced on 28th January 2008. There are twenty course participants.

The project is aimed at beginners and those who are not confident with computers, and is not age-specific. Agency websites are demonstrated as part of the course.

12 Report on Work of Gay & Lesbian Steering Group

The Director of Services met with Dave Roche of the Gay Community Health Project since the last CDB meeting. Following on from this meeting awareness raising was held for employees in Cork City Council on the needs of the LGB Community. A Report from the seminar will be placed on the intranet of the City Council .

A meeting will be held shortly of the Gay and Lesbian Steering Group to finalise plans for further training and to prepare for the City wide poster for Gay Pride week in June.

13 Local sports Partnership

The Local sports Partnership is continuing to meet and a Public Forum was held recently .The process of recruiting a Local sports Coordinator is in hand .

14 Resource Centre for Youth Work

There has been no progress on this project

15 Unemployment Working Group

Arising from the Board decisions a programme of inter Public Agency Training was carried out on a pilot basis and is reported on separately .

A draft Docklands Employment Strategy has been prepared and is under consideration .

The Knocknaheeny employment and training group is continuing to meet and is supporting an inter agency initiative for young people . It is intended to establish

similar groups in the other RAPID areas.
The Traveller training and employment project is proceeding

16 The 5th Cork Lifelong Learning Festival Monday April 7 – Sunday April 13, 2008

The festival aims to:

- celebrate those already participating in learning of all kinds;
- raise awareness of the huge range of options available for others to get involved.

The festival targets those not usually attracted to learning of any kind, and reflects Cork's commitment as a City of Learning

During it learning is brought out among the public with 200+ free events taking place in a variety of venues – among them shopping centres, parks, community centres, museums, colleges, galleries. Events include introductory classes, tours, demonstrations, performances, workshops, talks, exhibitions, debates...

The festival is organised by a committee drawn from the Learning Forum, set up by the CCDB, which brings together stakeholders across the sector – including the City of Cork VEC, UCC and CIT, colleges of Further Education, primary and secondary schools, FÁS.

Its main sponsors are the City of Cork VEC, Cork City Council, FETAC, with some support from the private sector.