



Implementation Plan

2004-2006

## ***Achieving Equality, Overcoming Exclusion***

Strategy to secure social and economic  
rights in the inner city



2004

2005

2006

Implementation Plan

## INTRODUCTION

This document summarises the Dublin Inner City Partnership's strategy for the 2004-2006 period. It builds on the Partnership's track record of successful outcomes from previous plans. It is informed by the Partnership's six year strategic action plan<sup>1</sup> and takes into account recent changes in the needs of inner city disadvantaged communities.

The main priorities identified by the Partnership for the 2004-2006 period are as follows:

- ▼ Developing the equality agenda;
- ▼ Developing a rights-based approach to addressing socio-economic exclusion;
- ▼ Targeting of resources more effectively to public housing areas and communities of need;
- ▼ Developing the co-ordination role of the Partnership in response to social exclusion;
- ▼ Prioritising particular target groups including ex-prisoners, women returners, workless households, children and young people at risk and out of school, recovering drug users, long-term unemployed people, foreign nationals, people with a disability;
- ▼ Engagement with the major social and economic public and private developments to ensure local community gain;
- ▼ Consolidating the community infrastructure in the face of reduced resources.

The primary focus for the investment by the Partnership will be to ensure that the local response is targeted at the most disadvantaged individuals, families and communities.

## TACKLING POVERTY – PROMOTING EQUALITY AND RIGHTS

Dublin Inner City Partnership is an independent local development company operating with a brief of responding to long term unemployment and socio-economic disadvantage in inner city Dublin. The Partnership opposes all forms of poverty, discrimination and exclusion, and promotes the participation of the resident community in the regeneration of their locality. It aims to enhance the quality of life for all inner city residents who are experiencing deprivation and disadvantage by reinforcing their individual rights to work, education and adequate income.

### Operating Principles

1. Any investment or programme supported by the Partnership must have direct benefit for those residents of the inner city who are without work, experiencing poverty or in low income households.
2. Our resources and efforts will be targeted at those of greatest need within the inner city and will aim to ensure sustainable benefit to local residents.
3. The underlying value of the Partnership approach is to achieve equality of treatment, access and opportunity for inner city residents who have experienced exclusion from social and economic local development.
4. The Partnership will encourage participation by residents in local programmes, organisational structures and activity and will oppose discrimination and compulsion.
5. The Partnership will provide the means for transparency in local decision-making by ensuring accountability in the allocation, use and deployment of resources and funding and by identifying the intended beneficiaries.

<sup>1</sup> "Achieving Equality, Overcoming Exclusion: 2001-2006 Strategy to Secure Social and Economic Rights in the Inner City" (2001)

## Consultation Undertaken in Preparation of Plan

The 2004-2006 Implementation Plan was produced as part of review process that started with a consultation day with the community infrastructure in April 2003, and included review meetings with contracted organisations, staff and board review days, and input from DICP working groups and sub-committee structures. Over 300 individuals and organisations were involved in the consultation process.

### Present Context

- ▼ The scale of disadvantage in inner city Dublin remains significantly high, with four RAPID designated areas;
- ▼ While the inner city population increased by 20 per cent between 1996 and 2002, this has had the effect of masking the reality that parts of the inner city experience the most concentrated levels of disadvantage in the State;
- ▼ Educational attainment levels and employment rates in the overall inner city population have risen dramatically;
- ▼ Unemployment rate of 14% in 2002, over three times higher than the national average;
- ▼ The scale of heroin abuse remains highest in the State with a recent dramatic rise in cocaine use;
- ▼ One fifth of the population of the inner city are of foreign nationality – now over 20,000 people.
- ▼ An estimated 3% of inner city Local Authority tenants progress to third level education;
- ▼ Sixty-three per cent of second level students are behind the national average reading age;
- ▼ Twenty per cent of primary school pupils qualify for special needs;
- ▼ Over 11,000 people aged 65 and over living in the inner city;
- ▼ Nearly 4,000 people aged 65 and over who live alone;
- ▼ Almost 6,000 pre-school age children;
- ▼ There is a total of 10,785 persons with a disability resident in the inner city area – this comprises ten per cent of the population;
- ▼ 19,000 Local Authority tenants in the catchment area, who have high rates of dependency on social welfare;

*“The inner city contains the largest scale and most acute levels of concentrated poverty and deprivation in Ireland. In addition, the location of the Dublin Inner City Partnership in the centre of the capital city presents greater demands and challenges. The intensive economic growth and investment in urban renewal that has occurred in the city centre over the past decade has exacerbated the divisions between wealth and poverty in the inner city. While the Partnership has managed to derive benefit for local residents and community gain from this investment in terms of employment and infrastructure, nevertheless there remains a significant challenge to alleviate the most acute poverty and to achieve the levels of social inclusion that a developed European city requires.”*

## Significant Challenges

Challenges to the achievement of the Partnership's objectives at this present time include:

- ▼ Reduction in investment to the Partnership and its contracted organisations during 2003;
- ▼ Further reductions in Partnership budgets for 2004-06;
- ▼ This has resulted in significant reductions in direct funding to many of the community-based activities supported by the DICP and the cessation of some of the projects;
- ▼ Reductions in the Community Employment and Jobs Initiative Programmes;
- ▼ The Inner City Employment Service experienced a challenge due to alterations over the last number of years in the client caseload (specifically referrals under the National Employment Action Plan);
- ▼ Difficulties around the community's engagement with RAPID and the slow realisation of outcomes from that process;
- ▼ Increased demands for community participation on an expanded range of new state initiatives (e.g. City Council IAPs, Docklands Authority, Schools Completion Programme, RAPID and the Digital Hub);
- ▼ Difficulties associated with mainstreaming initiatives, and a dearth of formal structures to facilitate this;
- ▼ More acute issues are emerging for local groups, e.g. 'hard to place' clients presenting to ICES, migration, drug addiction and severe poverty;
- ▼ New public housing policies that impose a severe strain on existing tenants and dilute the statutory response to disadvantage in the established communities and long term residents.

## Strengths

Despite these challenges, the Partnership is entering the new implementation period with a number of advantages:

- ▲ The focus of the Partnership on tackling disadvantage;
- ▲ Expertise and past successes in responding to this issue;
- ▲ A vibrant local development community-based infrastructure with which to work;
- ▲ A high level of co-ordination of local development activities in the inner city;
- ▲ The voluntary commitment of individuals to the development process;
- ▲ Participation of the State, politicians, community and social partners in the partnership process;
- ▲ The capacity of the Partnership and the community sector to deliver;
- ▲ Enhanced standards of service delivery by community-based organisations;
- ▲ The commitment of individuals and organisations to realising positive change;
- ▲ An increased ability to articulate the needs of disadvantaged urban communities by both Partnership and community-based organisations.
- ▼ Improved focus and response from statutory service providers.

## Strategies and Actions

The Partnership's three core strategies for 2001-2006 are:-

1. Supporting access to employment and enterprise
2. Promoting community regeneration
3. Tackling educational disadvantage

The three specific measures in this three year Implementation Plan are: a) Services for the Unemployed; b) Community Development; and c) Community-based Youth Initiatives — Reducing Educational Disadvantage.

## Measure A

### Services for the Unemployed

Actions under this measure have been developed in recognition of the strong correlation between unemployment and poverty and the fact that many local residents are underemployed in low-paying jobs, which impacts on their quality of life. The operation of the Inner City Employment Service will be the principal means of enhancing employment options for local people. There is also a need to support the development of new businesses, especially within the social economy.

#### Strategy 1

##### **Training, Mediation & Guidance for Employment Actions**

Associated Actions

- ▲ Pre-employment training for women
- ▲ Information technology training for local residents
- ▲ Inner City Employment Service

#### Strategy 2

##### **Social Economic Development**

Associated Actions

- ▲ Targeted regeneration programmes

#### Strategy 3

##### **Enterprise Support**

Associated Actions

- ▲ Pre-start up Enterprise Support
- ▲ New Enterprise Support

## Measure B

### Community Development

Community development is about working with local communities that have suffered degeneration as a result of neglect and the withdrawal of public and private investment. This measure aims to bring about a social and economic development process and to strategically target investment at areas of need. Community development should improve the quality of life of the community and bring meaningful benefits to local people through a holistic approach that integrates issues such as health and welfare, education and training, employment and enterprise, environmental improvement, arts and culture. Actions under this measure have been developed in response to the exclusion of local communities from decision-making processes, and social problems such as drug misuse and scarcity of resources.

#### Strategy 1

##### **Promoting Social Integration**

Associated Actions

- ▲ Facilitating the participation of low-income local authority tenants in local regeneration programmes

#### Strategy 2

##### **Supporting the co-ordination of a community-based social inclusion infrastructure**

Associated Actions

- ▲ Maintaining a community-based infrastructure to support the implementation of effective measures to combat poverty and social exclusion  
(This includes a specific focus for work on immigrant integration issues)

#### Strategy 3

##### **Capacity development, technical assistance and training**

Associated Actions

- ▲ The provision of technical advice and support to local authority tenants and other social inclusion community-based organisations
- ▲ Delivery of capacity training to local tenants to enhance their participation in the management of their estates

## Strategy 4

### **Research and policy development to support the sustainable regeneration of disadvantaged communities**

#### Associated Actions

- ▲ Developing knowledge based social development proposals as a means to lobby for increased public social investment (This includes an allocation for specific initiatives targeting people with a disability and former prisoners)

## Measure C

### **Community-based Youth Initiatives: Tackling Educational Disadvantage**

The objectives of this measure include the promotion of preventative education, addressing gaps in provision, removing barriers to participation, supporting parental and community involvement, specific targeting of resources to high need groups and expanding quality early education opportunities for pre-school children. Actions outlined under Measure C have been developed in response to continuing high levels of educational disadvantage in the inner city. Overall it aims to develop a mechanism for the improved co-ordination of education in the local area so that services can respond quickly and effectively to the specific educational needs of local people.

## Strategy 1

### **Integration and Developing Local Educational Services**

#### Associated Actions

- ▲ Primary Level Schools Integration
- ▲ Childcare Network

## Strategy 2

### **Preventing Early School Leaving and Promoting Education Development**

#### Associated Actions

- ▲ Second level Retention Programme
- ▲ Skills Enhancement through IT provision in local schools

## Strategy 3

### **Promoting Developmental Youth Work**

#### Associated Actions

- ▲ Targeting Youth at Risk

## Strategy 4

### **Promoting Equality and Rights-based Approaches to Education**

#### Associated Actions

- ▲ Capacity building in developing equality and rights-based approaches to education
- ▲ Strengthening of Community education sector in the Inner City.



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