

FEEDBACK REPORT - JULY 2000

The Cork City Development Board met for the first time on April 10th 2000. This report outlines the activities of the Board in the period to July. It is the first in a series of reports designed to keep the Board's stakeholders up to date on its activities.

The first meeting of the Board was primarily an introduction session with some initial focus on its designated tasks:

- Work towards and formulate an agreed strategy for economic, social and cultural development;
- Develop a vision at local level to encompass the various local and sectoral plans;
- Provide focus for co-operation in the work of the various agencies, promote co-ordination and avoid overlap;
- Maximise effectiveness of spending programmes and projects at local level

The Board decided to hold monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of the month (excepting August).

On May 13th and May 24th, two day long sessions focused on the Board's tasks and how it was going to achieve them. Part of the sessions involved the exploration of background issues that Board members considered important. This is a continuous process, developing as the Board deals with the matters that come before it. The Sia Management Group facilitated these sessions.

The Board had a further meeting on June 14th last.

Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development

"A Shared Vision" sets out guidelines for the preparation of the Board's Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development. This document can be consulted in any branch of the City Library. It includes the text of "Preparing the Ground", a report which set the guidelines for the establishment of the Cork City Development Board. The guidelines set out 8 steps in the Strategy preparation process and a timetable for each (appendix 1 page 32).

At present the Board has partially completed **Step 1**: Process Initiation: Aims/Philosophy. It is worth comparing the outcomes of the team building process with the key principles identified in 3.2 of "A Shared Vision".

Step 2 - the Audit of Service Provision has commenced. Initially community and voluntary organisations are being identified through a desk exercise using existing information sources. Stage 2 will focus on services provided by these organisations and the public agencies with a particular focus on service, target groups, funding and geographical area. A questionnaire is being prepared at present.

The information gained from the Service Audit will be used to:

- formulate the Strategy
- influence the Board's service co-ordination function
- put community and voluntary organisations in touch with the Community Forum
- feed into the community participation process which must be an integral part of the Board's activities

Step 3 - Analysis of the Present Economic, Social and Cultural Situation has not commenced yet. At present key indicators are being identified which will perform this process.

Community Participation

An information leaflet is in the process of preparation. The purpose of the leaflet is to bring the City Development Board and its activities to the notice of both residents and business people in the City. The leaflet will be delivered to each letterbox in the City - both residential and commercial. It contains a "FREEPOST" reply facility, which will enable recipients to respond with what they consider to be important issues. The response rate may be quite low - however the leaflet will succeed in its primary task as a baseline participation exercise.

The initial community participation process is outlined below. It follows on in logical stages from the Audit of Service Provision and the distribution of the information leaflet.

**Cork City Development Board
Strategy for Social, Economic and Cultural Development
Initial Community Participation**

June 2000

Prepare and distribute leaflets to each post box in the city
Contact organisations identified in organisations audit
Identify resources needed to facilitate the process

July 2000

Collate responses
Identify communities of interest amongst organisations
Plan consultation: objectives, activities

September 2000

Work at individual organisation level
Encourage support for Strategy preparation process
What will individual groups get out of participating?

October 2000

Work with organisations in their communities of interest
Assist them in the preparation of position papers

November 2000

Engage in formal consultation sessions with the communities of interest

December 2000

Collate results of consultation
Integrate community responses into the analysis of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities
and Threats

The material gathered in the community participation process will be fed into the analysis of Economic, Social and Cultural Situation (step 3) of the strategy preparation process and into a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats analysis (SWOT) of the issues facing Cork City (Step 4). These are steps 3 and 4 of the Strategy development process. The SWOT analysis will be scheduled for January/February.

The Community Participation process will require the assistance of organisations represented on the Board and possibly contracted facilitators.

Working Groups

The guidance issued for Development Boards envisages a role for Working Committees to investigate particular topics. Three Working Committees of the Board have been established to examine important issues in each of the spheres of the Economic, Social and Cultural Development of the City and will report to the July meeting.

These Working Committees will also have regard to the national policy framework in each topic area and to paragraph 2.7 of "A Shared Vision" which requests the Board to look at areas where it can "add value". In essence, what does the Board perceive as relevant? These Working Committees will also look at connections between their topic area and the other topic areas. The issues identified by these Working Committees can then be taken up by more specialist committees or by individual agencies and processed further.

External Communications

The Board will need to engage in external communications with:

- i. Its member organisations
- ii. The local community (residents and businesses)
- iii. Other agencies and representative bodies

At the focus session on May 24th last, the Board identified the vital role feedback to local stakeholders will play. It is important that the Board's work is properly transmitted to its stakeholders. This will be achieved through:-

- distribution of the information leaflet
- use of the Cork Corporation's website
(www.corkcorp.ie/corkcitydevboard.html)
- periodic information releases to the local press
- direct contact with individual organisations through feedback reports

Future

The Cork City Development Board meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month (excepting August). Feedback reports will be issued as soon as practicable after each meeting and posted on the above website.

You may contact the Cork City Development Board at

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e-mail : dce@corkcorp.ie