

***Director's Report to  
the City Development Board  
16<sup>th</sup> February 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:**

The booklet, 'Communities in Focus', was launched before Christmas.

RAPID is not a body in itself, it is made up of a range of agencies and representative of local communities. Therefore, the work which has been achieved in the RAPID areas over the last number of years is not the work of RAPID, but that of a range of agencies, individuals, communities and groups. This publication, a first for Cork's RAPID areas, is intended therefore to acknowledge and celebrate the contribution of those agencies, individuals and communities. It is a pictorial celebration and features projects under each of the seven themes.

**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**

- 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 take place during the 8<sup>th</sup> 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. It is hoped to receive positive feedback on the application shortly.

## **Youth**

- Work has just begun with Cork Sports Partnership, UCC, Cork City Council, Garda Síochána, City of Cork VEC and other community and voluntary groups on further sports initiatives in the RAPID areas. These will focus on late night sports, rugby initiatives, sports courses etc
- Focus is on developing youth networks and Youth Cafés.

## **Family Support**

- The 'Strengthening Families Programme' has proved to be very effective and is shortly being rolled out in Mayfield. This is funded by the HSE Drug & Alcohol Service.
- Suicide is a concern in the north-side and suicide action groups have been set up in Mayfield, Knocknaheeny and Farranree / Gurrabraher. These groups are putting in place a range of

supports around suicide prevention, support for those affected by suicide and the promotion of positive mental health.

### **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 will begin in mid February.
- 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.

## **2. CORK CITY LEARNING FORUM**

The **Cork Lifelong Learning Festival** runs this year from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> April. It is 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.

Currently its programme is being prepared – and it is hoped that there will be over 325 events – all free - taking place across the city again this year, plus satellite events in Youghal, Ballincollig, Carrigaline. As usual 18,000 brochures will be produced for distribution throughout the city. The Evening Echo & 96Fm have once more agreed to act as media sponsors.

€12,000 of the €25,000 additional sponsorship needed after contributions from CCVEC has been secured to date from FETAC, CIT and new funders the Higher Education Authority (HEA) and the National Association of Principals and Deputies (NAPD). It is hoped to secure the remaining funds required shortly.

The Lifelong Learning Festival has a growing relationship with Belfast's Féile an Phobail, which runs three festivals annually. Their Féile an Earraigh (3-6<sup>th</sup> February) hosted three events from Cork, and it is expected to present visitors from Belfast during the Lifelong Learning Festival. Cork hopes to reciprocate during Féile an Phobail's August and October festivals.

The Cork Lifelong Learning 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 has always been inclusive.

The **Discovery** Science Festival had another successful run last November. The exhibition was launched this year by BT Young Scientist of the Year, Richard O'Shea from Blarney.

Along with the week of workshops to schools and 4-day exhibition in City Hall, this year Discovery ran two new activities:

1) To launch of the International Year of Chemistry in Ireland, a project involving Transition Years in Coláiste Daibhéad was developed in association with the Discovery committee members from the Irish Science Teachers Association and IBEC's Pharmaceutical Ireland group.

Having followed a specially-developed learning unit 'An Introduction to chemistry', the 28 students built large-scale molecule models guided by Graeme Jones of Keele University, UK. These were displayed at Discovery to great effect. Unfortunately, other aspects of the project were not achieved due to funding, but these are being pursued and hope to roll out over 2011.

2) A youth version of the Cork Science Café, called 'Science Juice', in which youth clubs identified areas of science of interest to them and hosted a visit from a relevant, young, local researcher/lecturer in that field. Approx. 60 young people benefited from this programme.

Attendance: Approximately 300 attended the VIP launch, including the Head of European Operations for BASF, sponsor for the International Year of Chemistry project.

Nearly 1,250 attended The Discovery exhibition family sessions, and 250 teachers visited with 2,600 students in groups. 2,000 students had a workshop in their school. In total almost 6,500 people enjoyed learning about science through Discovery, one of the largest science communication events in Ireland.

Discovery and the Cork City Learning Forum hope to secure this year's Engineers Ireland STEM communication conference in late spring. The **Learning Forum** is contributing to activities to promote Cork as a festival city through the Cork Festivals Forum – both Discovery and the Lifelong Learning Festival are members.

### **3. Cork City Inter Agency Services Plan for Travellers**

The Youth sub group recently launched the guidelines 'Progressing Traveller Inclusion in Youth Work'. The guidelines build on the Good Practice Guidelines for working with young Travellers developed by the Youth Link Project (2007-2009) and published by the Traveller Visibility Group (2009) and sets out to further support youth workers in their work with young Travellers. The work of this group provides evidence of how interagency working can produce real outputs.

The removal of Education supports to Travellers is a significant challenge to services for travellers. The Department of Education has decided to remove the Visiting Teacher Service to Travellers, resource teachers. The Education subgroup is making a presentation today to seek the support of the board for the restoration of those services. The presentation will highlight the impact the withdrawal of services on preschool, primary, secondary and adult education of Travelers. It will also highlight that the removal of these services will impact significantly on other supports available in the schools such Home School Community Liason and School Completion Programme.

### **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 2011 – 2013. It is expected that the Group will have developed the new Strategy between now and the first quarter 2011.

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 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 for a commitment to promoting intercultural awareness as a new reality in Cork City, for example good practice on anti-racism and promoting diversity, to become the norm in organizations.
- The continued demand for English language classes.
- The need for improved reporting of racist incidents.
- The need to safeguard equal access of employment for ethnic minority and immigrant groups.

## **5. Cork City Marathon 6<sup>th</sup> June 2011**

Preparations are underway for the 2011 Bord Gáis Energy Cork City Marathon, which will take place on Bank Holiday Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June. After a record entry of 1,750 marathoners and 1,250 relay teams in 2010, we aim to increase the number of participants further next year.

With the support of our title sponsor, Bord Gáis Energy we aim to raise the local, national and international profile of the marathon, enticing more participation from home and abroad. The growing status of the Cork Marathon was underlined in 2010 by a late entry from the National Marathon Champion, Sergiu Ciobanu, who went on to win the race in a record time of 2hrs 25mins.

The Team Relay remains central to the development of the Cork 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, and ten teams from the Kinsale Road Accommodation Centre took part in the 2010 event.

The Cork Marathon remains the only event of its kind in the country to offer concession fees for welfare recipients (50% of the full entry fee). 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. We will publicise the availability of concession fees more actively for 2011 and will revisit the issue of promoting the marathon amongst the unwaged, in particular. As a measure to encourage eco-awareness, the initial entry fees for 2011 will be maintained at the 2008 rates for online entry (€60 for an individual and €90 for a team of up to five). To facilitate those who don't have access to a computer in the home, the use of public library facilities will be promoted heavily.

A new and very successful feature of the 2010 marathon was the development of a social-media networking hub (a weekly training blog, FaceBook & Twitter accounts). Developed by our PR company, H&A, the hub has opened new channels of communication to and from our participants. Once the 2011 marathon has been officially announced, we will be active on those media again.

The Irish Cancer Society was the sole nominated charity for the 2010 marathon, but at least 236 charities benefitted from the event. There won't be a nominated charity for 2011, but all charities will be invited to use the marathon as a fund-raising event. The website [www.corkcitymarathon.ie](http://www.corkcitymarathon.ie) will facilitate, where possible, promotion of registered charities who contact us.

In 2010 we made a significant and widely welcomed change to the marathon course. The new course will remain largely unchanged for 2011, and we are in the advanced planning stages of a proposal to introduce a half-marathon.

## **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 and it is

likely that it will be transferred to Commonground early in the new year. The Commonground board is putting together a design spec. for the internal fit out. There will be a significant fund raising to be considered by the board.

## **7. Marketing of the Cork Region**

Staff are participating in the various projects of the Cork Marketing Partnership including the Convention Bureau and Cork City Cares.

An Economic Marketing Plan for the region has been prepared. Viable funding arrangements are being sought before the plan can be implemented.

## **8. 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 13<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **9. Project ReFocus**

A further phase of Project ReFocus is about to get underway. An overall review of the project is underway including an online survey and reports from the participating agencies. A review meeting involving the citywide

group, the mentors, RAPID coordinators and support staff took place on 16<sup>th</sup> September. The city wide group is reviewing its role and functions.

## **10. The Conversation on Democracy in Ireland**

A draft final report dated 7<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

We are currently awaiting further information on these developments from Edmund Grace.

## **11. Cork City Joint Policing Committee**

The joint Policing Committee met on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November under the chairmanship of Cllr. Patricia Gosch. Arrangements for setting up the District Local Policing Fora are underway.

A draft workplan for the JPC for the next two years was presented to the meeting and will be considered early in 2011

## **12. Comhairle na nÓg**

The Comhairle na nÓg AGM held in December attracted approximately 100 young people. This is the largest attendance and highlights the interest of young people in having their voice heard. A group of approximately 20 has volunteered to be on the ongoing Comhairle group. The theme that the group has chosen for the year is "Recreational Spaces and Opportunities for

Young People”. The work of the group will centre around the idea of promoting youth cafes and similar venues.

## **14. 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.

## **15. Music as a Tool for Social Inclusion**

The process of establishing a Music Education Partnership has progressed. Nominations are being sought from all members of the Music Education Partnership and the first meeting of the official Cork City Music Education Partnership is being held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February 2011.

A task group has been working since December 2010 on developing the application for the U2 and Ireland funds National Music Education Programme. The deadline for the application is the end of March 2011. An analysis of the provision of music tuition in the city is being carried out to identify gaps and a full-time person has been put in place to develop and write the application with the support of the task group and the Music Education Partnership.

## **16 Economic Development**

Following on from the joint seminar with the County Development Board a work plan was prepared by Sean O Riordan and presented to the board. Discussions have been held with the County Development Board regarding implementation of suitable projects. In cooperation with four other CDBs a set of projects has been submitted to the DOEHLG for funding. The Cork project copy of which has been circulated involves the development of a network of Cork connected business people and the organisation of an

international Food Fair for buyers to promote the Cork food sector. A decision is awaited.

## **17. 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.

## **18. LAPSIS and Social Inclusion Strategy**

The European Anti Poverty network (EAPN) research project on social exclusion is progressing well. The City Monitoring group were given an update at their recent meeting.

The preparation of the Social Inclusion Strategy will be guided by the results of the research and will follow on from it early in 2011.

## **19. Cork Harbour as a World Heritage Site**

This project will be followed up with the County Development Board and the other stakeholders.

## **20. Funding for Youth Cafés**

We received the decisions on the applications submitted for funding for new and existing Youth Cafés from Pobal on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2010.

Under Strand 1 (Existing Youth Cafés), the following were approved –

Togher / Mayfield (joint applic)	€6,000
Cork YMCA	€2,000
Gurranabraher YDP (@ The Hut)	€2,000

Under Strand 2 (Establishment of New Youth Cafés), the following was approved -

Ballypnehane Comm Assoc .	€63,500
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***Jim O'Donovan***

*Director  
City Development Board*

*16<sup>th</sup> February 2011*