

Directors report to The City Development Board 24th September 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 launched three themes earlier in the year. These 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 and the establishment of public safety forums in each RAPID area.
- Six Community Wardens started with the City Council in mid September, focusing on the RAPID areas. Their role will be to work with the local community to maintain and improve the local environment through community liaison, monitoring and enforcement with the relevant City Council section.
- Installation of a community based CCTV scheme will begin in Blackpool in October and a feasibility study is also being carried out on same in Knocknaheeny.

Health

- Health action zones have been in operation across the northside for a number of years (report Attached)

(b) Update on other Investment:

- Each RAPID AIT has put forward proposals for €100k of elderly capital projects under the RAPID Health Leverage scheme with the HSE.
- The 30% top-up for the successful sports capital projects which were endorsed by the RAPID AITs was recently announced.
- Each RAPID area has been allocated €30k towards graffiti removal in their area.

(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.

3 Community Participation Research

The results of the Community Participation and Representation Research were launched by the Lord Mayor Cllr. Donal Coughlan in the Council Chamber City Hall on 22nd May 2008. The main body of the research was synthesised to a small number of key recommendations. The Steering Committee has met for a half day session to develop an action plan to implement the recommendations arising from the research. The Plan will be finalised shortly and implementation will be followed through the various Lead Partners.

4 Discovery 2008

Now recognised one of the key events of Science Week Ireland, Discovery in 2008 will again 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.

The highlight this year will be the unveiling of Blackrock Castle Observatory's portable planetarium, to be sited in City Hall for the duration of the event. Supported by Forfás, Cork City Council, local companies and third level institutions, the event is organised by a working group of Cork City Learning Forum, including representatives from all levels of education, corporate interests and local science centres.

Participating groups include Techniquist from Wales, Madlabs from Scotland, Cork Electronics Industry Association, Lifetime Lab, Blackrock Castle Observatory, Fota Wildlife Park, UCC and CIT, plus their associated research centres.

5 Integrated Target Group Plan for Travellers

(a) *Youth*

The project has proved successful and the direct support of the programme has increased substantially the numbers of Traveller young people participating in youth programmes within the city both integrated and Traveller Specific. The TVG now has a database of over 150 young people who have engaged in some way with the programme who before the start of the programme were not engaging with any youth services at all. Simultaneously Youth Workers have received training in Traveller cultural awareness and Good Practice Guidelines for Traveller Youth have been developed for youth organisations.

(b) *Education and childcare*

An application has been submitted for funding under Round 3 Strand 1 of the Traveller Interagency and Communications Fund. The overall aim of the project is to increase the numbers of young travellers remaining, participation and integrating within the school system. It also aims to increase the level of academic achievement of the young people involved. A decision on this strand will be made in January

(c) *Enterprise/Training and Employment*

Following completion of the FAS Construction Skills course, 9 of the original 12 participants are employed by Cork City Council as part of the Pilot Traveller Employment Project. The majority are now employed as General Operatives under 18 month contracts in a number of City Council Directorates.

(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. An Interim Report, prepared by AW Trotman Associates, on mapping and co-ordination of services to the Hollyhill halting site, has been received. The Report has been referred to the Working Group for further consideration.

6 Service Needs of New Communities

The City's integration strategy "Connecting Communities" has been endorsed By the City Development Board and the first meeting of the Strategy Implementation Group will take place in early October.

The Cork Networking Committee (CNC) is holding a series of facilitated meetings to clarify its strategies, goals, objectives and working methods. Notification of a grant of €40,000 to support integration of new communities has been received from the Minister for

Integration Mr Conor Lenihan . Guidelines for the effective spending of the grant are being prepared and will be discussed with the various groups involved

7 Improved Access to School facilities

There has been no further progress on this issue.

8 Cork City Marathon 1st June 2009

Cork City Marathon 2009 will be organised by a partnership of Cork City Council, the Athletics Association of Ireland (Cork County branch), the Cork Business Houses Athletics Association, an Garda Síochána and the Health Services Executive with the assistance of several other statutory and voluntary groups and over 300 individual volunteers.

The ongoing support of the Business community and the Cork public will be vital to ensure the increasing success and enjoyment of the day.

The Team Relay, in which up to 5 people can share the marathon course, is now a major feature of the event. Allowing people of most abilities to participate, the Team Relay promotes health and fitness, through moderate exercise, and encourages social inclusion and team participation for all involved. For the 2008 marathon, the organisers put several measures in place to promote social inclusion. These measures will again be supported and extended, through cooperation with the appropriate groups, for the 2009 Marathon.

9 Cork Common Ground Project

The group is meeting regularly to progress this initiative.

10 Economic Strategy Group

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 and is being presented to the various stakeholders for consideration.

11 Connect Cork

Meetings are taking place to resume the online learning initiative in which members of the public attend beginners computers courses, held in the city libraries and taught by VEC tutors. Funding to the end of 2008 is in doubt and different avenues are being examined to secure funding for the project into 2009.

12 Report on Work of Gay & Lesbian Steering Group

The group has lost some momentum. An action plan for the implementation of Towards Objective 86 is to be agreed. It is proposed to establish small focus groups to secure small wins moving forward.

13 Local sports Partnership

The Local Sports Partnership is going through the early stages of formation in clarifying its role and function, standing orders etc .

The Coordinator Ms Eithne Lydon is working with the LSP in drawing up a Sports Strategy for the city . As a subcommittee of the Board the LSP will submit progress reports from time to time.

14 Resource Centre for Youth Work

Discussions have restarted on a suitable location for a Resource centre for Youth work.

15 Unemployment Working Group

The implementation of the strategy Jobs @ Docklands will meet the objectives of the Board in relation to addressing unemployment. A separate presentation on the Strategy is being made to this Board meeting.

The Knocknaheeny Employment and Training group is continuing to meet. As part of the earlier initiative placements were organized for the participants including the Gardai and Cork City Council.

A new course will start shortly while the group continues to support those who have just finished.

16 The 5th Cork Lifelong Learning Festival

Monday April 7 – Sunday April 13, 2008

The 5th year of this city-wide event ran from Monday April 7th to Sunday, April 13th, 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 The CDB's commitment to 'Make Cork a City of Learning'.

During the event learning is brought to the public with 230+ free events taking place in a variety of venues –shopping centres, parks, community centres, museums, colleges, galleries. Events include introductory classes, tours, demonstrations, performances, workshops, talks, exhibitions and debates. All community education networks and all library branches in the city took part again this year. Other organisations involved include: Colaiste Stiofain Naofa, St John's Central College, CIT, UCC, Alliance Francaise, Cork Opera House, the National Learning Network and others from both public and private sectors

Events during Festival week marked:

- National Intercultural Anti-Racism Week
- National Childminding Week
- EU Year of Intercultural Dialogue events
- Cork Adult Literacy Awareness Week

Among notable events were:

- Launch of new longboat built by Meitheal Mara and launch of this year's Ocean to City Rowing Race;
- The return of a Festival Gala Concert;
- The Family Afternoon in Fitzgerald's Park, including a Nature Trail with Mandala of Community Gardens, the Barrack Street Band performing, rowing on the river with Naomhoga Chorcaí and Meitheal Mara and the unveiling of the 'Beyond Borders' mural which brought together Mayfield Community Arts Centre and South Belfast groups.

2008 saw the first running of a seminar series:

- Work Based Learning with keynote address by Minister Micheal Martin;
- Social Inclusion initiatives in Music and Education
- Seminar on the Lisbon Treaty, attended by MEPs Cathy Sinnott and Brian Crowley
- Seminar on Values in Education: Keynote speaker Dr Kathleen Lynch, Professor of Equality Studies, UCD

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.

17 Comhairle

Comhairle na nOg has been operating in Cork City since 2000 under the remit of the City Development Board. Annual Comhairle na nOg meetings take place at which delegates are nominated to attend the national gathering, Dáil na nOg. The objectives of Dáil na nOg are to:

- Provide a place where children, who are representative of the average Irish Child, can raise and debate issues of concern to them;
- Act as a tool for children's concerns to be fed into the development of public policy making;
- Provide a model for children's participation which can be developed at local level with links to the national Dáil;
- Support civic, social and personal development in children;
- Provide a centre for children to hear and learn about the experiences of other children growing up in Ireland.

In order to enhance the capacity of Comhairle na nOg in Cork to feed childrens' voices into the development of policy, a project funded by the Office of the Minister for Children is underway to develop a youth council that would become the youth body in Cork city to be consulted by public bodies in the development of policy.

While it was intended that the delegates to Dail na nOg 2008 would form this youth council delays in recruiting youth workers to lead the project, most of the delegates had opted out of the youth council and only three remain now. However, since August they have made a submission to the Transportation Strategy, including an exhibit in the recent transportation expo and will help to arrange Comhairle na nOg in 2008.

An application has been made for funding to the Office of the Minister for Children to extend the project and employ youth workers to train the incoming Dáil delegates in running its affairs throughout the year with a view to its becoming the voice of young people, which will be consulted by public bodies in the formulation of policy.

Jim O'Donovan
Director
City Development Board