

# TIPPERARY SOUTH RIDING COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

## Tenth MEETING REPORT

Meeting held: February 4, 2002  
Members present: 21 (75 % attendance)  
Chair: Cllr. Denis Bourke.

### SUMMARY

The main body of the meeting was spent reviewing the recommendations for changes to the draft County Strategy arising from the stakeholder consultation phase. A report on the stakeholder consultations had been produced. (This report will be accessible on the website: [www.southtippcdb.ie](http://www.southtippcdb.ie) from mid-February 2002).

### Decisions:-

1. The Board agreed that the actions included in the final strategy would be described in task terms rather than outcomes. Detailed descriptions of the actions are to be prepared in conjunction with the relevant lead stakeholders and put on the website from April 8, 2002
2. The Executive is to review the outcomes of the matrix and if any anomalies are identified to check with the relevant stakeholder before publication.
3. The final draft of the County Strategy (arising from this meeting) is to be professionally edited.
4. The South Tipperary County Strategy is to be presented for endorsement to South Tipperary County Council on March 4, 2002.
5. The South Tipperary County Strategy is to be formally launched on April 8, 2002 at an open meeting of the County Development Board to which all interests who engaged in the preparation process are to be invited. The four programme management group chairs will present the core aspects of their respective programmes at the launch.
6. Ned O'Connor was nominated to replace Ned Gleeson, when Ned Gleeson resigns as County Manager, as chair of the Economic Programme Management Group.
7. Board members were requested to individually review where stakeholder responses impinged on their own services.

Four new members have joined the County Development Board: Nessa Coonan (IDA Ireland); Michael Dee (Enterprise Ireland); Mary Finnegan-Burke (Tipperary South Riding VEC); and Cllr Marin O'Brien (Urban Authorities).

Carrick on Suir, Tipperary Town and Clonmel (parts of) have been selected to participate in the RAPID Programme – Provincial Towns Strand.

The rural transport initiative has attracted an additional €355,000 from the Government.

## **1. Board changes**

Cllr Martin O'Brien (Clonmel Borough Council) has been nominated to the County Development Board as the Urban local authority representative for 2002. He replaces Cllr Pat Downey (Cashel Town Council).

Mr. Michael Dee (Regional Economic Development Manager) has been confirmed as the Enterprise Ireland nominee onto the South Tipperary County Development Board.

Ms Mary Finnegan-Burke (Acting CEO) has been nominated to the County Development Board to represent Tipperary (South Riding) Vocational Education Committee. She replaces Mr. Pat Moroney.

Ms Nessa Coonan (Regional Executive) has been nominated to the County Development Board to represent IDA Ireland. She replaces Mr. Pat Loftus.

## **2. Review/Amendments to the Draft County Strategy following the Consultation Process with stakeholders**

The Director of Services had circulated a number of recommendations arising from the stakeholder consultations and these recommendations were reviewed by the Programme Management Group) Chairs at the Board meeting.

**Seamus Moore** reviewing on behalf of the Social Programme Management Group welcomed the huge response by the stakeholders to the consultative draft and the hard work put in by Board members and the Executive in facilitating the draft. The division into four programmes had been well received and the returned matrices highlighted a high degree of consensus among Board members in relation to the County Strategy.

The only amendment to the recommendations made by the Director arising from the Social perspective is that the actions should be retained in their original task format rather than described as outcomes. Outcomes could be perceived as statements and do not reflect the current status of actions. Seamus Moore agreed with the need to get a professional editor review the language used, especially in the actions. He made an additional recommendation that the Executive review all the matrices to ensure that anomalies in stakeholder buy-in are reviewed with the specific stakeholder before the matrix is published as part of the County Strategy. He also agreed with the inclusion of actions only where there were clear lead stakeholders.

In reviewing the stakeholder comments, Seamus Moore recommended that Board members individually review the stakeholder responses which impinged directly on their own services. He intended to review the health service issues raised as part of his direct role as General Manager Community Care Services in South Tipperary.

There were five strategic themes of particular relevance from a social development perspective which had been responded to with proposed inter agency actions. These themes were:

- ✓ Insufficient day places for the elderly in response to isolation and other quality of life issues
- ✓ The dwindling number of volunteers
- ✓ The insufficient number of childcare places
- ✓ The need to address transport deficits because lack of transport options leads to social exclusion
- ✓ The need for access to facilities and the importance of sport and recreation to social well being and healthy lifestyles.

**Cllr Barry O'Brien** reviewed the recommendations and stakeholder comments from the Cultural Programme Management Group's perspective. Though the cultural sector is disparate there has been a broad consensus on what is needed and the proposed actions reflect this consensus. The actions largely centre on the preparation and implementation of sector plans for arts, crafts, sports and heritage. The crafts plan has been completed and is based on reality. The sector is hard to co-ordinate because each craft is different. The craft granary is a major resource and its location in Cahir is perceived as an opportunity to be exploited in getting more craft workers and visual artists to settle in that area. The County Council and the VEC are leading the sector planning in arts, heritage and sports/recreation. The Heritage Officer has already commenced duties. The critical issue with regard to arts and sports is to access additional resources and to clearly justify via a cost-benefits analysis investment in cultural infrastructure and activities. This will hopefully quantify social and economic benefits as well as the cultural benefits.

As identified in the social review, the difficulty in accessing volunteers is a major issue. Also from the Local Agenda 21 perspective, facilities are important and the proposed survey of facilities and the facility resource/gap analysis should be most useful to the cultural sector.

**Bridget O'Keeffe**, deputizing for Cllr Brendan Griffin, reviewed the recommendations and stakeholder consultations from a Local Agenda 21 Programme perspective. It is appropriate to be preparing a ten-year county strategy, the local dimension, just ten years after the Earth Summit in Rio in which the phrase Agenda 21 was coined. The strategic themes outlined in the draft county strategy are compatible with agenda 21 principles. The stakeholder consultative process was broad and it is important that the issues raised are taken on board either in the County strategy with interagency actions or by service providers themselves. The momentum should not be lost and it will be extremely difficult for some board members such as the community representatives to go back to our constituencies if real progress is not visible on critical issues within a year or two. The real challenge for us is to ensure that the co-ordination and interagency co-operation approaches work. Certainly the community sector will play its part particularly facilitating in information seminars.

**John Quinn** (deputising for Ned Gleeson who had been delayed) outlined Ned's main responses to the stakeholder comments and the recommendations. The main requirement is to keep a focus on the strategic themes emerging from the Economic Working Group and the responses to the National Spatial Strategy Unit documents in enabling South Tipperary to be economically competitive into the future. The Ballingarrane initiative in tandem with other actions on upskilling the labour force, and putting in workspace infrastructure and attracting investment both to medium sized and smaller locations represents the core of the economic strategy. On a personal note, Ned Gleeson wished to thank the Board for its hard work over the past two years. Ned Gleeson will be leaving South Tipperary in April to take up the post of Limerick County Manager. The County Council remains fully committed to the County Strategy and his deputy Ned O'Connor who will replace him on the County Development Board is also willing if the County Development Board wishes to take on the additional role of chair of the Economic Programme Working Group.

Board members broadly welcomed the recommendations both from the Director and the Programme Management Group Chairs. There will be challenges in the implementation of actions but solutions can be found.

The Director's recommendations were amended to include the recommendations of the Programme Management Group Chairs. The following were the key decisions made:

- ✓ The Board agreed that the actions included in the final strategy would be described in task terms rather than outcomes. Detailed descriptions of the actions are to be prepared in conjunction with the relevant lead stakeholders and put on the website from April 8, 2002
- ✓ The Executive is to review the outcomes of the matrix and if any anomalies are identified to check with the relevant stakeholder before publication.
- ✓ The final draft of the County Strategy (arising from this meeting) is to be professionally edited.
- ✓ The South Tipperary County Strategy is to be presented for endorsement to South Tipperary County Council on March 4, 2002.
- ✓ The South Tipperary County Strategy is to be formally launched on April 8, 2002 at an open meeting of the County Development Board to which all interests who engaged in the preparation process are to be invited. The four programme management group chairs will present the core aspects of their respective programmes at the launch.
- ✓ Ned O'Connor was nominated to replace Ned Gleeson, when Ned Gleeson resigns as County Manager, as chair of the Economic Programme Management Group.
- ✓ Board members were requested to individually review where stakeholder responses impinged on their own service.

### **3. Other Information**

The Carlow-Kilkenny-South Tipperary Rural Transport group has attracted additional funding of €355,000 from the Government's rural transport initiative

Three towns (Carrick on Suir, Tipperary Town and four housing estates in Clonmel) have been selected to benefit from the Rapid II initiative. An implementation team serviced by a co-coordinator will be established in each town. The implementation teams will report directly to the County Development Board.

A conference on local government reform, implications for elected members and the community sector will be held in the Minella Hotel, Clonmel on March 1-2, 2002.