



cork as a city of learning

## Strategic Theme 7: Cork as a City of Learning

A city, such as Cork, with a high number of primary, post-primary and third level education institutes might automatically be seen as a city of learning. However, this learning connotation represents much more than the existence of schools and colleges. We see learning as a life-long activity for all our citizens and not as something to be pursued only by young people. We see Cork as a place:

- (i) Where access to learning is available for all levels and to all ages in the city.
- (ii) Where provision addresses comprehensively the diversity of learning needs.
- (iii) Where an ethos of quality underpins the provision of continuous learning opportunities for all citizens in the city.
- (iv) Where the city is recognised nationally and internationally as a centre of learning and research.
- (v) Where available information and knowledge are catalysts for creativity and learning.



**GOAL ➤** The city will have a flexible and accessible learning system for all

**objective 106**

A new Cork City Learning Forum will be established, to facilitate better communication, the collection and analysis of data, project and strategy development, and the development of a Cork city learning framework to enable people to map progression routes and plan learning

Action	Output	Leader
A Develop provisional structure and terms of reference for Cork City Learning Forum	Present report to City Development Board in September 2002	City of Learning Working Group
B Establish City Learning Forum	First meeting of Forum in January 2003	Cork City Development Board

**objective 107**

Opportunities to access all levels of education, training and guidance will be available/enhanced, including at local level, throughout the city

Action	Output	Leader
A Work in co-operation with the Cork City Childcare Committee in its audit of childcare demand and facilities to ensure the provision of community-based, drop-in childcare facilities to facilitate access to a broad range of part-time education and training initiatives	Meet with Childcare Committee by mid 2002	City of Learning Working Group
B Enhance, resource further (including provision for network co-ordinators and increased access to arts resource centres) and build on existing local education networks, to support the development of learning neighbourhoods; increase the level of cross-working between local networks	Review current approaches including deployment of existing staff resources and, progress appointment of additional Community Education facilitator by October 2002	Cork City VEC through the Local Adult Learning Board (and pending its establishment the Ad Hoc Adult Education Board) and Cork City Partnership

**objective 108**

The provision of learning opportunities will be sufficiently diverse and flexible to meet the needs of the individual learner

Action	Output	Leader
A Request all learning institutes to report to City Learning Forum on the ways in which they provide diverse and flexible learning opportunities	Reports on current flexible learning opportunities to be submitted by end of 2002	Education providers including education shareholders under the aegis of the Learning Forum and Cork City Partnership
B Initiate debate and dialogue over current provision, and suggest improvements	Agree final recommendations by end of 2003	City of Learning Forum
C Support and extend the range of out of school initiatives for children and young people, which support their personal development outside the formal education sector and promote the articulation of these initiatives with mainstream provision	Identify and map current provision of out of school initiatives by end of 2003	Education providers including local clusters and Cork City Partnership

## objective 109

Levels of early school leaving will be substantially reduced

Action	Output	Leader
A Develop and maintain local statistics on school retention levels in order to inform and target future initiatives	Provide up to date baseline data on early school leaving	Dept of Education and Science, local education providers and Cork City Partnership
B Regular liaison with those schools selected to participate in the new 'Schools Completion' Programme to combat early school leaving.	Monitor progress and identify any additional supports required	Dept of Education and local education providers
C Facilitate the exchange of experience between schools and initiatives participating in early school leaving pilot projects and those schools not selected to participate.	Share best practice on combating early school leaving	Dept of Education and Science, local education providers (including local clusters/networks) and Cork City Partnership

## objective 110

Access to and retention within third level education will be promoted, particularly amongst groups currently underrepresented through the removal of identified barriers

Action	Output	Leader
A Current third level access programmes will be expanded	Increase level of applicants from disadvantaged backgrounds	UCC, CIT and linked schools, Cork City VEC and DSCFA
B The Northside Centre for Higher Education will be established as a centre of excellence and will develop close links with second level schools in the area and local communities	Increase level of participation in third level education, particularly within the northside	UCC & CIT with the support of the Dept of Education
C Retention activities covering personal, academic and financial supports at third level will be further developed	Increase level of third level completion	CIT, UCC, VEC, Cork City Partnership

## objective 111

Alternative routes to qualifications other than traditional education and training programmes will be developed, and provision will be made for the recognition and accreditation of informal and non-formal learning

Action	Output	Leader
A Promote the use of mechanisms for the accreditation of prior learning and work-based learning in all education and training provision	Learning institutes will be requested to identify ways in which prior and work based learning is currently accredited	Stakeholders under the aegis of the Learning Forum

## objective 112

Excellence in research will support and sustain industry and the creation/maintenance of high quality employment

### Action

- A The partnership between industry, higher and further education and training providers proposed in objective 3 will identify the key research supports required to sustain Cork as an attractive location for high quality employment

### Output

The Partnership will report by end of 2003

### Leader

IDA Ireland/FÁS

## objective 113

Student take-up of science subjects and higher level maths will be promoted at second level

### Action

- A Develop further existing co-operation schemes between third level providers and schools, and work towards the development of a new science for primary teachers programme, and practical resource packs
- B Explore feasibility of establishing a Cork Young Scientist competition
- C Explore the feasibility of establishing an interactive science museum

### Output

Build the capacity of primary school teachers around the teaching of science

Increase take-up of science subjects at second level

Set up working group by end of 2004 to conduct feasibility study

### Leader

CIT and UCC in association with relevant industrial associations (e.g. Cork Electronics Industry Association)

Cork City Learning Forum in association with relevant industry/business associations

City Development Board

## objective 114

Support and encouragement will be given to the promotion of the Irish language in all institutions of learning

**Actions will be developed under the broader Goal: Cork will be a bilingual City (P. 48)**



## objective 115

Opportunities to develop employment and enterprises linked to world class research will be pursued

Action	Output	Leader
A Current world class research activities will be identified by University College Cork and Cork Institute of Technology within their respective institutions	The audit will be completed by end of 2002	UCC and CIT
B A working group will be established to assess the potential of this research to generate employment in Cork	The working group will report by mid 2004	IDA Ireland, UCC, CIT, Cork City Enterprise Board, Enterprise Ireland

## objective 116

A culture of learning will be fostered in Cork city

Action	Output	Leader
A Develop a lifelong learning week, to promote awareness of opportunities for all forms of learning at a local and citywide level. The week will provide a focus for a variety of initiatives (e.g. open days, exhibitions and performances, local learning trails etc.)	First learning week to take place in 2004	City of Learning Forum in association with other stakeholders
B A City of Learning logo will be developed and its use by learning centres will be promoted	Raise public awareness of learning opportunities throughout the city	Cork City Learning Forum
C Avail of the opportunities that will be provided by the designation of Cork as European City of Culture in 2005 by preparing for the activities in that year through arts education at all levels and as widely as possible, both through formal and non-formal settings	Ensure maximum participation in European City of Culture events and that the year acts as a stimulus for ongoing involvement in the arts	City of Learning Forum in association with other stakeholders

