

# **SOUTH TIPPERARY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

## **Twenty ninth MEETING REPORT**

Meeting held: February 6, 2006  
Members present: 75%  
Chair: Cllr Derry Foley

### **SUMMARY**

The County Development Board reviewed a draft document, concerning a county submission seeking to influence the next National Development Plan, at its February Board meeting. The Board agreed that a summary document be prepared arising from the influencing priorities outlined and added to at the Board meeting. This document will be circulated to all the CDB members and brought back for final approval to the April Board meeting. The information in the detailed draft discussed by the Board will be used by the responsible Board members in pursuing influencing strategies for particular priorities. The Community and Enterprise staff will support the responsible Board members in that regard.

Seamus Moore outlined the considerable complementarity in the issues arising for the Health Services Executive in 2006 and the feedback from South Tipperary Forum to the NDP influencing document, especially in delivering services to the elderly, disabled and vulnerable children. The strategic direction of the HSE is to achieve more local delivery of primary, community and non-acute health services and more effective integration with complementary initiatives operated locally by other CDB members.

The CDB Officials Group for Tipperary Town and Carrick on Suir has been reactivated following the announcement of the closure of the SRAM facility in Carrick on Suir.

Seamus Moore (Health Services Executive) and Superintendent John McCann (Garda Siochana) are new members on the County Development Board.

Minister O'Cuiv has reclarified his priorities on local development cohesion. The three local development companies concerned with South Tipperary have agreed to enter a facilitation process and expect to report back to the April SIM meeting.

## **1. County Submission to influence the next National Development Plan**

The Director of Services gave a brief background to the draft influencing document prepared for the CDB meeting. South Tipperary CDB had already set priorities for the period up to 2009. The draft document followed the format laid down in the 2004 CDB review – the results being sought and stated priorities. The South Tipperary Forum had engaged in extensive consultation to ensure a comprehensive community response to the influencing document. Individual CDB members had also made submissions. These submissions were largely integrated into the priorities relevant to the specific issues and recommendations raised.

The Director outlined the emerging influencing priorities as seen by the Economic Programme Management Group chair.

- Ensure that the existing South east region (NUTS 3) is included with the BMW region as an Objective 1 in transition region for the period 2007-2013.
- Create markets for bio-mass production and have specific measures in the regional operational programmes for ethanol production/use.
- Arising from the community consultation meetings, channel significant additional resources into improving waste water infrastructure in the towns and villages.
- Ensure that there is a local enterprise service agency resource in the county in the 2007-2013 period.

Fionuala McGeever, Chair of the Social Inclusion Measures Working Group, outlined a Social Watch carried out by SIM earlier in the day and the priorities which emerged from SIM.

The economic indicators are relatively good – disposable income has risen, the proportion relative to the national average has also improved. The live register has halved in the past decade, while at the same time the South Tipperary economy has created opportunities for at least 3500 migrant workers. But there is a dichotomy between the jobs being created and the sectors where the jobs are being lost posing major challenges to readjust the skills base of the workforce.

There is a residual long term unemployed cohort and FAS has introduced high support programmes as a new initiative in the county. Over 50% of VEC clients on literacy schemes had primary education only, even though more than two thirds of the clients were under 45 years of age. Significant numbers are still not completing the Leaving Certificate in the county. The number of lone parents in the county is rising. The number of traveller families is rising. The number of childcare places is rising but childcare places need to triple again during the next NDP. The number of vulnerable children is rising. Significant mental health issues have been raised in a recent HSE survey in Clonmel. The number of homeless is rising in the county. There are changes arising from EU policies that will create additional problems for farmers aged 55 to 65 who are living on non-viable farms.

SIM recommends that going forward:

- Significant emphasis is placed on measures that support family structures and especially the capacity of family networks to support vulnerable children and vulnerable parents. Social inclusion services are needed in the rural areas of the county. More supports are needed for youth services. Training is needed in parenting skills and ensuring good mental health. Resources in these areas should have a significant impact in lessening anti-social behavior. For its part SIM plans to carry out its major pieces of work in 2006 with regard to vulnerable children and rural isolation.
- Also in the influencing document, it is important to emphasize the continuation of resources for the areas already prioritized by SIM, traveler accommodation, school completion, disability, elderly, residual unemployment and anti-social behaviour.

The Chair welcomed SIM's focus on a family integrated society in its programme for 2006.

Cllr Michael Fitzgerald, Chair of the Cultural Programme Management Group, outlined the background to the influencing priorities emerging with respect to culture.

An arts facilitation process had succeeded in galvanizing the arts sector during the 2004-2005 period. Significant outreach services were being delivered by the main players and also by the Crafts Granary. The County Council has now agreed to employ an Arts Officer going forward into the period of the next national development plan. A heritage facilitation process to support the implementation of the Heritage Plan will commence in a few months. The VEC has led the various submissions for the Sports Partnership and its CEO has got a positive response to a strategy submitted late in 2005.

- A specific priority, additional to maintaining a capital, capacity building and project support base for the arts, crafts, heritage and sports/recreation sectors, is a performance arts center for Clonmel, which may be possible to achieve as part of the process of developing Ballingarrane.

Ciaran Lynch, Chair of the Local Agenda 21 Programme Management Group, highlighted:

- the importance of making it clear how vital continuation of supports for services such as rural transport and citizens information services was.
- There is also an ongoing need for core funding for the community and voluntary sector. Project funding does not create a sustainable basis for the sector to contribute a long term commitment to facilitate engagement with public and local development sector bodies on decision making. Engagement requires resources.
- The second significant community and voluntary issue is around sustainable facilities, funding for which is largely being derived from local to the county sources.

- In terms of how supports are delivered from the national purse in particular, there needs to be much more emphasis on a territorial approach rather than a sectoral approach. There is a major challenge for the local community to ensure integration at local level if there is not integrated thinking in the first place at national level.
- One way in which this issue might be addressed is the development of national integration indicators.

The Chair thanked the Programme Management Group/SIM Chairs for their inputs. He paid a special tribute to South Tipperary Forum for its work in facilitating consultation and in evolving a society with a capacity to respond to opportunities.

The Director of Services confirmed that he would prepare a summary document arising from the influencing priorities outlined by the chairs and the additional comments made at the Board meeting. This document will be circulated to all the CDB members and brought back for final approval to the April Board meeting. The information in the detailed draft discussed by the Board would be used by the responsible Board members in pursuing influencing strategies for particular priorities. The Community and Enterprise staff will support the responsible Board members in that regard.

## **2. Preparing the ground for influencing delivery of a local health service in South Tipperary**

Seamus Moore, Local Health Office Manager with the Health Service Executive, outlined his new role as manager of all health services in South Tipperary with the exception of acute hospital services in Clonmel and Cashel. There is considerable complementarity in the feedback from South Tipperary Forum to the NDP influencing document with the priorities of the Health Services Executive.

- ✓ Improving services for older people – the goal is to maintain people’s independence in their own home for as long as possible. A shift in resource allocations may create a market for new enterprises to provide home support services.
- ✓ Improving disability services – a multi-annual funding programme has been agreed to ensure delivery of services to everybody on the database. The main capital development in 2006 will be a multi-disciplinary assessment center.
- ✓ Improving the delivery of mental health services and reposition these services to community based services. The 2006 priorities include a new day care center in Clonmel and completion of phase 1 of development in Cashel (physical and sensory disability, mental services)..
- ✓ Co-ordinating children’s services with a new children, adolescent and family services section and having a changed focus on treating the child holistically.
- ✓ Implementing the primary care strategy, with 3-4 primary care teams (up to 12 professionals servicing catchment areas with circa 10,000 population) in place by the end of 2006. This will involve considerable consultation with the key stakeholders (GPs, others in the HSE, Community and voluntary sector and other CDB members).

- ✓ The priority list for capital investment includes phase 2 of the Cashel development (renovation of the existing hospital) which will have units dealing with rehabilitative services, palliative care and GP assessment beds. There will also be a high support unit in Fethard as well as the new assessment center for disability and the new facilities under the mental health initiative referred to above.
- ✓ In summary, the strategic direction of the HSE is to achieve more local delivery of primary, community and non-acute health services and more effective integration with complementary initiatives operated locally by other CDB members.

The strategic approach of the HSE was welcomed by other CDB members.

### **3. Other Information**

The CDB Officials Group for Tipperary Town and Carrick on Suir has been reactivated following the announcement of the closure of the SRAM facility in Carrick on Suir. Cllr Patsy Murphy called for every effort to ensure that the 40,000 square foot building now being vacated would be filled with a significant number of jobs under one operation.

New members of the County Development Board include: Seamus Moore (Health Services Executive) and Superintendent John McCann (Garda Siochana).

Minister O’Cuiv has reclarified his priorities on local development cohesion. The three local development companies concerned with South Tipperary have agreed to enter a facilitation process and expect to report back to the April SIM meeting.