

Appendix 2.19

[Economic Development Innovation Programme](#)

[Social Development Innovation Programme](#)

[Cultural Development Innovation Programme](#)

[Local Agenda 21 Innovation Programme](#)

TIPPERARY SOUTH RIDING COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

**Economic Development Innovation Programme
Rationale/Analysis developed largely by the Economic Working Group**

Spatial Analysis

- [Map1](#) (National Spatial Strategy Unit – Functional Areas Map) places South Tipperary firmly in the South East functional area and also recognises the strong linkage between West Tipperary (hinterland of Tipperary Town) and the Mid West functional area.
- Map 2 highlights the functional areas within South Tipperary. Clonmel services the biggest proportion of the population. (Not yet available on line)

Economic Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats Analysis

Strengths (+)

Central location in Ireland with significant roads and information technology infrastructure passing through the county
High numbers of self employed
Strong industry clusters medicare/pharmaceutical, food/drink, equine
Relatively good urban infrastructure (36% of population in 4 biggest towns)
Good availability of zoned land for enterprise development
Expanding network of enterprise centres

Weaknesses (-)

Distance to airports (in terms of getting goods to external markets) making South Tipperary somewhat uncompetitive in comparison to other counties in attracting external investors
Significant employment dependent on entrepreneurs who are exceptionally busy and who have little time for strategic thinking about their business development or for networking to address common concerns
A significant proportion of the South Tipperary labour force (including entrepreneurs) with labour market skills associated with industries in decline or which have ceased
Small number of larger employers
Internationally traded services sector weak
Size of biggest town is small in international terms
Administrative split in Ireland places the county of the periphery of the sub-region
Part of a region that does not have a university or international airport
Poor public transport infrastructure

Opportunities (x)

Tipperary Institute – focus for targeted research and development
Upgrading of National roads (shortening access time to markets)
Better matchmaking and co-ordination of resources with opportunities arising from the County Strategy
Concentration on added value by pursuing clustering and linkage strategies
Alternative energy creation
Integrated transport system
Tipperary is a relatively well known name especially to older people

Threats

Access time from the county to an international airport fails to improve
Local authorities/towns not becoming pragmatic about a strategy for industry location in the county (considered a general weakness in the South East by the National Spatial Strategy Unit)
Limited and ageing labour pool
More land required to maintain farm viability and other sectors also vulnerable to increased competition
Short and medium term shortages in waste handling facilities (including waste water) in the County.

Economic Analysis (=)

The level and extent of economic activities in rural areas (such as South Tipperary) are primarily influenced by market forces that are largely external to the area. Market driven events determine local economic outcomes, they define local development opportunities and they create economic problems. The objective of a County Economic Strategy is to try and shape or influence these market forces in the interest of the local citizens.

Michaelson (1979) suggests that rather than complain about the lack of market signals, a correct course of action is to focus more on the quality and content of the market signals. The basis of local economic development is the placement of capital, both human and financial. The capital market, while perfect most of the time, is not altogether perfect. The Economic Working Group (of the CDB) has identified a number of opportunities where the quality and content of market signals can be improved by local action. The Economic Working Group's initial perspective on the value that a County Economic Strategy needs to add to the economic situation of South Tipperary is:

- Build on the Tipperary Brand name to promote quality goods and services from the County
- Shorten access times within the County and from the county to the main cities, ports and airports in Ireland
- Take on the role of 'matchmaker' by facilitating better matches: between the skills base/qualifications of the population and available jobs; between education supply and industry development; within and between sectors in the economy to optimise value added potential; between entrepreneurs (especially farmers and small retailers) and new opportunity areas; between micro

businesses and external markets; between growing Clonmel as a nationally significant economic location and balanced development in the county; etc.

In linking the output of the Economic Working Group with that of other groups, the County Development Board identified eight strategic themes including: an economic theme (based on matchmaking); a spatial theme; and a Tipperary theme (also incorporating a cultural dimension). Following further consultations and analysis, the economic dimensions of the three themes were combined and are presented in the Economic Development Innovation Programme. The Innovation Programme largely concentrates on the matchmaking dimensions which are doable. Expert advice on branding led to a consensus that the economic potential of a County Tipperary approach was extremely limited. The more doable measures arising from both the spatial and Tipperary themes are those where good matches have already been found. These doable measures have been included in the Economic Development Innovation Programme.

TIPPERARY SOUTH RIDING COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Social Development Innovation Programme Rationale/Analysis developed largely by the Social Inclusion Advisory Group

Spatial Analysis

Map1 (based on the 1996 census) highlights the extent of area disadvantage in South Tipperary. The disadvantage is measured on indicators which are also used in the application of national resources via the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme (Clonmel, carrick on Suir) and the Community Development Programme (Tipperary town, Clonmel, Carrick on Suir, Cashel and Slieve Ardagh).

Map 2 (also based on the 1996) highlights material deprivation in the county. The material deprivation index has been used by the South Eastern Health Board Healthy Community Pilot projects (Ballingarry). There is considerable correlation between Map 1 and Map 2.

Map3 highlights the main public service information centres/offices in the County.

Map 4 highlights childcare facilities in the County (1999).

Map 5 highlights public transport in the county.

Map 6 highlights the spatial spread of people on the live register in Autumn 2000.

Social Development Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats Analysis

From a citizen perspective, the primary goals of social policy are to eliminate poverty and to create a secure and stable environment which will enable members of the household to participate in economic, social and cultural activity and enjoy a good quality of life.

The socially excluded are defined in Partnership 2000 as those:

(Figure 1)

Excluded from production (unemployed, those with no access to transport or child care, those without qualifications)

Excluded from consumption (poor, those on low incomes)

Excluded from a quality of life (those without a home, those suffering from discrimination, those abusing substances)

Excluded from social networks (those who are disaffected, those with low confidence and self esteem)

Excluded from decision making (those who are educationally disadvantaged).

Many people experience more than one type of exclusion. The most common feature of those socially excluded is that they will have left school early. Early school leavers are generally uncompetitive for jobs. Most early school leavers are faced with stark life choices. They remain unemployed or participate in employment schemes or take low paying jobs. Limited income also limits choices in terms of consumption and quality of life.

The impact of limited income on self-esteem and confidence limits engagements in social and community networks. Lack of confidence and self belief are inappropriate skills when it comes to influencing policies and decisions made outside the family home that impact of the lives of the socially excluded.

In Ireland, a large number of separate groups and specialist agencies deal with local development, physical planning, education, health, social services, industry, services and other sectors. These all report more or less 'vertically' to their parent Departments. The environment for a family experiencing a range of social exclusion is very complex (Figure 2).

The Government has supported a range of initiatives (many managed by the voluntary sector) to assist citizens in accessing information to deal with state services. The best known is the Citizens Information Centres (Clonmel CIC deals with 10,000 enquiries a year). These initiatives are additional to the information supports of the public bodies themselves. Map 3 highlights the distribution of the information supports/offices of key local bodies in South Tipperary.

International evidence shows the importance of the early years of life on the subsequent health, development and well being in childhood, adolescence and adult life. Research shows that early intervention services for children can produce a sustained improvement in children's health and education.

Investment in early intervention services for children and their families is an investment for health and economic development in the next generation

Reviews of strategies which have proven to be effective at improving the health of large numbers of children reveal that they target populations rather than individuals, have a high degree of community involvement, are broadly intersectoral and have a settings approach to the delivery of services.

The National Children's Strategy stated that the need for more community based play, leisure and cultural, opportunities was high on the list of issues raised by young people during their consultation process.

Social strengths (+)

Tradition of co-operation and voluntary endeavour in South Tipperary with strong networks in the community sector, disabled sector, etc
Significant public and voluntary sector investment in services and facilities
Friendliness and warmth of Tipperary people

Social weaknesses (-)

High levels of unemployment in public housing estates
Insufficient integration among service providers in the county on most key social exclusion issues
No local Department of Education structure in which the issue of early school leaving can be seriously tackled
All parts of the County except Clonmel and Carrick on Suir excluded from the ADM Local development Programme

The potential of local Development companies (area based) is underutilised in the County largely because they are delivering single theme programmes (LEADER, local development)

Uneven social and community infrastructure, community/youth centres, childcare, sports facilities etc.

Inadequate rural transport provision

Age profile of volunteers

Social opportunities (x)

Additional resource provision targeted at addressing blockages in the national Development Plan

Available labour force requiring a match with new jobs

Willingness of stakeholders to engage in integrated/holistic responses (eg County Childcare Committee)

Recognition of need to engage with more young people in the design/delivery of strategies

Social threats

Insufficient consensus to target resources (both locally and nationally)

Insufficient acceptance of key socially excluded target groups among the wider community

Insufficient community acceptance of the social costs of alcohol abuse and accidents in order to change the culture of Irish society

Decline of volunteers

Decline of services to rural areas (if replacement jobs for losses in agriculture not found within short commuting time)

Lack of resources (addressing waste water and serviced land deficits) to attract private housing into town and village centres and help sustain services

Social analysis (=)

The growing prosperity in Ireland over the last decade has substantially reduced unemployment and enabled targets in the National Anti-Poverty Strategy to be achieved. But the rising tide has not lifted all boats. There is significant evidence of the concentration of poverty arising from life cycles involving failure at school, low self confidence, early school leaving for low paid jobs, long periods of unemployment through life, dependent on public support for housing and welfare supplements and pensions.

As highlighted in Map 1, disadvantage is largely concentrated on the urban centres and in the Slieve Ardagh area with isolated pockets of concentration in rural DEDs which have small towns.

In the process of preparing a County Social Strategy, the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs provided DED based data on live register figures in Autumn 2000 (Map 6).

Social inclusion is not simply a challenge for specific geographical areas in South Tipperary with high concentrations of public housing. It is also a challenge facing specific target groups such as disabled, travellers, elderly, asylum seekers, those living in rural areas with no access to cars, etc.

Part of the Government's reason for establishing County Development Boards was to address the challenge of co-ordination of services at the point of delivery to citizens.

In preparing a Social Inclusion Statement, the Social Inclusion Advisory Group suggested one of these three options):

A/ The South Tipperary County Development Board, will enhance the quality of life for present and future generations, by facilitating and promoting actions and initiatives, which contribute to the nurturing and sustainment of an inclusive society, in which all will have the means and opportunities to participate in and contribute fully to their communities.

B/ The South Tipperary County Development Board, will enhance the quality of life for present and future generations, by maximizing the benefits from national, regional and local social inclusion programmes and initiatives, and by ensuring that the integration and customisation of services meets the needs of all in our community.

C/ The South Tipperary County Development Board will maximize the benefits to our community, from national regional and local inclusion programmes and initiatives, ensuring that the integration and customisation of services meets the needs of all in our society. The board will ensure that all in our community have access to education training and employment opportunities and have an adequate income. The needs of those who are homeless, discriminated against, who are disaffected, suffer from substance abuse and/or low confidence and self esteem, and the educationally disadvantaged will be catered for.

The purpose of the County Social Strategy is to add value to the relationship between the citizen and service provision (public, local development, community, etc). The County Strategy for Social Development must primarily address the challenge of integration where citizens are experiencing multiple forms of exclusion.

In assisting the preparation of a County Strategy, the Social Inclusion Advisory Working Group decided to segment social inclusion into manageable areas before integrating the issues arising from the segments so as to inform the Strategy for Social Development. The nine segments included (design – Figure 4):

- housing
- unemployment and social cohesion
- transport
- health
- adequate family income
- education
- youth
- childcare
- community development.

There was considerable crossover in the issues arising within the nine segments. The following recommendations emerged from the Social Inclusion Advisory Working Group:

- ❖ Holistic and Humane approach to Service delivery: To effectively tackle social inclusion the client has to be fully accommodated. Within services there has to be the willingness and flexibility to cater for the individuals personal circumstances and needs. Services should be client focused providing tailored services from the cradle to the grave and must treat the client with dignity. Integrated services involving a number of agencies, but based in and led by communities, were seen as the option best likely to deliver this strategy.

- ❖ Support for Development of the Community and Voluntary Sector: Community and voluntary groups need the necessary training resources and supports to enable them participate as equal partners in the CDB process. The meeting of these needs by state agencies should not compromise the community and voluntary groups' representation of their clients.
- ❖ Employment: There is a need to match the economic needs of the county with the social needs. Employment is seen as a key tool in tackling exclusion and marginalisation. Better data is needed to determine the true extent of unemployment and to best target the resources needed to enable people access to jobs and the workplace.
- ❖ Better Communication and Information Systems for review and participation: To ensure the success of the CDB and the county strategy, clear measurable targets and objectives need to be set and regularly monitored. A definitive audit of community infrastructure and facilities needs to be carried out to determine the baseline from which the strategy will work. Clear areas of responsibility need to be agreed and a review of participation by the different agencies needs to be built into the process with no self-evaluation.
- ❖ Boundaries inter-agency and geographic: There is a need for agencies to overcome individual remit/patch mentalities and to break down agency territorial barriers. Geographical boundaries also need to be tackled to better serve the disadvantaged in our communities. People often end up travelling long distances to access services in designated areas, when the same services are available more locally.
- ❖ Resources Maximised and Targeted: Resources should be targeted and allocated on a needs basis. Duplication to be avoided.
- ❖ Improved access to agencies and services: Facilitation of linkages, with good data available locally enabling people to avail of services and opportunities.

In linking the output of the Social Inclusion Advisory Group with that of other groups, the County Development Board identified eight strategic themes including: a social inclusion theme (based on holistic approaches to multiple disadvantage); and a family lifestyle theme (based on enhancing the quality of life of citizens. Following further consultations and analysis, the social dimensions of these and other themes were combined and are presented in the Social Development Innovation Programme. The Innovation Programme incorporates a diverse range of strategic options.

Option 1. Vertical approach to dealing with families via agencies. Traditional approach which works reasonably well when families have single issue based needs (such as ill-health, housing, etc.).

Option 2. Gap approach. (This approach is in current vogue and is generally resourced by a single agency operating on its own). Provision of services is based on participation of target groups and/or families and/or communities. A partnership approach is used with the target group organisations (eg, Youth Services, Centres for Independent living). The participation of families is increased by improving their capacity based on role models (eg community mothers). Community based family support services are encouraged (eg community resource centres).

Option 3. Local Development Approach. (This is a minor variation of option 2 but builds on the partnership approach which enables agencies to pool resources and deliver family or community initiatives in a more structured way. A Local Development Company provides the technical support so that initiatives are integrated (with other initiatives and with the target communities)

Option 4. Horizontal approach in dealing inter-sectorally with families suffering multiple deprivation and social exclusion. (This policy has been successfully tested in the Integrated Services Process Projects).

Option 5. Target Group approach. Target 'holistically' priority sectors/sub-sectors (eg elderly, disabled, Travelling community, etc) in specific sub-county areas.

Option 6. South Tipperary/regional approach/County Tipperary to targeting specific issues. (eg. County Childcare Committee, South Tipperary/Kilkenny/Carlow rural transport group plan, regional drugs task force strategy, County Citizens Information Plan)

Measures have been developed on many of these strategic options and doable actions have been identified.

TIPPERARY SOUTH RIDING COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Cultural Development Innovation Programme Rationale/Analysis developed largely by the Cultural Working Group

Spatial Analysis

Map1 highlights the distribution of cultural facilities in the county.

Cultural Development Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats Analysis

There are many definitions of culture. The Arts Council uses a definition ‘Culture has been defined as everything we do not have to do’. From a citizen perspective, access (as a participant or as a spectator) to arts, heritage, sport and recreation, impact significantly on quality of life.

Exposure to a culture that supports creative development is an important indicator of a community's or a 'county's well being. Tipperary is the home of hurling and both hurling and equestrian activities thrive in South Tipperary. The County has significant heritage assets – the well known Rock of Cashel attracted over 250,000 visitors during 2000. The County is also strongly associated with the performing arts, especially drama and with crafts, especially basketwork.

The cultural kaleidoscope is continually changing – new developments in the Bru Boru Centre, Excel Centre, Sean Kelly Sports Centre, the County Museum, etc countering the loss of Regal Theatre, Carrick on Suir Theatre, Church of Ireland churches, dancehalls, etc – reflecting outcomes of both citizen, community and public investment and apathy.

The darker side of the cultural changes include the increasing amount of time spent watching TV (now averaging over three hours per day) and spent in pubs allowing less space for the traditional and niche sectors. In the years ahead, in-migration to Ireland will also pose new challenges in integrating asylum seekers and celebrating their culture. It is not a challenge that can be faced with confidence given the experience of the Travelling Community in being accepted and their culture respect.

Cultural strengths (+)

Range of cultural excellence – sport, music, theatre, heritage, crafts, etc

There are some good facilities already in the county

A local community radio which can reflect the culture of its franchise area

More experience among key players in culture of outreach (especially supported by FÁS schemes)

Tipperary people have great pride in their county (especially its hurling and camogie achievements)

Cultural weaknesses (-)

The sector is fragmented with individual groups operating largely in darkness – not aware that others face same issues and that unity could be strength in dealing with public bodies. The survival of many new cultural groups contingent on luck.

The quality of facilities varies throughout the county. Some facilities are closed. Others cannot be easily accessed (especially by children).

Previous efforts to co-ordinate Arts Sector in 1996 led to disillusionment

Tipperary is divided into two administrative counties whereas the citizen associates with the entire county

Lack of dedicated professionals whose job is to co-ordinate arts, heritage, sport, etc in the county

Cultural opportunities (x)

The County Strategy can provide a vision that will add value to the cultural situation
Agreement on a Facility Typology Strategy for county, sub county and community areas

Get CDB consensus on the development of acceptable access strategies when public funding is given to any cultural facility

Funding opportunities – Arts Council, Heritage Council, Irish Sports Council, etc

Promote, export and import excellence in culture

Celebrate minority cultures (travellers, asylum seekers, etc)

Cultural threats

No National Cultural Strategy or Task Force (co-ordinating the Arts Council, Heritage Council, Sports Council, Crafts Council of Ireland)

Local government and the public sector in South Tipperary may not take up the new opportunities to promote/advance culture in the county

Decline in volunteers

Focus of funding will remain on bricks and mortar rather than on the use of facilities

Changes in lifestyles and the impact of mass media if the critical faculties of the South Tipperary population do not continue to be developed

Danger of intervening too strongly in culture and ruining what is to be celebrated

Increase in racism

Cultural analysis (=)

The cultural situation of South Tipperary could be described as a jigsaw that needs to be put together. If the County Strategy for Cultural Development is to make any difference, it must:

- build on the strengths (pieces of the jigsaw),
- address the weaknesses (jigsaw pieces are disjointed),
- optimise the opportunities (there is increasing empirical evidence that culture impacts on quality of life, there is more funding available and this funding needs to be directed strategically to professional backing/co-ordination, to facilities that are accessible and sustainable (appropriate level); to volunteer support and to outreach activities that will increase participation in culture)
- minimise the threats by finding the right balance in communicating with the stakeholders (consensus on the way forward with all key stakeholders agreed and clear on strategies including volunteer enhancement; and in

communicating with the general population (activities that enhance critical faculties, visual awareness, appreciation of excellence and participation in culture).

Many of the pieces to make up the jigsaw are in place. These need to be linked to each other by a coherent strategy. Central to that strategy is professional support for the co-ordination of the arts, heritage and sport. Missing pieces (gaps in infrastructure) need to be identified and a facility development strategy agreed for a generation (20 years).

There are three different types of stakeholder who have a role in putting the jigsaw together – cultural providers, volunteers, and citizens.

Cultural providers are being given an opportunity to come together as part of the process in developing and implementing a County Strategy. These stakeholders must deliver coherence and consensus on the way forward.

Volunteers have a major role to play in the delivery of cultural activities. The changing nature of volunteerism needs to be understood and their needs, especially in getting recognition (qualifications and support) for the time given, are met.

The cultural sector needs to reach out to the general population in proven ways and in new innovative ways to enable citizens improve and enhance their quality of life.

The Cultural Working Group's perspective on the value that a County Cultural Strategy needs to add to the cultural situation of South Tipperary is:

- Professional backing at county level for culture
- An agreed facility development strategy (for a generation) which is attracting public resources
- An emphasis on enabling volunteers get more recognition (for the time spent) especially qualifications
- More emphasis on outreach activities in the resourcing of the cultural sector.

In linking the output of the Cultural working Group with that of other groups, the County Development Board identified eight strategic themes including a cultural development theme (on which the cultural development innovation programme is based); and a facilities/services infrastructure theme (which is incorporated into the Local Agenda 21 Innovation programme).

The focus of the Cultural Development Innovation Programme is on co-ordination.

TIPPERARY SOUTH RIDING COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Local Agenda 21 Innovation Programme Rationale/Analysis developed largely by a combination of the Rural Development Review Group, the Cultural Working Group, the Social Inclusion Advisory Group and the Economic Working Group

Sustainable Development

Sustainable development has been defined as ‘development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’. Major international conferences at Rio and Kyoto have identified policies and targets as to how sustainable development can be achieved and the environment protected. The main recommendation arising that a county can implement is completion of a Local Agenda 21 plan. This County Strategy, based on the processes followed, can be described as a Local Agenda 21 strategy for the county.

The main issues that have arisen in the county review/consultation processes relating to the environment and sustainable development have included: settlement planning; balanced mix of public-private housing; retention of the rural population; rural transport; waste management; alternative energy; water quality; roads; access to facilities; and injury prevention.

Settlement planning. From a sustainability perspective, there is much to commend policies that encourage people to live in towns and villages. Service provision and service access by the citizen at all stages of life are much easier. Although the public policy environment specifies strong support for the development of settlements, the reality is that many intending house owners cannot or do not want to opt for that choice. Culturally, Irish people seem to prefer to live in individual (and ideally detached) houses. This option is rarely provided in towns and villages despite the serviced land initiative. Wastewater infrastructure is also problematic. There are more than 40 settlements in South Tipperary with no public wastewater scheme.

The most realistic option for the single detached house is to persuade a farmer to sell them a site and to seek planning permission to build on it. As more and more opt for this option especially adjacent to the main towns, the impact on groundwater of septic tank sewage systems has become a major concern. The Planning Authority (Tipperary SR Co Council) has had to restrict planning permissions (to indigenous applicants) in these town environs.

Balanced mix of public-private housing. One of the negative impacts of the previous less restrictive planning regime was the transfer of private housing investment out of towns (Tipperary Town represents the most extreme example in South Tipperary), resulting in higher concentrations of public housing in the town and town centres with few residents overnighting. The Town Renewal Scheme in Clonmel successfully addressed the town centre residential deficit but less tax advantageous Town Renewal Schemes in Carrick on Suir and Tipperary Town have failed. Carrick on Suir excellent location along with Urban District Council facilitating policies has in recent years led to much more private housing investment within the town.

Retention of the rural population. The most vocal adherents for a less restrictive planning environment argue on the basis of retaining population in the countryside. Away from the main town environs, the main concern of the planners is to restrict ribbon development on roads in order to protect the character of the countryside. The planners seek to encourage those in rural areas who want to build houses to come together and build on the one location (like the old style clochans), so that only one access point is needed onto county roads and more sustainable sewage systems can be used. The gap in service provision is that there is no agency/community body matching the people who want to build houses so that they do it together.

Agriculture: One of the major challenges facing rural areas is the decline of farm numbers. This is highlighted in the attached table (TEAGASC figures to be added). (Retaining the farm family population is addressed in a matchmaking measure under the Economic Development Innovation Programme).

The present system of one-off housing suits may appear to suit farmers who are in financial trouble, who can sell off a site to relieve the burden. The Rural Development Review Group reached a consensus that it is not a sustainable farming practice to sell off sites. The Review Group argued that farmers in serious financial difficulty would be better off in the long run selling their farms, rather than selling sites on a piecemeal basis. A secondary concern of the Group is that many new residents into the countryside who have no empathy with farming continuously complain about farming smells, putting additional psychological pressure on farmers. Interestingly, Ireland's bovine population is the country's main contributor to greenhouse gases. The Three Rivers Project has innovative actions in South Tipperary with the farming community/TEAGASC in targeting pollution control and nutrient management planning. The main EU innovative action in relation to agriculture and the environment has been REPS (Rural Environment Protection Scheme)

Rural transport. Recent studies (Kerry, Laois, Mayo, and Westmeath) have highlighted that 20% of the rural population never or rarely access to a car. Four target groups who suffer significant additional social exclusion (higher than the average 20%) are the elderly; the sick and disabled; the unemployed and young people. Within the auspices of the Rural Development Review Group, South Tipperary Voluntary Community Group Platform and the Barrow Nore Suir Rural Development Group are developing sustainable options to address some of the rural transport deficits in South Tipperary.

Sustainable transport. Apart from rural transport, the use of sustainable transport systems is not high in South Tipperary, despite the fact that there is a railway line linking the three biggest towns in the county. There has been very limited consideration of cycle lanes in town development plans.

Forestry. Coillte Teo has facilitated a consultative process with regard to sustainable forest management in the two main forested areas in the County (the south West and the North East).

Waste management. Irish people are generating more and more waste. Facilities for handling waste are decreasing. Currently a Regional Waste Management Plan is being evolved to address the short to medium term waste handling problem. But in the longer term, sustainable solutions are required that will enable Ireland achieve its Kyoto targets. The following consensus emerged from the Rural Development Review Group in relation to the County Waste Management Strategy:-

- The primary focus should be on not mixing waste
- Resources need to be targeted at promotion of non-mixing solutions and children may provide the means of access of the message to most homes
- There needs to be a community participation and that this may best be achieved by smaller rather than larger solutions and the proximity principle (reed beds, community composting, etc)

Energy. South Tipperary imports almost all of its energy needs. One of the main difficulties facing the county is that the unsuitability of the electricity system to take in generated capacity if windfarms were developed in the most suitable areas of the county. Energy conservation in the county is supported by the work of the Tipperary Energy Agency based in Cahir. The following consensus emerged from the Rural Development Review Group in relation to the County Energy Strategy:-

- The primary focus is to increase the price paid to alternative energy suppliers
- There needs to be a community payback dimension
- Small can be beautiful, and the access issues preventing small scale developments must be targeted (including the use of net-metering technology)
- Farmers cannot realistically be expected to reduce stock numbers by 10% unless the alternatives (which support energy creation and decrease greenhouse emissions) are adequately resourced.

Water resources. Most of South Tipperary is in the Suir River catchment, which has been the focus of a major national pilot project – The Three Rivers Project (along with the Liffey and the Boyne). Water quality was unsatisfactory at 38% of the sites monitored in 1996 by the Environment Protection Agency. The Three Rivers Project along with other major initiatives has been attempting to improve the situation. The main initiatives have related to upgrading municipal waste water treatment facilities in the main towns; and addressing diffuse pollution sources arising from agriculture, forestry, industry, peat extraction and domestic septic tanks.

Roads. There is considerable investment in relation to National Roads in the National development Plan. The following consensus from the Rural Development Review Group emerged in relation to the National Roads Strategy as it applies to South Tipperary.-

- ✓ The primary focus is to encourage people to go to the consultation meetings at an early stage so that they can be properly informed about the process and also given adequate opportunity to express their fears and concerns.
- ✓ Safety issues and access issues to Communities are fundamental principles that need to be taken into account in relation to design of the linkages of the National Motorway roads in South Tipperary. It is important that local Communities be given opportunities to look at the design of these linkages so that their fears and concerns are addressed.
- ✓ In the design of the National Roads Strategy for South Tipperary, cognisance needs to be taken in the constraints analysis of community impact and a key goal of route selection/prioritisation should be to lessen the disturbance from a

community perspective.

Injury prevention. Injuries cause unmeasured distress to individuals, families and communities and are also a huge economic cost to society. Research indicates that the three strands of education, environment and law enforcement can be more effective in reducing injuries and accidents than each sector working individually.

Services and facilities infrastructure

The Cultural Working Group recommended that there should be an agreed facility development strategy for the county and that services be accessed at as local a level as possible, especially with the use of an outreach approach. The County Development Board developed these recommendations into a services and facilities infrastructure theme that links wider facility development and the provision of services so as to reduce access time for citizens to services and to participation in social and cultural activities.

There is a strong correlation between cultural spend/participation and the availability of facilities. Research carried out by the Cultural Working Group in West Tipperary and Slieve Ardagh highlights the connection. In the Slieve Ardagh area where there are limited community cultural facilities, the community cultural spend works out at £25.00 (Euros) per capita retained in the Slieve Ardagh area (for ongoing activities not including capital investment). Whereas in the Tipperary Town catchment where there is significant cultural infrastructure the community cultural spend works out at £157.50 (Euros) retained in the West Tipperary area.

Minimum facilities need to be considered at four levels:-

- ❖ Parish level – focus on multi-usage of facilities (access to a hall that can accommodate arts/crafts and indoor sport and recreation activity; access to a sportsfield that can accommodate play and outdoor recreation facilities; access to heritage aspects); primary school
- ❖ Sub-county facilities – focus on smaller sized specialized facilities (for a main town and the communities in its hinterland): include small specific centres for performing arts, heritage, library and specialized sports facilities (sports hall, athletics track, etc); second level school;
- ❖ County facilities – focus on medium scale specialized facilities (for the population of the county); such as a municipal theatre, arts centre, museum/heritage centre; third level institute; etc.
- ❖ Regional facilities - focus on larger scale specialized facilities (for the population of the region); such as a municipal theatre, arts centre, museum/heritage centre; university; etc.

The County already has a kaleidoscope of facilities at all three levels. What is needed is the transfer of a model that works well in Germany: a strategy that plans for a generation – 20 to 30 years (plans for the upgrading/renewal of existing facilities and also addresses gaps in the existing provision).

Currently, the provision of social and cultural infrastructure is highly dependent on voluntary fund raising. Given the pressure on volunteerism generally as life and work styles change, a development strategy based on voluntary fund raising is not

sustainable. Raising matching funding for infrastructure is also not an efficient use of volunteer time. Simpler methods of funding facilities need to be found.

The public purse is partly resourcing social and cultural infrastructure but in an uncoordinated manner. Often, as in the case of FÁS schemes, the improved community facility is a by-product of the main aim to up skill people who are seeking work. Also, the community promoter must often apply to a range of agencies, involving considerable administrative hardship, in order to get a project completed.

What is needed is a more coordinated and direct approach to the provision of social, cultural and community infrastructure, ideally tied into a 'Generation facility development plan for South Tipperary'. This approach will be assisted greatly by the inclusion of provision for development levies for social and cultural infrastructure in new Development Plans prepared by local authorities under Section 48 of the 2000 Planning and Development Act.

Service provision to citizens in South Tipperary are also provided at different levels (population size being the most significant factor):-

- ❖ Parish level – significant but variable local voluntary services; some private services such as retail outlets and professional services, limited and variable provision of localized public services (more in bigger centres of population that also service catchments)
- ❖ Sub-county level – limited and variable voluntary services; more private and commercial services; some public services including outreach services, Co Council, Health Board, Department of Social Community and Family Affairs, Gardai)
- ❖ County services – voluntary networks servicing the voluntary sector, local development companies/partnerships; significant private and commercial services; more public services again with outreach responsibility for the County (such as the County Enterprise Board, FÁS, Tipperary Institute; specialized services such as the Local Authority planning section, acute hospital services, etc)
- ❖ Regional services – very limited voluntary services; bigger private services; some public services (IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland) including networks (South East Regional Authority, South East Tourism).

Inclusion and participation are at the heart of the social and cultural vision for South Tipperary. An outreach strategy can complement the facility development strategy in ensuring that the entire South Tipperary population has good opportunities to access services and engage in social and cultural activities.

The Cultural Working Group has a firm view (endorsed by the County Development Board) that the onus is on service providers to reach out to the general population in proven ways and in new innovative ways to enable its customers improve and enhance their quality of life. A number of cultural and community providers are availing of the FÁS resources to do just that.

A quality job within 30 minutes commuting time is the main output desired from economic strategy by each adult member of the South Tipperary population.

Consequently, access times and availability of access modes within the county and to neighbouring urban centres are important indicators of economic progress.

South Tipperary has a locational advantage in being at the cross roads of the N8 and N24. The National Development Plan's focus on upgrading National Roads provides an opportunity to shorten access time to external markets. The challenge in upgrading the infrastructure in County Tipperary is to ensure that there are sufficient access points to the new main roads in the county, so that the smaller towns and villages are not further disadvantaged.

Access time to airports which are substantive international hubs is a critical indicator for future competitiveness. The decisions likely to emerge from the work on the National Spatial Strategy in relation to airport development will be critical. In the absence of an international airport serving the centre of the country and following consultations with a variety of economic interests, there are many in South Tipperary who favour the strategic option of growing international services at Cork Airport.

From a County Development Board perspective there is a clear need for co-ordination to ensure that South Tipperary has a good infrastructure in terms of facilities and services that facilitates access of the citizens of the county to economic, social and cultural opportunities.

Community Development

The Community theme arises from the recommendations of the Social Inclusion Working Group and the Cultural Working Group.

According to research carried out for the National Spatial Strategy, good community interaction is considered to be an important factor in the quality of life of Irish people. Community interaction is largely facilitated by the voluntary sector.

A major issue for South Tipperary and for the country generally is the profile of volunteers at a time of rapid life/work style changes and an acknowledged decline in social capital. A worrying feature of the consultations with volunteers is the age profile – more than 90% of volunteers consulted have at least 20 years voluntary experience. During the consultations, the view of volunteers was that younger people will volunteer but for a specific job and for a limited period of time. There is a perception that these volunteers want more than just the good will of the community. Volunteers want 'real support' – structured, integrated transparent and agreed resourcing. Volunteers also want more recognition especially of the specific skills they bring to/develop in their voluntary roles and to opportunity to get formal qualifications through their voluntary work. Tipperary Institute will have much to offer in this regard and additional qualifications should help make volunteers more competitive from a career development perspective.

The economic, social and cultural development of the county cannot be met without continuing substantive voluntary effort. There is an imperative to ensure a continuous flow of volunteers and that volunteer time is productively spent. There is no doubt that this delivery is enhanced by a co-ordinated back up (such as that delivered with resources via the FÁS Community Employment schemes).

The decline in volunteerism has been disguised to some extent by the delivery of community economic, social and cultural services with the support of FÁS CE schemes (such as sports development officers; heritage centre officers; enterprise

centre managers; etc). The FÁS resources have been of major benefit to the delivery of community services in the county. There are drawbacks and voluntary groups are very concerned about sustainability issues. Volunteers are requesting 'real support' in that public resources are provided directly to support service delivery rather than being dependant on the good will of public bodies who have their own objectives to achieve (for example in the case of FÁS – the upskilling of the participant so that he/she is competitive for available paid employment is the prime objective).

The volunteer enhancement aspect of the County Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development also needs to focus on upskilling and qualifications so that structured pathways are available for new volunteers that will assist their general career prospects. New legislation (geared to protecting children, Education Welfare Bill) will also create an impetus for volunteer qualifications. There may also be an impetus towards further public expenditure on the provision of cultural services in partnership with the voluntary sector.