

LIMERICK REGENERATION PROGRAMME



A Vision for Moyross, Southill & Ballinacurra Weston and St. Mary's Park

Acknowledgements:

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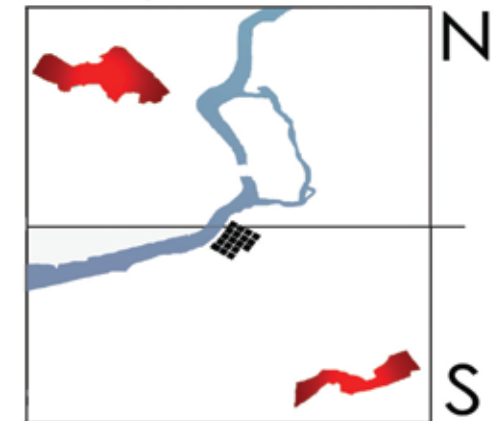
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Master Planning Team - St Mary's Park



Note: Maps in this document are not to scale and give graphical representation only of elements of the Plan

FOREWORD

It is just eighteen months since I presented my report "Addressing Issues of Social Exclusion In Moyross and other disadvantaged areas of Limerick City" to the Cabinet committee on Social Inclusion and a little over twelve months since the Regeneration Agencies, with Brendan Kenny in charge, began their operations. In my original report I said "the picture that emerged during visits to these estates, and discussions with residents and community workers, was in many respects quite shocking. The quality of life for many people is extremely poor." The fundamental problems highlighted in my report remain to be addressed through the actions set out in this Limerick Regeneration Plan.

The Regeneration Agencies were set up by the State because of the severity of conditions in certain parts of Limerick City and the need for national solutions to problems that clearly could not be solved through local effort and local resources alone.

Progress has been made in the intervening period through extensive involvement with the communities leading to the launch of the Vision Statements by the President in January 2008 and finalisation of this Regeneration Programme now. There is already more visible policing and some improvement in the conditions in which people live in these estates. However the most notable progress has been in the sense of real hope and expectation that has now emerged in the communities after a decade of frustration and isolation. This is the most important resource for building a better future.

This steady progress is set to continue as we now move on to implement this Regeneration Programme. In this context it is important to remember that one of the primary functions of the Agencies continues to be the achievement of better working arrangements among the statutory bodies and other relevant bodies and persons who have responsibility to provide services within these communities. This requires an ongoing review of existing structures and functions including the structure and functions of the Regeneration Agencies, to be certain that these are organised in a manner that is best suited to move forward with this Regeneration Programme and meet the needs of the communities.

This Regeneration Programme will take time to implement because there is no easy solution to problems that have already spanned many generations – particularly to change behaviours and attitudes that exist both inside and outside these communities that are deep rooted and create barriers to progress. However, once implementation begins there is a lot that can be done relatively quickly during the earlier years of delivery.

When one considers the potential that is being created for private investment, and for more effective and efficient use of public monies to achieve lasting change, the potential benefits of implementing this Regeneration Programme far outweigh the costs.

The Regeneration Programme has significant implications for the future potential of the Mid-West region and must be consistent with national planning policy to secure and successfully apply the considerable investment required.

However, this entire process was initiated by Government to deal with serious problems in troubled communities – particularly those that involve the safety and well being of children at risk of becoming enmeshed in a vicious cycle of violence and criminality from which there is no easy escape. The focus, in this respect, remains firmly where it began and adds an element of urgency to the project which transcends other considerations. With the continued support of Government and the will to succeed of the local communities and the wider community of Limerick, this Regeneration Programme lays the foundation stone for a bright future.

John Fitzgerald
Chairperson
Limerick Regeneration Agencies
October 2008

Message from Mayor of Limerick City

It gives me great pleasure as Mayor of Limerick to welcome this programme for the Regeneration Areas in the City of Limerick. The work of the Regeneration Agencies over the past twelve months has been dynamic and progressive and has certainly given hope to many people who had endured difficult times but nonetheless had tried to make the best of their arduous circumstances.

The programme gives reality to the aspirations and objectives set out in the Vision Statements launched in January 2008. We now have a clear strategy to bring us into the implementation phase of Regeneration.

I am particularly encouraged by the clear intention, from the very beginning, of the Agencies to support the existing communities in the Regeneration Areas. This Regeneration Programme with its strong social and community prioritisation will provide a solid platform for the further enhancement and development of these proud Limerick communities.

I would like to sincerely thank the residents in the Regeneration Areas, the wider Limerick community and everyone who has participated up to now in any way with the Regeneration Agencies in this process.

Limerick now has a unique and exciting opportunity. We must seize this opportunity and use it to advance Limerick as one of the most vibrant and progressive cities in Western Europe.



Councillor John Gilligan,
Mayor of Limerick City,
October 2008



John Fitzgerald, Chairperson
Limerick Regeneration Agencies

Comments from Board of Directors

‘Limerick is the capital of the Mid West region and is a Gateway under the National Spatial Strategy. The relative scale and complexity of the challenges in Limerick have lead to the need for major regeneration in parts of the city. The City Council is focussed on the social and economic development of the City and welcomes the overall benefits that regeneration will bring to the people of Limerick.’

Tom Mackey, Limerick City Manager.

‘Limerick County Council has a strong commitment to supporting the Regeneration Programmes for Limerick City and to working with all the other relevant players in implementing the provisions of the plan.’

Ned Gleeson, Limerick County Manager

‘The central focus must be on the quality of life issues that people living in the areas are experiencing. The strategy must empower the communities to develop the necessary leadership skills to deal with the challenges they face. This must include practical supports for the communities and where required coordinated support at family level. The physical improvement to the environment is a necessity but not a sufficient response to the challenges facing the communities.’

Alec Fleming, Clare County Manager

‘A city lives, breathes, can prosper, can die. The health of any city depends on how all its citizens are cared for, included or seen outside.

Limerick, with all its successes, hasn’t been a flourishing city. Pockets of poverty were allowed to develop, poverty on a par with some of the worst in the world. We are slow to ask the appropriate questions. But with the advent of Limerick Regeneration, a new opportunity, a new beginning has been offered to the city. An opportunity is being given to build a new city and a new citizenry.

Future generations will judge us on whether we facilitated the process, working to overcome all obstacles, or whether we besmirched their lives with our complacency and our refusal to be moved to a sense of greater understanding of each other, staying in the comfort zone of finger pointing.

Critical historical moments come to cities rarely, maybe every odd century, this is one for Limerick.’

Fr Pat Hogan, Parish Priest, Southill

‘As a community director for Moyross I welcome this plan, I believe it sets out clearly the steps required to address the issues that affect our community at this time. When this plan is implemented in full it will impact positively on all the citizens of Limerick.’

Paddy Flannery, Manager, Moyross Community Enterprise

‘Regeneration has provided Limerick City with the opportunity and the impetus to take stock of both its achievements and challenges.

Through a lengthy process of listening, assessing, talking and debating the issues, a genuine effort has been made to seize the moment and get a real sense of the scope of the job to be done. The resultant plan provides a wonderful vision for the future growth and development, both socially and economically, of a new Limerick. I congratulate all who participated in the production of this plan.’

Aine Cremin, Principal, Corpus Christi NS, Moyross

‘Regeneration is the greatest opportunity presented to Limerick City in recent memory. Successful completion of this plan will require all partners, community, statutory, social, business and democratic to work together collaboratively and creatively. PAUL Partnership looks forward to supporting this work and to the impact regeneration will have in creating a better Limerick.’

Anne Kavanagh, PAUL Partnership, Limerick

“In post depression USA in 1932 Franklin D. Roosevelt committed a ‘NEW DEAL’ to the American people which promised hope, a better life and a restoration of confidence. The Limerick Regeneration plan offers a ‘NEW DEAL’ and challenges all citizens to contribute positively to its successful implementation. The real strength of the Plan is that in its content it proposes social regeneration which is economically underpinned and is supported by physical rebuild. In working our way through this plan we have a unique opportunity to place Limerick City in the top rankings of cities of its size in the EU.”

Liam Mc Elligott, CEO, Limerick Enterprise Development Partnership

‘The establishment of the Limerick Regeneration Agencies and the adoption of this plan come at a critical juncture in the city’s history and will re-establish Limerick as a fabulous location in which to live, work and visit.’

Michael Tiernan, Managing Director, Tiernan Properties

‘The regeneration agenda - as articulated in the plan - provides us all with a valuable opportunity to contribute to improving the lives and living standards of the communities involved. The Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs is glad of the opportunity to be a part of this and to support the work of the Regeneration Agencies in whatever way it can.’

Kathleen Stack, Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs’

‘The Department of Education and Science welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the longer-term social regeneration agenda as set out in this Plan. Its focus will be on ensuring that, in the regeneration areas and beyond, resources for education - human, physical and financial - will be applied coherently and effectively to the task of giving children and young people the capacity to build better lives from a sound educational base.’

Pat Mc Sitric Department of Education and Science

‘An Garda Síochána is fully supportive of the vision for Regeneration as outlined in this Plan. Policing is a critical element in the Regeneration process and I am committed to ensuring the delivery of a strong and quality policing service in partnership with the community and all relevant agencies’.

William J. Keane, Chief Superintendent, An Garda Síochána

‘Limerick HSE provides Health Services to a population of approximately 136,000 in a geographical area incorporating most of Limerick City and County. The fundamental purpose of the service is to enable people to live healthier and more fulfilled lives. The HSE supports the work of the Regeneration Agencies in Limerick, particularly in relation to the social regeneration of the communities and recognises the need for inter-agency co-operation to enable the HSE and its partners to deliver on commitments given.

The HSE is committed to working with the Limerick Regeneration Agencies, key statutory and voluntary agencies together with the communities themselves to improve the lives of the people of Limerick. Our vision is one where everyone will have easy access to high quality health and social services that they have confidence in and that staff are proud to provide.’

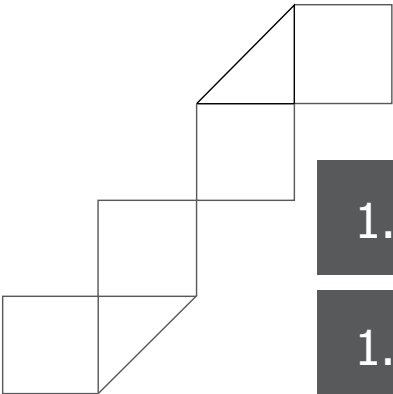
Pat Fitzgerald, HSE West

‘The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform and its associated agencies have indicated that they will continue to support the work of the Limerick Regeneration Agencies through maintaining support for existing initiatives and the allocation of additional resources as resources permit.’

Michelle Shannon, Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform

One of the recommendations is that a Child and Family Support Plan based on an age banded and needs based format is implemented. The success of this recommendation will be based on the package of supports agreed, level of funding secured and the level of Government commitment to the Plan.

Mary Moloney, Department of Social and Family Affairs



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