

***Director's Report to
the City Development Board
16th June 2010***



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

1. Update on the Cork City RAPID Programme

New Minister for RAPID

Pat Carey TD has been appointed as Minister for Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs replacing Minister O'Cuiv. Minister Carey visited the Cork RAPID areas on Monday 31st May 2010; he met with the RAPID Area Implementation Teams and took a short tour of the north-side RAPID areas. The Minister confirmed the Government's commitment to RAPID and highlighted the excellent work which was being carried out by AIT's in Cork.

RAPID National Programme update

The Minister also met with all RAPID Chairs and Coordinators in Dublin on 27th May. The national programme update given at that meeting stressed that the focus of the RAPID programme is changing and becoming much more focused on improving service delivery through integration and coordination.

The Minister also announced that the last of the seven strategic themes – Youth – is to be launched soon.

Local Programme Update:

A key concern of all AIT's, given the current budgetary constraints facing all agencies, is the wish to continue successful projects and programmes in the future. A number of projects which have been very effective in the RAPID areas do not have a current commitment to long-term mainstream funding to enable them to continue. For example; the Community Wardens Service, the RAPID Outreach Workers, the 3-men and a van service and the Knocknaheeny Music Project.

Some boundary changes are proposed to the RAPID areas. These are yet to be confirmed by Cabinet but this is expected imminently. The changes include: -

- Changes to Togher / Mahon to take in Ballyphehane
- Extension of the Farranree, Fairhill, Gurrabraher RAPID area to take in new estates around Willowbank and Fairfield Meadows and the area around the North Mon.

The **Farranree, Fairhill and Gurrabraher AIT** have recently agreed their plan for 2010 / 11, which sets out 3 priorities for the AIT for the next 12-18 months, these are: -

- 1) Maintaining existing services and projects
- 2) Education and training
- 3) Heroin, drug use and suicide

The Northside Community Initiative is leading work in relation to heroin and drug use and a north-west action group for suicide has been set up and is delivering a programme of work. The Project Re-focus Steering Group is leading on issues in relation to education and training.

The **Knocknaheeny, Hollyhill, Churchfield AIT** have identified ASB (Antisocial Behaviour) as a key concern in specific hot spots and through inter-agency working are trying to find practical solutions to individual situations.

The AIT is continuing to tackle environmental issues through the environmental partnership, particularly in relation to littering and dumping in the area, addressing problems through local clean-ups, education programmes etc...

A new Youth Network has been set up to aid joint planning and coordination, particularly this is working well for coordinating summer programmes and activities.

The **Togher / Mahon AIT** Project Refocus for the Togher/Mahon area is now in its second phase. The participants went on a 3 week work placement and feedback was excellent from both the participants and the employers. The steering group is now evaluating the programme and putting recommendations to the Citywide Steering group. Tracking and ongoing support will be essential to continue to support the participants going forward.

The **Blackpool, the Glen, Mayfield AIT** has reported that the Blackpool Painting Scheme was very successful and this has led to a new Window Box Scheme being introduced. The Community Wardens, together with the Probation Service and Housing have developed a new graffiti removal scheme, all of which are helping to improve the physical environment.

Summer Fun Days and alternative Bonfire Night events will again be supported by RAPID this year.

2. CORK CITY LEARNING FORUM

1. Plenary session

The Learning Forum held a very successful plenary entitled:

'Accessing Education and Training Supports: the Challenge for Providers'

on the morning of the 21st April. Very well attended, the morning included presentations from the Cork Employment Resource Centre (formerly Cork Centre for the Unemployed), Cork City Partnership, CIT, UCC, FÁS, CCVEC and the Dept. of Social Protection. Each presenter described changes they are experiencing in client/student profiles and attitudes, along with changes they have brought onstream to support access to and participation in education, plus adjustments being made to entitlements and other supports. In discussion after the presentations, Forum members attending gave their perspective as service providers and made some valuable recommendations - a huge amount of data was collected. The

recommendations and observations will be fed back to the Learning Forum steering group and progressed as new actions.

The **Discovery** Science event has secured nearly 50% of funding required to run this year's event in November, from Cork City Council and The Discover Science and engineering programme of Forfás.

As an interesting tie between events, the Learning Forum organised a sports science theme to last weeks (June 4) **Science Café** in Blackrock Castle Observatory. Designed to appeal to those running the Cork City Marathon on June 7, events on the night included a discussion on Gait Analysis & Race Readiness with Peter Maher, Olympic marathon athlete & physical therapist, workshops for children on exercise in space, a film on the effect of gravity on the body and a lecture from Mark Gaffney at Tyndall National Institute on the Clarity research cluster's work on Developing Sensors for Sports, Fitness & Health. The event was well attended.

3. Cork City Inter Agency Services Plan for Travellers

Review of Action Plan

Following communication from Pobal indicating that the most successful interagency steering groups benefit from high level involvement by the agencies Jim O'Donovan has taken on the Chair of the interagency steering group. Each organisation has been invited to send a management level representative. Organisations have identified their representatives for the future.

The Steering Group has reviewed the work of the subgroups and has identified priorities for the period 2010-2013. Sub groups are devising action plans based on their existing work priorities and the priorities of the steering group.

These plans will be sent off to Pobal in September which is their new date for completion of the reviews.

4. Service Needs of New Communities

A mid-term review of the Connecting Communities Cork City Integration Strategy. is being carried out by the Cork City Integration Strategy Monitoring Group (CCIS). A wide consultation is taking place to find out the needs of the target community through the Cork City Integration Forum, online surveys and random sampling on the street. This survey and will inform the final strategy.

5. Cork City Marathon 7th June 2010

The 4th Cork City Marathon took place on 7th June. Despite a wet and windy day, a record entry of 1,750 marathoners and 1,250 relay teams enjoyed a hugely successful event.

The marathon is a partnership led by Cork City Council, with the Cork County Board of the Athletics Association of Ireland, the Cork Business Houses Athletics Association, An Garda Síochána and the Health Services Executive with the assistance of several other statutory and voluntary groups. This year, over 350 individual volunteers assisted at the event.

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 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 thousands of team participants included Sonia O'Sullivan, Bord Gáis CEO John Mullins, and Lord Mayor Cllr. Dara Murphy.

Cork's 96FM, C103 and the *Evening Echo* continue to be superb supporters of the marathon and contributed significantly to the success of the 2010 event. Mahers Sports were the official sports retail partner.

A new feature of the 2010 marathon was the development of a social-media hub (blog/FaceBook & Twitter at www.ReadySteadyCork.com). The Hub has opened new channels of communication to promote the event, to get information out to participants and to get feedback that will improve the event. It has also led to an updating of the marathon

website (www.corkcitymarathon.ie) as part of an accessibility upgrade of the site.

While the Irish Cancer Society was the nominated charity for 2010, 248 other charities were listed by participants as beneficiaries of the race.

Fee concessions for welfare recipients were more heavily publicised this year – on the website and FaceBook, in particular, and on some print-media ads. While the uptake was still small (c. 1% for marathon; 3% for team relay), it was substantially up on 2009.

The organisers are currently reviewing the 2010 marathon and will enter discussions with the title sponsors, looking forward to the 2011 event. A full report on the 2010 marathon will be produced in due course.

6. Cork Commonground Project

The Board of Cork Commonground Ltd. has been offered the use of part of the North Mon building. The board intend 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 in the 3rd quarter. 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 L.G.B. steering group is finalising the development of a brochure highlighting the resources available from the Cork Gay Men's Project and LinC. This campaign will also include a banner campaign.

A programme of diversity training around LGB issues is being devised and should be offered to public service boards before the end of the year.

9. Project ReFocus

The work plan for Project Refocus is being implemented. The six local task groups are meeting regularly as is the city wide workgroup under the chairmanship of Mr. Anthony Dinan. Approximately ninety participants are in the second phase and the process of work placements has taken place.

10. The Conversation on Democracy in Ireland

The Conversation on Democracy in Ireland Project is

- an initiative of... **the Jesuits in Ireland**
- to promote..... **a more reflective and effective democracy**
- by inviting...
 - **citizens**
 - **politicians**
 - **public servants**

- to reflect together..... **on public life**
- with a view to..... **creating insights**
- to be made accessible...**for wider discussion and debate**

Local Juries were set up in Cork, Dublin, Louth and Galway.

The twelve members of each Jury include 4 elected representatives, 4 appointed public officials and 4 leaders in the community and voluntary sector.

In Phase 1 of the project (January to May 2009), each Local Jury met on three occasions.

A national Review Day was held at Farmleigh House, Phoenix Park in Dublin on 29th June 2009 where the four Local Juries came together, along with the Council for the Conversation on Democracy, to discuss their experience of the Project to date and to share insights.

Phase 2 of the project was completed by end December 2009 with each Jury holding three further sessions. In the second phase of the Project, the juries were asked to change their focus and the Facilitators invited each of the Juries to consider the following three questions:

- Any insights?
- What has been achieved?
- How can this process be continued?

During Phase 2, the Cork Local Jury met on 12th October 2009, 9th November 2009 and 7th December 2009.

Following on from Phase 2, another National Review Day event was held in Pearse Street Library, Dublin on Monday 8th March 2010. The Cork Local Jury had three representatives in attendance. The Director of the Project, Edmond Grace SJ issued Notes from the event and these were distributed to all Cork Jury members for consideration.

A draft final report dated 7th May 2010 on the Conversation on Democracy in Ireland Project has been drafted by Edmond Grace, SJ and is attached for the information of the City Development Board.

11. Cork City Joint Policing Committee

The joint Policing Committee will meet on Friday 18th June under the chairmanship of Cllr. Patricia Gosch. Arrangements for setting up the District Local Policing Fora are underway.

A Draft Anti Social Behaviour Strategy will be presented at the meeting for consultation. The Strategy will be circulated to the CDB for consideration.

12. Comhairle na nÓg

The Comhairle is coming to the end of a successful year. The group is now fully youth led. With the help of adult facilitators the group selects a chairperson for each meeting and identified its priorities for the year. In 2009/2010 the theme for its activities has been mental health. To this end the group has developed a directory of mental health services in the City. It is hoped to get the schools to include the document in the school journals or at least to give them to each student in the schools for the new school year.

A steering group has now been established which membership includes the VEC, HSE, An Garda Síochána and youth organizations including scouts and guides. There is still scope to broaden the range of organisations participating on the steering group.

The anti bullying survey of 2009 has been circulated to all the secondary schools. They have been invited to take specific actions around anti bullying policies in the schools both from a management perspective and from the student council perspectives. The Comhairle also made a submission to the Cork City Local Policing Plan.

13. Clipper Round the World Yacht Race

The Clipper Round the World Yacht Race will arrive in Kinsale on the weekend of 3rd July where there will be a local welcome and a programme of festival activity.

On 7th July the fleet will travel up to Cork Harbour and berth at the new Port of Cork Marina, at the Custom House.

A Festival Programme including childrens entertainment, food market and evening entertainment will take place at the Race Village on Albert Quay/ Kennedy Quay.

The fleet will depart on Friday 9th July around midday.

The Clipper Round the World Race was founded by Sir Robin Knox Johnson, the first solo Round the World sailor and is the only Round the World Yacht Race open to non sailors.

The Cork entry and the Clipper Festival are sponsored by Cork City Council, Fáilte Ireland and Cork County Council.

Community & Enterprise has been involved in the organization of the event.

Jim O'Donovan

*Director
City Development Board*

16th June 2010