

EPMG Priority Actions 2011: Report, November 2011

Economic Programme Management Group Members

Members:

Cllr Michael Murphy STCC, Ciaran Lynch – TI; Niall Morrissey – STDC; Sinéad Carr – C&E; Anna Tuohy-Halligan – CDP/FRC Network; to be nominated – FÁS; Brian Fives EI; Ita Horan – CEB; Pat Holland – C&E; Bernard Lennon – CVF; Fiona Lonergan – IDA; Donal Mullane – TEAGASC; Eimear Whittle, Failte Ireland Anthony FitzGerald, Business Park, Business Pillar representatives: Brian Cleary Clonmel Chamber (and representing Carrick-on-Suir), Sean Moloughney Cashel, TIRD rep., J.J. Killian,

Aim: Increase the competitiveness of South Tipperary for Investment and income generation

Key Action	Target/Standard/Process	Partners	KPI	Progress in year 2011 to date
<p><i>Infrastructure:</i> The EPMG will continue to maintain a <i>watching brief</i> on vital <i>infrastructure development</i>, inputting where it can to ensure the county progresses with infrastructure development.</p>	<p>Broadband Increased accessibility, availability.</p>	<p>STCC SERA Private Enterprise DCENR ENet</p>	<p>Carrick-on Suir, Tipperary Town/Limerick Junction, Cashel and Cahir broadband infrastructure 'Lit'.</p> <p>Increasing the usage of the MANS</p> <p>Rural Broadband penetration expanded through Department's '3' licence.</p>	<p>Broadband MANS Phase 1 Clonmel Earlier this year was 6 Carriers (UPC, Digiweb, BT, Cable & Wireless, Cablevision, O2), now 9 (+ SMART, AT&T, Imagine) 16 Connections (Some connections direct to Telco PoP's (UPC, Cablevision, O2) providing indirect connectivity and services to multiple end users. Other connections direct to end-users. The much larger number of end users highlights the fact that the MANS are a middle mile solution allowing multiple last mile or access technologies to complement and work in tandem with them. Now 9 Carriers (UPC, Digiweb, BT, Smart, AT&T, Cable & Wireless, Cablevision, O2, Imagine) 21 Connections (Some connections direct to Telco PoP's (UPC, Cablevision, O2, Imagine) providing indirect connectivity and services to multiple end users. Other connections direct to end-users – a mix of public sector buildings and private commercial sites.</p> <p>Phase 2 Cahir, Cashel, Carrick on Suir and Tipperary Town were handed over to e net in mid Dec 2009 All of these, except Cashel, have BT backhaul and are available for traffic Enet and other significant stakeholders are trying to overcome the backhaul challenge from Cashel. some interest shown from 1 end user. In relation to backhaul, it looks as though backhaul would be wireless (like Enet have put in place in Kiltimagh, Bantry, Nenagh etc.) when demand is present.</p> <p>The difficult with the MANS remains the capital investment cost of connection whereby funds need to be provided to bridge the gap between</p>

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	<p>Business Parks Consolidation of recent development. Strategic planning and development of landbanks.</p> <p>Hotels</p> <p>Rail Upgrade Limerick Junction Rail Station</p> <p>Roads</p>	<p>STCC TI IDA EI CEB Private business</p> <p>Private enterprise</p> <p>Iarnród Éireann SERA CDB MWRA</p> <p>SERA STCC CDB</p>	<p>Ballingarrane Marketing campaign continued.</p> <p>Campus Innovation Centre progressed</p> <p>R&D centre grown</p> <p>Private business parks</p>	<p>the MANS and the businesses front door. There are, apparently, moves both operational and policy based, to bridge this gap.</p> <p>The National Broadband Scheme was set up by Government to bring internet services to those parts of the country not previously covered. By end 2009, 82% of the NBS areas had been covered, servicing some 8900 households. The Scheme has been completed in the county. 6230 premises in the following 27 EDs have been covered (Ardfinnan, Ballycarron, Ballygriffin, Bruis, Burncourt, Clonbeg, Cloneen, Coolagarranroe, Cullen, Curraheen, Derrygrath, Emly, Garrangibbon, Glengar, Golden, Kilcoran, Kileenasteena, Kilpatrick, Lattin, Oughterleague, Poyntstown, Rodus, Shronell, Thomastown, Tubbrid, and Tullaghmelan).</p> <p>The Rural Broadband Scheme call for applications closed on the 29th July. It was designed to make a basic broadband service available to premises in rural locations which are not served by existing internet service providers and who are outside the area of the existing National Broadband Scheme. If you live in an NBS area, then you are guaranteed to be offered a service by 3, the NBS internet service provider. Almost 5000 applications have been received by the Dept. and to date about 800 have been identified as not qualifying due to being outside of the scope of the Scheme. The Dept are currently processing approximately 1200 applications where address details need to be clarified. A total of 50 internet companies have expressed an interest in participating in the Verification Phase of the Scheme. This includes all of the major national companies.</p> <p>It is possible that successful applicants will eventually be assisted to get satellite broadband, a service which is becoming more common and economically priced.</p> <p>Clonmel Chamber of Commerce have been assisted by the County Development Company to provide a wifi service throughout the town. This might be possible in other towns in the county.</p> <p>Companies such as Eircom, currently providing internet through copper wire are moving to bring fiber optic cable as close to the front door as possible. This will be much easier in towns than in the rural areas.</p> <p>A new video re the suitability of the county and Ballingarrane was completed in March this year and has been distributed in various ways. The MOU between TI/LIT and the Council has been agreed. Plans for the new building, the Incubation Unit</p>

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	<i>Childcare infrastructure</i>	STCCC	<p>continue development when opportunities arise.</p> <p>Promote the sustainability of hotels where possible.</p> <p>Park and Ride facility, developed. Passenger facilities and services on the Waterford/Limerick rail line improved. Commencement of a joint strategic rail initiative between the SE Region and the Mid West Region on the Limerick – Waterford - Rosslare route.</p> <p>Inclusion of the Tipperary Town and Carrick on Suir by-passes in the NRA programme pre 2013</p> <p>Strategic Mapping/Zeno Updated</p>	<p>for Tipperary Institute at Ballingarrane are being actively followed up with recent meetings. It will take 30 months to build, from start to finish.</p> <p>Clonmel Business Park and the Council enterprise units in Drangan (2/3) and Ballingarry are full, and Tipperary Tech park was 60-65% full.</p> <p>Anthony FitzGerald continues to work in the position of Business Development Executive. So far this year he has been working on the use of the Ballingarrane video, support of the business parks, training opportunities, inter-agency work and creating greater levels of interaction between the business community and the various state agencies as well as following up various business opportunities.</p> <p>Due to the economic climate, there has been little opportunity to progress this initiative. Hotels are coming under severe pressure and it may be that the main effort should be to support them in terms of encouraging events etc. At least one in the county has seen a change in ownership due to the severe conditions.</p> <p>Joint marketing with Iarnrod Eireann produced encouraging results on the Rosslare Harbour-Limerick rail link with a significant rise immediately after the marketing campaign. A marketing campaign at the time of the Tall Ships was very successful, a victim of its own success in fact with insufficient space for all prospective customers. Talks have continued with local interested groups re following up the campaign. There is a lot of concern regarding the future status of the line.</p> <p>N 24: The Tipperary town-bypass/Pallas Green to Cahir : an Environmental Impact Statement and CPO documentation are being prepared and should be completed this year. They will then pause until approval for funding is received. The Carrick and Clonmel by passes are awaiting route approval. Funding for both routes has not yet been allocated. In present circumstances, we may have to wait some time for funding to be approved.</p>

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			Quality Programmes Promoted Childcare Services with CCSS supported Voluntary Notification supported HSE & County Council Child protection workshops supported Childcare providers supported in creating easier access to their services for Traveller children.	April 2011 figures 41 private services 32 community services 3 after-school services 2 private Montessori (IMEB registered) 2 HSE notified childminders November 2011 figures 42 private services 32 community services 2 stand-alone after-school services 1 HSE notified childminder 31 Voluntary notified childminders
Engineering Sector	<i>Engineering Sector Action</i>	TI FÁS CEB EI STCC Engineering companies	Workshop on European R&D funding held Training & Development Association promoted Action plan developed and implemented	A draft plan for the Engineering Network had been prepared but unfortunately funding from FAS could not be continued into this year (2011) due to changes in FAS with priority being given to the unemployed rather than in services to business. It is still proposed to hold one engineering networking meeting during this year and opportunities for same are currently being examined.
Energy	<i>Energy Action</i>	STCC Private enterprise ESB DCENR	Creation and implementation of action plan Identify approaches that eliminate problems associated with delays in connections to the grid. Wind energy and biogas projects in the pipeline implemented	2010-1 1. In 2010 Rockwell College installed the first major renewable energy heating installation, two no. 240kW wood chip boilers, which TEA would expect to output 768,000kWh, depending on operating hours and management of the heat load at the college and associated buildings. The company supplying wood chip is Tipp Wood Chip of Two Mile Borris. They have informed me that in 2011 two mushroom farms have also installed wood chip fired heating. Another installation in an agricultural location is possible. However the removal of grants for boilers is currently hindering the development of the wood chip etc sector. There are a number of potential sites in South Tipperary, hotels, swimming pools etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were no large wind farm installations in the county nor any bio-gas. though there has been some planning permission activity re a control station in Hollyford for a windfarm.

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural gas came to Tipperary town in 2011. • There is no wood briquette or wood pellet manufacturer in the county though there are some close by, in Kilkenny and in east Limerick. • Firewood is being supplied by a wide variety of sources (see the ads in the local papers) but to a variety of conditions (wet, dry, bagged, baled, loose etc). There is room for supply chain growth and economic quantities. • Miscanthus is being grown by a number of farmers in the county, organized by a local company, Tippgen. During the year, the tariff or subvention for biomass to electricity generation plants was announced. This would have given giving some degree of price predictability for growers. However this has been delayed apparently due to an intervention by another market player. The activity re planting more acreage of miscanthus has therefore slowed down while other sectors of farming would have seen some improvement. • Miscanthus is being used in briquettes in other parts of the country, though there has been learning about the need to mix it with wood particles to ensure a coarser ash which does not clog hearths. As with wood chip, the removal of the grants has restricted boiler installations. • A county bio-energy plan is to be created by TEA • I think we can assume that there has been very few solar heating installations in South Tipperary during 2011, simply due to the fact that very few houses are being built at present though anecdotal evidence suggests extensions etc are being built as people decide to expand accommodation rather than trying to sell and buy. • The FOREST, pan-European project focused on working with business in the biomass heating supply chain to develop a more profitable and successful business sector is now up and running. Their aim is to keep you up-to-date with information that's helpful in developing business and promoting a successful biomass sector. See http://www.forestprogramme.com/ <p>General note: if the price of oil continues to rise, especially with any upturn in the European economy, then renewables will become more attractive and the need for subvention, organization and development will be come more acute. Cheaper steps such as better insulation should not be forgotten. Larger thinking may be come necessary i.e plan a small forest of fast-growing biomass beside a factory to provide the wood for the wood chip boiler in the future.</p>
Support the implementation of the Slieve Ardagh	The EPMG will continue to support the activities of the Slieveardagh group	SRD, VEC HSE, STDC TI, FAS	Implement the contents of the Business Plan as	A plan was drafted and agreed by the community in Slieve Ardagh in 2009 with

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Business Plan	with inter-agency support towards the implementation of their action plan.	CCC, CEB C.I.T.E. MFRC Tipperary Volunteering services STCC	agreed	three particular themes, an ecclesiastical heritage trail, a bio-diversity and angling project and maximizing walks and associated facilities (accommodation, music etc). One of these has now been submitted to the County Development Company and the two others are in preparation. Maura Barrett has now left this area. The School building in the Commons has been completed and is open to events. New pcs have been bought for the training/internet access in the Library in Killenaule. A preliminary study has been done on the viewing tower proposal.
Support the implementation of the Carrick on Suir Tourism and Economic Development Committee (COSTEDC) plan	Implement Tourism and economic actions identified in annual plans.	COSTEDC CDB OPW Blarney Woollen Mills/Dove Hill STDC FÁS STCC	Implementation of Action plan priorities River walk progressed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New look 2011 county Tipperary holiday guide book being distributed. • Trade shows being attended. • Walking strategy being implemented • Butler Trail in preparation • Knockmealdown recreational strategy in progress <p>Issue re ownership of small portion of land on tow path still not resolved but options are being considered. Isabel Cambie to update</p>
Aim 2: Provide a Skilled Workforce for Current and Future Jobs				
Implement actions arising from ‘Skills and Training Analysis in South Tipperary’	Focus of this CDB action area has changed dramatically in the last year due to economic downturn. The focus has moved from services to business and upskilling employees to now providing for unemployed people. A coordinated approach is required between Tipperary Institute, FÁS, VEC and other agencies such as TEA (Tipperary Energy Agency) as new solutions and programmes	FÁS TI VEC STDC STCC EI FÁS/Carrick Employers' Group	Meeting of the relevant key CDB agencies, facilitated by Regional Manager, FÁS to identify a coordinated approach to new scenario of unemployment in South Tipperary. (This should also link into a regional approach that would be the remit of some agencies). Outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs analysis • What the agencies can provide • How the agencies can work together • Pooling data 	An Interagency working group responded to the Cordis closure announcement by providing support, information and liaison. It met a number of times and members participated in an enterprise briefing session for potential entrepreneurs. An outsourcing firm was commissioned by the company to support the workers and results to date have been very encouraging. The model adopted is worthy of consideration as a benchmark. The outsourcing firm and the Business Support Unit worked together closely. The rail initiative is designed to assist the process of job creation/jjob retention around the county as is the Retail initiative. At present, like so many other sectors of the economy, the retail sector in the county is experiencing difficulties. This matter was discussed by the County Council in the context of a debate regarding rates charges. It was pointed out to the Members of the Council that a reduction in rates would be a matter for the Members at Estimates time and that any reduction in rates would mean an increase in other charges or a reduction in service provision.

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	are developed and rolled out to those being made unemployed in the county.		Carrick on Suir Employers Network/Training investigated and progressed	<p>However the Council did agree to an examination of the retail sector and of the issues with which it is dealing at present.</p> <p>The County Development Board agreed to support this initiative at their meeting on Monday 12th April, 2011.</p> <p>After consultation a Strategy for Sustaining and Growing Retail Activity in South Tipperary, 2012-2014 was agreed by Council at the October meeting.</p> <p>Since then the following actions have been in progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strategy is being considered for adoption by the town and borough councils in the county • A scheme for the assisting of Christmas-related events in the retail areas of the towns of the county has been circulated and applications for funding are expected. • The Strategy included provision for the commissioning of a report by a retail expert or experts who would research the opportunities and synergies that could be developed between the larger multiple at edge of centre and the local independent centre of town retailer; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) indicate the actions that need to be taken to capitalise on this (and by whom) to ensure that there is value to both retail types <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The experts would also survey (a) the the level of leakage from a town and b) to identify the type of retail/service uses which should be available in that town but which are not. Arising from this <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chambers/Traders to be asked to drive and develop a coherent and agreed marketing focus for their town. • Town Marketing groups be set up in each town, funded by a cooperative application to LEADER, to implement their marketing focus • The process of selecting and commissioning the experts to begin their work is in progress and there will be consultation with the retail trade and other sectors <p>Other actions in the strategy will begin to be implemented in the new year, arising from the work of the retail experts or from other sections of the strategy.</p>

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				Applications to the next Labour Market Activation fund process are being prepared by LITT. CL to update
Aim 3: Increase the Economic performance of Targeted Sectors and Grow Entrepreneurship				
<p>In the development of a Rural Development Plan /Cohesion plan(s) for the county ensure that the economic component will have a strong emphasis on developing a strategic plan and accessing resources for <i>rural development in Tourism and Food</i></p>	<p><i>Tourism</i></p> <p>County Tourism Structure in place</p> <p>2009 Tourism actions implemented re: Marketing Product Development Training</p>	<p>ST Tourism Company STDC STCC Tourism Trade providers Fáilte Ireland Teagasc</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of 'Butler Trail' • Develop and implement a strategy for Internet/website/ on-line booking/visitor surveys • Promotion at Trade shows in Ireland, the UK Germany, Netherlands • Investigate potential initiatives <p>Irish Music Tipperary association with the horse Linking Rock of Cashel with Cashel town</p> <p>Revamp the Tipperary 2011 Holiday Guidebook</p>	<p>Priorities for 2010</p> <p>See report above</p> <p>An outline of the activities of the food producer's network during 2011.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Launched the first Totally Tipperary Food Festival in Clough Jordan – This event spanned over two days and featured many different elements, utilising the backdrop of Clough Jordan house. The event formed a garden party style where patrons were offered a true taste of Tipperary in a food trail and food producers were afforded the opportunity to showcase and sell their products. The food producers network collaborated on a number of fronts to enrich the experience

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	<p>Food</p> <p>Develop a Food Network incorporating the artisan/ organic/ high quality commercial food sectors.</p> <p>Identify programme of work/county food & drink plan</p>	<p>STDC STCC Food Network CEB Tipperary Tourism Co Fáilte Ireland TEAGASC EI IDA</p>	<p>Set up interagency meeting let by TI to include, STDC, TEAGASC, CEB, FÁS and Trade.</p> <p>Progress the 'long-table' concept of promoting South Tipperary Food.</p> <p>Action plan developed.</p>	<p>for consumers by partnering with Cultivate the Clough Jordan sustainable ECO Village, GIY Ireland, Bord Bia and a number of other partners</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Our second event was the Seorma Bia Blog – This style of event inspired by a Culinary School in France Salon Du Blog, is an event where we targeted food bloggers both nationally and internationally to come and participate in an all day cook along, showcasing Tipperary's finest food. We were fortunate enough to attract 6 French Michelin star chefs, one of whom is Maurice Le Craueais who is personal chef to the French President, Mr Nicholas Sarkozy at the Elysee Palace in Paris. The attendance of such high profile chefs attracted a huge amount of attention from the blogging community and as a network we benefited substantially from a brand development perspective developing these relationships. 3. Our Long Table Dinner was this year held in Rockwell College where 300 diners filled the refectory and enjoyed a great evening of food. This annual event is a fantastic success at reinforcing our brand development at local level and this year we very successfully managed a PR campaign which saw Tipperary Food Producers featured in Ireland's best selling Sunday Newspapers and on TV3. It has also been acknowledged by Rockwell College the seat of education for county Tipperary for many generations that the event played a pivotal roll as a marketing opportunity for the college. 4. The Food Connect Program, 2011 saw the presentation of the first Tipperary Food Award as part of the Tipperary Food Connect program where the network partnered with a number of local schools in the county to embark on educating our transition year students on the importance of healthy diet and local business. 5. The Electric Picnic & The National Ploughing Championships – 2011, saw the first joint venture for the Tipperary Food Producers Network with attended by over 200,000 people. This proved to be hugely successful in creating brand awareness and allowing consumers and producers to engage. <p>Strategy The Tipperary Food Producers Network have continued to develop and work through the 10 year strategy that has been ratified by the development boards both North & South Tipperary and presented to the minister for enterprise.</p> <p>Networking</p>

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			<p>Link made with tourism actions for marketing purposes in place.</p> <p>Potential of R&D Development Association considered.</p>	<p>The Tipperary Food Producers Network have continued to develop significant relationships with key local industry, government agencies and a relevant bodies and potential partners.</p> <p>This is a broad outline of the activities of the network which represents 30 businesses in south tipperary currently employing 220 people</p>
Prepare an action plan arising from the study of the equine industry	<p>Equine Tourism</p> <p>Innovative equine projects</p> <p>Investigate the possibilities that exist to expand the range and accessibility of lands for equine pursuits.</p>	TEAGASC CEB Co Co Private enterprise	<p>Equine tourism 'bundle' developed led by North Tipperary CDB.</p> <p>Support Sport Horse project proposed by a private entrepreneur.</p> <p>STDC be asked to consider developing of off road horse riding with Coillte.</p>	No significant development on the equine front to date. There is still some opportunity to develop a tourism product based around Coolmore/Cashel and Fethard. The creation of the pop-up café in Fethard this summer might point a way towards the creation of a tourism hub in Fethard around which an equine tourism package could be created.
<p>Create an environment within the county that nurtures and celebrates entrepreneurial activity</p> <p>Entrepreneurship</p> <p>Create and develop an entrepreneurial region.</p>	<p>County</p> <p>Promote a joint approach to fostering entrepreneurship in the county.</p> <p>Region</p> <p>Identify regional strategies to address the five key issues facing the SE in the current Climate</p>	<p>South Tipperary Enterprise Forum</p> <p>Spirit of Enterprise CEB Co Co EI STDC IDA</p> <p>Spirit of Enterprise</p> <p>Spirit of</p>	<p>Agreement on 2010 approach to Forum and Week</p> <p>Implementation of Innovation Strategy</p> <p>Enterprise Week developed and improved.</p> <p>Strategies and coordinated approaches to addressing:</p>	<p>The Spirit of Enterprise forum ran their day event, a SLNIW Networking Event and Seminar / Exhibition / Spirit of Enterprise Michael Dee Award. This event had a treble purpose; It is the second Cross Border Trip for the Welsh Networks, bringing the six networks together. As part of this event, the Welsh participants had the opportunity to visit three businesses in the South East region, enabling them to see these businesses in operation first-hand.</p> <p>Secondly, SLNIW, in conjunction with the Spirit of Enterprise Forum, hosted a Seminar on "Ireland and Wales Working Together" to disseminate information on Learning Networks in Ireland and Wales, delivered by Professor William O'Gorman (SLNIW Project Director, Ireland), Ms. Nerys Fuller-Love (SLNIW Project Director, Wales) and Mr. Simon Baily, Head of Unit from the Ireland Wales Office. Martin Shanahan, CEO of Forfás will deliver the key note address for this event. Also, as part of this event, an exhibition showcasing a range of enterprise supports available to enterprises in Ireland will take place. Calmast, the Centre for the Advancement of Learning of Maths, Science and Technology set up by Dr. Sheila Donegan and</p>

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<p>Undertake a County Innovation and Enterprise Strategy</p> <p>Hold Enterprise Skills Workshops for 'Technology' sector</p>	<p>Innovation and enterprise Strategy adopted</p> <p>Hold workshop and work with other agencies to ensure a good turn-out attendance.</p>	<p>Enterprise</p> <p>EI</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current and pending increasing rate of redundancies • Increasing number of businesses struggling to survive • Lower rate of exports from the region • Less inward FDI • Low rate of high potential start-ups • Increase in start ups of Technology enterprises 	<p>Eoin Gill in 2003, was presented with the 'Spirit of Enterprise' Michael Dee Award for 2011 at an awards ceremony this on May 12th.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) South Tipperary County Council's Interagency Innovation/.Enterprise Strategy is being implemented b) Enterprise Web site for the County has been developed by STCC with links to key economic development agencies and significant employers. The website is being maintained and updated. <p style="text-align: center;">Progress Report – October 2011</p> <p>The Central Data Unit is designed to assist members of the County Development Board, other local development bodies, and agencies to access information and statistical data, and use it more effectively through: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joined-up information; 2. Consolidated data; and 3. Identification of information gaps. <p>This will enable an improvement of the services provided in South Tipperary. The development of the Central Data Unit set out to address a number of challenges, including: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Design of a process for the gathering, collation and dissemination of datasets for all stakeholders; <input type="checkbox"/> The development of a system to manage the datasets; <input type="checkbox"/> Agreement that all intellectual property rights in regard to the entire system and datasets is to transfer to the CDU members at the end of the 3-year pilot programme. The information collected cannot be used for any other purposes. <input type="checkbox"/> The definition of the required suite of reports, and the publication of these on a website; <i>and</i> <input type="checkbox"/> The collation and analysis of the data and the generation of customised reports. <p>Since the commencement of the project all of the above have been addressed, and the project is now embarking on a phase of consolidation whilst growing the critical mass and quality of data and information that it holds.</p> <p><i>1 Protocol</i></p> <p>For the initial development of Central Data Unit it has been agreed that only</p>

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				<p>information that is already in the public arena will be made available.</p> <p>2 Web Site The Central Data Unit will be accessible through the following publically-available web site: www.southtippcdb.ie/cdu. The web site will be hosted and maintained by South Tipperary County Council.</p> <p>3 Structure The Central Data Unit has evolved to comprise of four components: –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Reference Library comprising of over 500 policy documents relating to the County. These have been provided by the partner agencies; 2. A series of Data Sets (currently 42), with information supplied by the partner agencies; 3. A series of maps that geographically illustrate key information from the Data Sets; 4. A series of 'Fact Sheets' that provide key profiles of the County based on the information contained in the Central Data Unit. <p>All of the information has been initially organised into eight themes: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community; 2. Crime (Policing); 3. Education; 4. Enterprise and Employment; 5. Environment; 6. Health; 7. Social and Demographics; <i>and</i> 8. Training <p>4 Added Value The Central Data Unit interface is being designed to allow dynamic interrogation of the information, enabling the creation of reports that combine information from more than one theme. This will enable the user to develop a deeper understanding of the County by reference to a number of information streams: for example, by considering all of the public support being offered to local enterprises, rather than just considering the support offered by a single agency. The vision is that it will ultimately be possible to readily look at gaps in provision: for example, the location of the most disadvantaged communities with respect to the</p>

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				<p>range and accessibility of services provided by the supporting agencies and organisations.</p> <p><i>5 Future Direction</i></p> <p>Having established the basic framework for the Central Data Unit, and having begun to populate it with useful information and data, the next step will be to increase the level and quality of the information held under each of themes.</p> <p>During the coming months all of the supporting agencies will be asked to identify more information that can be provided. Also, the process of updating the existing information will begin.</p> <p>The Steering Committee will also be exploring new routes to information and data gathering by examining opportunities to network with other relevant data-holding agencies.</p>