

***Director's Report to
the City Development Board
17th November 2010***



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

1. Update on the Cork City RAPID Programme

Local Programme Update:

A new publication is to be launched entitled 'Communities in Focus, a reflection on the Achievements of Communities and Agencies working together in Cork's RAPID communities'.

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.

It is hoped that the booklet will be launched before the end of the year.

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
- RAPID is working with the JPC to establish District Policing Fora Management Committees.
- The Drugs Task Force have secured significant investment which will expand and develop drug treatment and prevention services. This will have a positive impact on the RAPID areas which are seriously affected by this problem.

Physical Environment

- Minister for Housing, Michael Finneran TD, officially opened a number of regeneration schemes in the north-side on Monday 11th October 2010 and the refurbishment of Spriggs Road is due to start imminently all of which are a significant contribution to the improvement of the environment locally.
- 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

- 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 before the end of the year.
- A range of community education based programmes are being developed across the RAPID areas through the VEC and the local education networks.
- The one book one community scheme has been launched again this year on the north-side. This year's book will be "The Firework Maker's Daughter".

Youth

- Focus is on developing youth networks, youth cafes and a range of Christmas events for young people in the areas.

Family Support

- The 'Strengthening Families Programme' has proved to be very effective and is now being developed in a number of the RAPID areas.
- Suicide is a concern in the north-side and suicide action groups have been set up in Mayfield, Knocknaheeny and Farranree / Gurranabraher. 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. On 12th October, an awards ceremony was held in the council chamber with the Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Michael O'Connell for 2009 students from the Knocknaheeny, South-side and Farranferris groups.
- FAS are working with Munster Rugby to develop a rugby coaching course focused on the RAPID areas.
- The Cork RAPID areas were invited to make a presentation to the Minster and the National Monitoring Committee on 6th October regarding the Employment and Training work which has been completed in Cork. The presentation was very well received.

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 **Discovery** Science Festival is expecting another successful run: 8th-16th of November. Workshops to schools and libraries run weekdays 8-12th, with the City Hall interactive exhibition commencing on Saturday 13th with the VIP family event. The exhibition ends November 16th.

Key annual exhibitors such as UCC, CIT and the Tyndall National Institute again aim to raise the interest of 10-15 year old students from the city and county by encouraging them to experiment with scientific concepts in a fun and educational way. New exhibitors for 2010 include Syspro, the Environmental Sciences Association of Ireland and ViewVision (3D mapping)

Discovery 2010 launched the International Year of Chemistry 2011 (IYC) in co-operation with the Irish IYC committee run through Pharmachem Ireland/IBEC. BASF agreed to be key sponsor for bringing to Ireland for the first time an innovative & striking project from Keele University called MEGAMOLECULES. The sculptural works on exhibit at Discovery are part of a wider project involving transition year students, and will hopefully be rolled out across the country in the coming year.

Also for Science Week Ireland, and in association with Discovery, Cork Science Café ran a youth version of their monthly informal event discussing current science topics. Titled 'Science Juice', several youth groups around the city hosted a visit from a young researcher working on an area of science of interest to the group.

When totals are collated, Discovery expects to have entertained and educated over 6,000 young people and their influencers (teachers, parents) about science, technology, engineering and maths in Cork.

The steering group of the **Learning Forum** planned a follow up session to the plenary held earlier this year, but this has been deferred due to the changes foreseen in the upcoming budget. The next session will be held in early 2011.

3. Cork City Inter Agency Services Plan for Travellers

Review of Action Plan

The review of the Interagency Traveller Plan has been submitted to Pobail which funds the programme. There are four sub groups specific to the City process: Education; Health & Accommodation Enterprise Training and Employment and the Youth Action Group. Another sub group has been formed in conjunction with the County Process, Traveller Cultural Awareness Training which is looking to offer cultural awareness training to staff of the different agencies.

Each group has devised actions to be implemented over the next three years. The steering group will oversee the implementation of these actions.

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 6th June 2011

Preparations are underway for the 2011 Bord Gáis Energy Cork City Marathon, which will take place on Bank Holiday Monday 6th 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 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 LGB steering group meets monthly working to achieve Objective 86. The group is looking to increase its membership and wishes to get representation from each of the agencies present to ensure wide representation of LGB issues in the City. In particular it is proposed to hold an LGB week in May 2011 which will require the commitment of all agencies.

A presentation today from Toddy Hogan of LinC and Dave Roche of the Cork Gay Mens Project will give an overview of the position of Gay and Lesbian people in the city and will seek a commitment from each of the agencies to support the work of the steering group.

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 16th September. The city wide group is reviewing its role and functions.

10. The Conversation on Democracy in Ireland

A draft final report dated 7th 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 16th June 2010, we are awaiting further information on our next steps.

11. Cork City Joint Policing Committee

The joint Policing Committee met on Monday 1st 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

Budget approval of €30,000 has been notified to us in respect of the period September 2010 to December 2011. The broad aims for Comhairle na nÓg in that period will be to improve links with decision makers, progress issues identified by the young people themselves and to expand the scope of membership of the group.

Recently the group made submissions on the

- Cork City Arts Strategy
- The White Paper on Crime

Two members will be attending a seminar on the Junior Cert curriculum in November.

The group has also engaged in a focus group as part of the European Anti-Poverty Network research which is being carried out by the City Council's Social Inclusion Unit.

The Annual General Meeting will take place on the 30th of November. It will be a full day event for the first time. This AGM will identify issues that students wish Comhairle to address in the New Year. It is intended that the numbers attending this year will double those that attended in 2009.

14. Healthy Cities

A Health Impact Assessment afternoon workshop was co-hosted by the Institute of Public Health, the HSE South and Cork City Council in Millennium Hall on Thursday November 4th 2010 from 1.00pm – 4.30pm. Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is commonly defined as ‘*a combination of procedures, methods and tools by which a policy, programme or project may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a population and the distribution of those effects within the population*’. Health Impact Assessment is a tool to enable decision makers to take account of peoples’ health and well-being during policy, programme or project development. With the principles of intersectoral working, community participation and governance at the core; HIA provides an excellent platform to progress the Healthy Cities model in Cork City.

Lively and informative discussions at the workshop provided participants with the opportunity to hear about and discuss issues relevant to HIA at a local level in Cork. In light of the recent Cork City Council application for €15 million for Smarter Travel funding for the city, presentations were made and discussions ensued on some practical examples of how HIA can support the implementation of sustainable travel across the city. The wide ranging intersectoral potential for Smarter Travel planning for the city was evident in the wide range of organisations in attendance at the workshop, including the Health Service Executive, Cork City Council (Community & Enterprise & Traffic Divisions), Cork County Council, Local Sports Partnership & UCC. Cork is in the unique position nationally that a HIA Network of trained facilitators is available to support the implementation of HIA and momentum was gathered for progressing HIA across all sectors. Guest speakers included Teresa Lavin, Public Health Officer with the Institute of Public Health, Denise Cahill, Health Profile Co-ordinator with Cork Healthy Cities and Ian Winning, Traffic Division Cork City Council.

For more information on HIA see <http://www.publichealth.ie/hia>

15. Music as a Tool for Social Inclusion

The process of establishing a Music Education Partnership is ongoing to support projects using music as a tool for promoting Social inclusion, the coordination of effort by the participating groups and to be in a position to apply for funding as it becomes available.

Workshops organised by the Music Network as part of the preparation for the funding application process were attended by representatives of the Cork partnership. A total of twelve partnerships will receive funding over a three year period with a requirement for significant Local Matched funding.

It is expected that a call for submissions will issue early in 2011.

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

Decisions are awaited on the applications submitted for funding for new and existing Youth Cafés.

Jim O'Donovan

*Director
City Development Board*

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