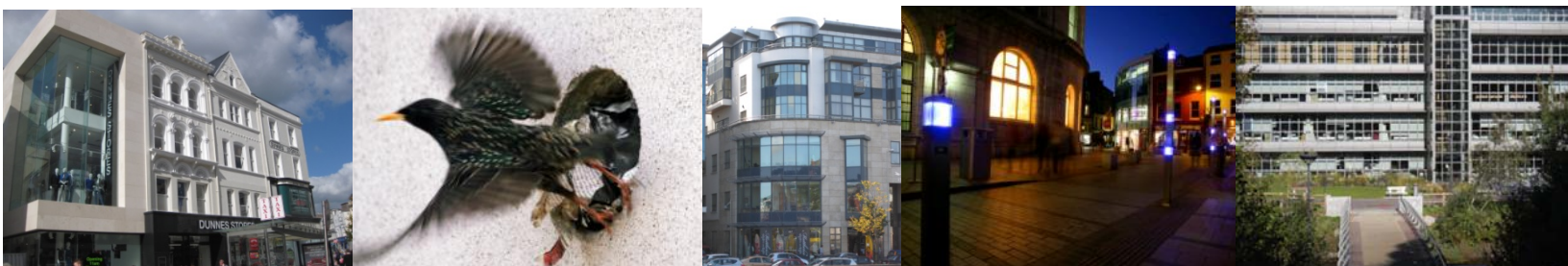


Cork City Development Plan 2009-2015

2 year Progress Report

Final Draft

29th March



Cork City Council
Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí
April 2011

Chapter 1: Overview

Introduction

The Cork City Development Plan 2009 - 2015 was made on 27th April 2009 and came into effect four weeks later. The City Manger is required to give a report to the Members of the City Council on the progress achieved in securing the objectives of the plan, not more than two years after the making of the plan. This report therefore looks at what has been achieved since April 2009 and highlights some of the outstanding issues which remain to be implemented.

Economic Situation

The economic situation in Ireland has deteriorated significantly since the plan was conceived in draft form in early 2008 and adopted in 2009. This situation, which includes cutbacks in public spending and little private sector investment, is likely to continue for the next number of years and will undoubtedly have a significant impact on the pace at which many of the objectives of the City Plan can be realised. From an infrastructural perspective the emphasis over the coming years is likely to be on making the best use of existing assets and trying to prioritise investment which will be of maximum overall benefit to the city.

Strategic Context

The Development Plan goals of achieving sustainable development, social inclusion and a high quality environment are still very relevant and should continue to guide the future planning and development of the city. Furthermore, the role of Cork City as the engine of the region as envisaged in CASP remains valid. The Regional Planning Guidelines adopted in 2010 support the vision for the city as set out CASP and the City Plan. However given the wider economic circumstances it will take longer than originally envisaged to achieve some of the key objectives of the Plan.

The new Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 adopted in July 2010 requires each local authority to prepare a Core Strategy for their administrative area. The Core Strategy sets out how the development objectives in the Development Plan are consistent with the National Spatial Strategy and the Regional Planning Guidelines. The Core Strategy has been drafted and will shortly proceed through the variation process to be incorporated into the City Development Plan. It is similar to the existing Overall Strategy for the city in Chapter 2 of the City Plan, but shows explicitly how RPG population targets for the city are linked to the development strategy and land zoned in the city.

Statistics

The census of population will be undertaken this year. The Council is also planning to undertake a 5 yearly Employment and Land-use Survey. The results of both of these will give an accurate up to date figure for the current population and employment situation of Cork City. The recent ESRI report predicts that some 100,000 people will leave this country in the next two years so the results of the census will be of particular importance. The number of persons on the Live Register for the Cork Metropolitan Area from June 2009 to date has remained at a relatively static average of 26,500 month on month after very significant increases in 2007 and 2008. While partly due to increased emigration, the slowdown in the rate of increase in the Live Register is to be welcomed and it is also worth noting that the Cork figure has grown more slowly than the national figure over the last year.

Development Activity

The slowdown in the economy has been particularly evident in the construction and development sector and this is reflected in the decline in planning applications. In 2010 there were 465 applications in Cork City, compared to 612 in 2009 and 901 in

2008. Since the end of June 2009, Cork City Council has granted a total of 607 planning permissions. A total of 90 applications were refused permission.

A total of 470 private residential units were granted permission in Cork City from end of June 2009 to December 31st 2010. However the number of units where construction commenced at 30 was significantly down from 2008 when 206 commenced construction.

On the positive side October 2009 saw the opening of Opera Lane - a new retail and residential quarter situated off St. Patrick's Street, consisting of 19 retail units and 61 apartments which significantly expands the city centre retail offer. Retail developments at Half Moon Street and Cornmarket Street were also completed. A major upgrade of the public realm in Cornmarket Street is underway which will further enhance the environment and attractiveness of the city centre..

The planning process for transport infrastructure for the docklands area and the Eastern Gateway Bridge has been completed. However, the funding to provide the infrastructure is still awaited. Notwithstanding this, the Docklands has seen a number of significant planning applications since the City Plan was adopted. A proposal for a mixed use development of retail, office and business/technology on the Topaz site is currently under appeal. A very large mixed under application is under consideration the Marina Commercial Park site. This is currently on a further information request. A strategy for the public realm in Docklands is also nearing completion.

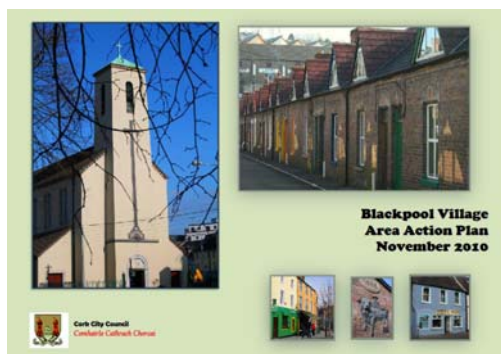


Main Transport Schemes

The M8 Motorway was completed in May 2009 improving Corks links to Dublin significantly. The eastern section of the North Ring Road was awarded the sum of €360,000 in 2010 to progress this scheme. Contract Documents for the N25 Sarsfield Road/Bandon interchange scheme have been prepared and it is hoped the scheme will commence in 2011. Design work is also underway for the upgrading of the Dunkettle Interchange. The Cork Area Transit Study (CATS) has been completed and funding is awaited to progress its recommendations on public transport.

Schedule of Local Area Plans

The City Plan identified the City Centre, Docklands, Blackpool and Mahon as key development areas, and Tivoli and Tramore Road as possible future development areas. A programme of local area plan preparation is on-going which is largely focused on these areas. Progress in relation to the production of Local Plans which have been undertaken since the City Development Plan came into effect is as follows:.



- The Farranferris Local Area Plan was formally adopted by Council in July 2009.
- The South Parish Area Action was formally adopted by Council on the 15th March 2010.
- The Blackpool Village Area Action Plan was formally adopted in September 2010.
- The North Blackpool Local Area Plan has been drafted and the statutory plan process has begun with a public consultation period.

- The South Mahon Local Area is in the early stages of preparation following an initial period of public consultation which was undertaken from March through to May 2010. A Draft Local Area Plan will be brought to Council mid 2011.
- It is hoped to begin work on a updated strategy for the North Docks area in 2011.
- A Plan for Tivoli has not yet commenced and is dependent on available resources.
- Pending time and resources, the Council may begin a review of the Tramore Road/Kinsale Road area. Due to its proximity to the administrative boundary, this would involve taking a complementary approach in conjunction with Cork County Council.

Cork City Development Plan 2015-2021

The process of preparing the next City Development Plan has to formally commence in April 2013, however preliminary work will commence in 2012, including revision of the Housing and Retail Strategies.

Chapter 2 Economic Development Strategy

Aim: To promote balanced sustainable economic development in the city ensuring that a diverse range of economic sectors is developed and supported.

Introduction

This chapter seeks to set out strategies and land use policies to guide future economic development of the city and includes policies relating to offices, office based industry, light industry, general industry, commercial leisure, and the education/health sectors.

Key Objectives

- To create and maintain a unique and attractive city region to attract foreign direct investment and employment
- To provide for a diverse range of employment needs so that people with a diverse range of skills can find work in the city
- To identify attractive locations and sites for all sectors of business
- To support innovation and enterprise to facilitate employment generation



Aerial Photograph of Blackpool

Overview

The economic strategy in the City Plan is based on that set out in the CASP Update. It envisaged growth in employment of 15,000 in the city by 2020 with the bulk of the growth to be in the services sector, particularly market services, with an emphasis on knowledge based sectors and continued decline in traditional sectors. The economic decline currently being experienced means that these targets are unlikely to be achieved in the short term. However the strategy is a long term one and the implementation of the proposed CASP labour force and skills strategy is more important than ever in the current climate.

The results from the census of population and proposed five yearly employment and land-use survey to be carried out this year will give an accurate up to date figure for the current population and employment situation of Cork City and the region, which will facilitate review of existing policies and inform future policy.

Development Activity

A summary on construction and development activity for a range of activities is outlined below.

Retailing

Development activity in the retail sector is detailed in the following chapter but in summary, planning permission was granted for just over 20,000 sq m (net) of comparison floorspace, since the completion of the retail strategy projections in 2007, while approximately 6,000 sq m of convenience was granted. Retail warehousing accounts for an additional 6,842 net sq.m over this period, made up of 2 permissions, both in Blackpool, neither of which have commenced as yet. There were some

significant developments completed over the period, of which Opera Lane in the City Centre is the most significant, while a number of convenience outlets in the discount retail sector were completed in the suburbs.

Office

A total of 78,971sq.m of additional office space was granted over the period end of June 2009 to December 2010. The majority is city centre based (42,797 sq.m), including proposals at Albert Quay, Copley Street, Sullivans Quay and Andersons Quay, none of which have as yet commenced. There are also other outstanding permissions in the city centre including those at Lancaster Quay and Sullivans Quay. A further 29,549 sq.m was granted in Blackpool and 13,633 sq.m in Mahon which are not yet underway. There is vacancy in existing office buildings around the city, with vacant units in older buildings in the City Centre and also in some established suburban locations.

Technology Industries & Science Parks/Research & Development

3,487 sq.m of Business & Technology space was granted between July '09 and December '10. Though not yet commenced, this will be located at North Blackpool. There are also two current applications in Docklands which include technology space: Topaz which is under appeal and Marina Commercial Park which is out for further information.

The Tyndall Institute was officially opened in November 2009. It was designed to bring together complementary activities in photonics, electronics and networking research. In 2010, the Tyndall National Institute was awarded with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) "Renewable Energy Systems Award" for its new research building.

There have been other positive developments in the high technology sector in the last few years with Blizzard moving to Blackpool, and McAfee, Big Fish Games and Quest locating in Mahon.



Light Industry

The City has not experienced any significant industrial developments over the period July 2009 to December 2010 with a total of 4,714sq.m over this time. One of these is for light industry of 1,798sq.m located in Mayfield.

Commercial Leisure

21,301sq.m of commercial/leisure space has received planning permission from July 2009 to December 2010. The Mardyke Sports Arena received permission for a 3,326sq.m extension to its facilities. Proposal is to have an indoor running track among other improved sporting facilities. Construction work has recently begun and is due for completion by December 2011. A gym at City Gate, Mahon equates to 1,946sq.m and a larger facility at Blackpool equates to 3,048sq.m. The Blackpool proposal has yet to commence while the proposed gym at Mahon is a change of use so the building is already there but has yet to open. Applications for event centres in two city centre locations (Albert Quay and Beamish and Crawford) are currently under consideration.

Health

Cork City Council granted a total of 12,892sq.m of additional medical space over the 18 period from July 2009 to December 2010. The €90m Cork Medical Centre, a private facility, opened last October. This hospital is located at City Gate, Mahon and provides the city with an additional approximately 13,000 sq.m of medical space. However, it is unfortunately noted that the centre's future is in question and rests on securing cover from VHI. Another 93 bed medical facility totalling 10,713 sq.m at Lancaster Gate was refused permission by An Bord Pleanála. However, the applicants have recently submitted another planning application to the An Bord Pleanála for the medical facility at this location. Construction is underway at a 95 bed health facility (4,821 sq.m) facility at Bessboro. A new health facility has also been constructed at Farranlea Road.

Community

There has been limited development under this heading. Brookfield, on College Road, also received permission for change of use to a nursing home. Permission has been granted for a Mosque on the Tramore Road (479 sq.m).

Education

Permission for educational use has been granted for 10,286sq.m from July '09 to December '10. Ashton School received permission for a new 3-storey, 30 classroom building to replace the existing single-storey building (4,180sq.m). Permission has been granted for a 2,323sq.m FÁS educational/training facility at Millfield, Blackpool.

Home-based Economic Activities/Live-Work Units

Cork City Council continues to encourage home-based economic activities and live-work units. The recently submitted Beamish and Crawford application proposes live-work units. This application has yet to be finalised.

Progress in key Development Areas

Docklands

A small number of substantial planning applications have been received in the South Docklands. One of these was granted permission (on the former Ford car storage site) prior to the adoption of the existing development plan and includes approximately 598 residential units (depending on compliance with conditions) as well as offices, a hotel and event centre. Three significant applications have been received in Docklands since June 2009. One of these (Topaz) received permission from Cork City Council but is currently on appeal to An Bord Pleanála. If this is realised, it will permit 4,500sq.m of retailing; 10,500sq.m of office and 4,100sq.m of business and technology. A mixed use application at Kennedy Quay was refused permission by An Bord Pleanála. A very large mixed use development at Marina Commercial Park is currently on a further information request.

On the infrastructure front the planning process for Docklands roads and bridges has been completed with the granting of permission by An Bord Pleanála. However, the funding to provide the infrastructure is still awaited. A public realm strategy for Docklands is underway and will shortly be completed. This will include guidance for developers and the City Council on the design of the public realm in the North and South Docks. Consultants will shortly be appointed to prepare a design for Marina Park. The preparation of the River Use Management Plan has yet to commence.

An interim upgrade of the Monahan Road area is planned. It will consist of improvements to the public realm and surface water drainage system and is intended to improve the perception of the area and support the two completed office developments there which are seeking occupiers.

The Seveso activity on the Topaz site is currently being wound down which will remove one of the barriers to development in Docklands, however the Gouldings Seveso site continues to operate and its future needs to be addressed if development is to be facilitated in this part of Docklands.

In 2011 the Docklands Directorate intends to focus on identifying suitable market sectors and developing a branding for Docklands.

City Centre

The city centre saw the completion of a number of large developments. October 2009 saw the opening of Opera Lane - a new retail and residential quarter situated off St. Patrick's Street. It consists of 19,000sq.m of retail space and 61 apartments. Cornmarket Street also saw the completion of a new shopping centre and new public realm works on the street outside are continuing. This centre is comprised of 9,234 sq.m of retail space. There were also significant office space granted at Albert Quay and Lapp's Quay.

Substantial permissions on Grand Parade for mixed uses including retailing, offices and a new City Centre Library, as well as a major office and hotel development at Sullivans Quay have not commenced, largely due to the economic downturn. On the positive side current applications at Beamish and Crawford (event centre, cinema, cultural uses and student accommodation) and Albert Quay (event centre) could if granted deliver substantial attractions and new activities to the city centre

Suburbs

An area action plan for Blackpool Village was adopted in September of 2010. A Local Area Plan for North Blackpool has been drafted and is currently on public display. Permission was granted for a number of significant applications in Blackpool. If realised, they will give the area an additional 6,842 net sq.m of retail warehousing, along with 3,487 sq.m of business and technology use.

Permission has been granted in Mahon for 13,632sq.m of office space close to City Gate. The City Gate development has been attracting high tech companies such as software companies while the €90m Cork Medical Centre opened in City Gate last October. This hospital has the capacity to provide the city with an additional approximately 13,000 sq. m. of medical space, however its future is currently uncertain. A Local Area Plan is in preparation for Mahon and is looking at capacity for future development and linked transportation issues.

Chapter 3 Retail Strategy

Aim: To provide a strategy for the development of retailing in Cork City

Introduction

This section outlines the progress made in relation to retailing in the City. This chapter also takes account of progress which had occurred under the Joint Cork City and County Retail Strategy.

Key Objectives

- To include the Cork Planning Authorities' Joint Retail Strategy in current and future development plans together with appropriate objectives that will secure its implementation.
- To have regard to the Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities, in determining planning applications for retail development.

Retail Strategy

Cork City and Council completed a joint Retail Study in 2008. The surveys associated with the study took account of commitments (developments with planning permission) to 2007 so monitoring of retailing must take account of development since that date. The study was used as the basis for a Joint Retail Strategy which was incorporated into the City and County Development Plans. Work will need to commence on a new joint retail study in 2012 to inform the next Developments Plans which will themselves commence in 2013.



Table 2.1 Retail floorspace allocations and permissions

Location and type of floorspace	Retail Strategy allocation to 2020 (sq. m. net)	Approximate floorspace (sq. m. net) granted permission since retail study surveys ¹
City Centre/Docklands comparison	77,610	10,338
Suburbs Comparison	26,630	10,036
Cork City Convenience	12,040	8,819 ²
Retail warehousing (City and County)	93,610	6,842

¹ Includes Cork City Council permissions only, does not include permissions by Cork County Council in city suburbs

² Figure includes permissions for minor extensions etc to local shops outside of district, and neighbourhood centres. These may be comparison, convenience or retail services units - applications do not always specify. For retail strategy monitoring purposes these are being reviewed as it may be appropriate to exclude these minor developments (approximately 2,000 sq m.).

City Centre/Docklands

Cork City Centre is the primary retail centre in the County and the focus for comparison retail development. In 2007 it supported 84,770sq.m of net retail floorspace, of which 73,765sq.m (or 87%) is comparison space. The retail strategy allocation for comparison space for the City Centre and Docklands is substantial as shown in Table 2.1 and seeks to ensure that the city centre retains its dominant position into the future. Cork City Council has granted a total of 10,338 sq. m. net of additional comparison retailing in the City Centre/Docklands since the retail study. A total of 4,250 sq.m net of convenience retailing has been granted over the same period in the City Centre/Docklands.

There are also two significant current applications for retailing in Docklands. The Topaz application which is currently under appeal contains a medium sized convenience store as well as smaller comparison outlets, while the Marina Commercial Park application proposes a substantial convenience store as well as smaller units. They are both located in the proposed Docklands District Centre. The policy in relation to allocation of convenience floorpace is that it should be allocated in areas where population increase is planned. It is appropriate therefore that a substantial amount of the convenience allocation go to the Docklands area, as it has potential for substantial population increase.

The completion of the Opera Lane development have given a substantial boost to the city centre retail offer. The nearby developments at Half Moon Street and Cornmarket Street also contribute to this although not yet fully let.

There is considerable potential for further expansion in the Grand Parade area, once the economic situation is more favourable. Just prior to the adoption of the Development Plan, permission for a mixed-use development at Grand Parade received permission. This was to accommodate a new library and also proposes retail and offices. If realised it would add approx. 8,790 gross sq.m comparison retail, approx. 13,800 gross sq.m offices, a cafe and a new library in the City Centre.

Another mixed use development at the Central Cinema on Grand Parade also received permission. This proposes 4,650 net sq.m comparison retail and 1,223 net sq.m of offices.



Cork Suburbs – District Centres

The retail strategy proposes that the additional comparison floorspace for the suburbs be allocated to ensure a reasonably even distribution of such space in the city suburbs. It is intended that such space be distributed 40% / 60%, northside / southside respectively. Permission was granted for a substantial expansion to Ballyvolane shopping centre which included a net increase 1700 sq m in comparison space but this has yet to be acted on. A series of permissions totalling over 4,500 sq m net were granted in Blackpool, which involved mezzanine expansions to existing units and conversion of retail warehousing space to mainstream comparison space, some of which have been implemented. Mahon Point saw a comparison expansion to the Tesco outlet of over 1000 sq m net, and other minor mezzanine expansions.

The retail strategy proposes that 12,040 net square metres of allocated convenience space should be distributed according to current and future population levels and expenditure patterns, taking into account the objective of redressing the northside/southside imbalance. . An expansion of almost 1000 sq m net was granted permission in Ballyvolane but this has

not gone ahead. A discount convenience outlet has been granted permission in an existing outlet in Blackpool Retail Park. There have also been many permissions granted throughout the city for small units or extension to existing ones, which may be for comparison, convenience or retail service purposes.

A large application for the redevelopment of Wilton Shopping Centre was received and granted by Cork City Council. This is currently on appeal with An Bord Pleanála. The proposal is to develop the 6.1ha site for mixed use totalling 130,713sq.m and constitutes a significant increase in retail floorspace including an expanded retail comparison anchor unit as well as additional small and medium sized units. Outside the City Council Area, Douglas Court Shopping Centre received permission for an additional 4,000gross sq.m of comparison retailing.

Neighbourhood Centres

The amount of retailing permitted under the Plan in neighbourhood centres equates to 2,365 gross sq.m. (approx.1,774 sq.m). This is split 77% southside and 23% northside. A number of permission for stand alone retail units (lower order convenience) have been received in neighbourhood centre. The Council seeks to ensure that the neighbourhood centres are developed to promote a mix of uses to serve the local communities.

Retail Warehousing

A small number of applications for retail warehousing were granted permission since the retail study. The most significant are both located in Blackpool. They account for 6,842 sq.m net of retail warehousing but have yet to commence. A further application for 500 sq.m net of retail warehousing was granted in Mahon.

Chapter 4 Transportation

Aim: To promote the development of an integrated transport system for the city which will support sustainable development and social inclusion and environmental protection.

Introduction

An integrated and balanced transport system is essential to the city region and in facilitating the continuing development and success of the City Centre and Docklands. Sustainable transport systems encompass a balance between the economic, social and environmental needs of a community.

Key Objectives

- To facilitate the provision of an integrated transport system for Cork which caters for the expansion in population and employment in the city and its hinterland
- To provide for high quality cycling and pedestrian facilities in the city.

Cork Area Transit Study

The Cork Area Transit Study (CATS) was completed and adopted in July 2010. The preferred CATS Strategy includes the development of a single Rapid Transit Corridor (Bus Rapid Transit, BRT), running from Ballincollig to Mahon, via the City Centre and Docklands. An application for funding of a feasibility study on the provision of the east-west BRT route has been made to government. As part of the CATS, it is proposed to implement a City Centre Traffic Management Plan, the objective of which is to improve accessibility to the City Centre by all modes and to increase the capacity of the transport network to cater for increased movements to, from and within this area. In addition to the above core measures, the following additional measures are considered to be essential to the success of the Strategy: Integrated fares; Public transport interchange; Park and ride; Integrated Public Transport Information (IPTI), and Demand Responsive Transport.

Integrated Transport System

A working group of transport stakeholders including local authorities, public transport bodies and the NRA is examining how an integrated transport system can be delivered for the greater Cork Area.

Smarter Travel

Cork City Council has made a second round bid for funding to the Department of Transport in relation to its "Smarter Travel" project. The "Smarter Travel" aims to overcome the identified high level of car usage, e.g. of the 50,000 trips made each day to work in the Cork Metropolitan region (80% of the journeys are made by car). The solution as set-out in detail in the Smarter Travel Area proposal will be delivered by targeting 5 specific travel groups using 3 key themes:

- Theme 1: Travel to the Central Area
- Theme 2: Suburban Commuting and Local Travel
- Theme 3: Promotion and Marketing for Smarter Travel

Transport Plan

A Draft Transport Plan has been completed. However, this will be finalised once news of the smarter travel areas competition so that a plan of actions for the next five years can be cohesively completed.

Green Routes

Works are ongoing on the implementation of Cork's Green Routes and to date work is complete on 8 and a half of the 10 routes listed in the Development Plan. The Faranree/Blackpool route is complete and works have also been completed in the city's administrative area for both the Ballincollig and Ringaskiddy routes.

Roads

The M8 Motorway was completed in May 2009. The eastern section of the North Ring Road was awarded the sum of €360,000 in 2010 to progress this scheme. The preparation of the EIS and CPO documentation is largely complete.

Tenders for the construction of the Bandon Road and Sarsfield junctions on the N25 were submitted in November '10. Subject to funding, construction should start in 2011. Consultants were appointed in August 2010 for the design of an upgrade to the Dunkettle Interchange. The CPO and EIS documentation is expected to be ready for publication in early 2012.

Suburban Road Transport Measures

Design is complete in relation to the upgrading of Skehard Road from Silverdale Drive and Part 8 Planning is underway. The design of the proposed new road from Bishopstown road, Ardrostig Cross to Curraheen Rd is complete. College Road refurbishment works have been completed. Design and Planning for the realignment of Boreenmanna Road are complete. Work is due to commence in Q3 2011.

There have been no developments on the following schemes as yet:

- Public realm Blackrock Village
- Possible new road from Harbour View Road, through St. Mary's Orthopaedic Hospital, to Baker's Road;
- Indicative new road layout in North Blackpool area;
- Upgrading of Model Farm Road from Rossbrook to Carrigrohane Bridge;
- Proposed new access road from N22 South Ring Road to rear of CIT and to Model Farm Road.

City Centre Improvement Schemes

Phase 1 of the Cornmarket Street public realm upgrade (and Market Canopy project) is complete. Phase 2 construction is underway. St. Luke's Cross upgrade and the Mardyke public realm works are both complete. Public Realm works at Bleasby Street have been completed. Repair work on the Quay Walls Work will commence in Q2 2011. Kyril's Quay realignment Construction will commence in Q4 2011.

No developments have happened as yet on the following projects:

- Parnell Place public realm upgrade
- Pedestrian Bridge - Merchants Quay/Patricks Quay
- Pedestrian Bridge Union/Morrisons Quay
- Pedestrian Bridge Father Mathew Street/ George's Quay
- South Mall side streets public realm upgrade (Princes St, Marlboro St, Cook St)

Park & Ride

The Council adopted a variation to the Development Plan in September 2010 to change the zoning of an area of land (1.52 ha) originally zoned as "Sports Grounds", to "Public Infrastructure and Utilities" to facilitate the development of a Park & Ride Facility on the Carrigrohane Road on western side of the city. The Part 8 application to develop this was approved by Council in February '11. Work will commence in Q3 2011.

Cycling

Cork City Council began supporting National Bike Week in June 2009 and again last year. The aim of the initiative in Cork is to devote one week to promoting more cycling amongst workers in local businesses.

The National Bike Week initiative is also part of the Councils calendar of events it is undertaking to promote cycling for an EU project called "Trendy Travel". Cork City Cycling Strategy was formally adopted in 2004 to increase bike use while reducing accidents involving cyclists. Aside from promotion of cycle-ways (cycle-ways were installed as part of the Green Route projects) and bicycle parking, a number of annual events have also been organised such as the "Bike to Work" Week and Rebel Pedal! (as part of European Mobility Week.).



Pedestrian

The Pedestrian Strategy has yet to be prepared. However, recent upgrades to the public realm have enhanced the pedestrianisation of the city centre e.g. works at Cornmarket Street; Bleasby Street; Opera Lane etc.

Rail

New hourly departure routes between Cork and Dublin became operational. The Cork-Midleton commuter line was completed in July 2009. The Blackpool/ Kilbarry Rail Station and Park & Ride redevelopment has been granted planning permission but is awaiting funding.

Air

In 2010, Cork Airport served 2.43 million passengers, a decrease of 12.4% on that achieved in 2009 (Record of 3.25 million achieved in 2008). Cork Airport operates 60 routes. New routes introduced during 2010 included additional connectivity into London with a new Aer Lingus London Gatwick service, Manx2.com launching a twice daily Belfast commuter service and Wizz Air expanding their offering from Cork with the addition of a service to Wroclaw in Poland to compliment four other Polish routes they fly to. Ryanair increased their presence significantly at Cork Airport with additional seasonal services to Alicante,



Barcelona (Reus), Bordeaux, Faro, Fuerteventura, Lanzarote, La Rochelle and Malaga; while new routes introduced during 2009 included East Midlands (bmi baby), Lisbon (Aer Lingus) and Rennes (Aer Lingus).

Sea

March 2010 saw the re-establishment of the Swansea Cork Ferry Route. This route is being supported by a package of incentives from the Port of Cork and Fáilte Ireland.

Chapter 5 Housing

Aim: To have available to every household a good quality affordable dwelling suited to its needs in sustainable neighbourhoods with easy access to a range of community facilities, amenities and local services.

Introduction

This section outlines the progress made in relation to housing in Cork City. This section examines the progress with regard to the Joint Housing Strategy

Key Objectives

- To implement the Joint Housing Strategy in partnership with Cork County Council
- To ensure provision of a good mix of housing types to meet the needs of the likely future population.
- To support housing provision for people with disabilities, Traveller accommodation and the concept of independent living for older people.

Overview

2009 was a year which saw the Irish economy contracting at a record rate and unemployment soaring as a result. 2010 marks the fourth year in a row where asking prices for housing fell. Asking prices were 15% lower as a national average in 2010 than in 2009 and are now 40% below peak levels. House prices continue to fall in 2011, albeit at a slower pace than heretofore.



Housing Strategy

Cork City Council and Cork County Council prepared the Joint Housing Strategy 2009. The primary objective of the housing strategy is to enable every household to have available an affordable dwelling of good quality, suited to its needs, in a good environment. The housing strategy endeavours to ensure a mix of house types and sizes within communities to promote balanced communities, sustainable development and to promote a high quality living environment. To this end, a number of policies have been included in the plan to ensure that proposals for new developments meet these requirements and are assessed accordingly. Preparation of a new joint housing strategy between Cork City and County Councils assessing housing need, is due to commence in 2012 and will be incorporated into their respective Development Plans.

Housing Supply and Completions

The falling prices for housing in Ireland in 2008 to date nationally has created a stagnating effect with purchasers reluctant to enter the market while the price correction is worked through. The result of oversupply is falling prices, reduced demand and decreased investor demand, leading to lower building activity and profitability. In addition the banking and liquidity crisis have contributed to a radical deterioration in economic circumstances and increasing out-migration. A total of 470 private residential units were granted permission in Cork City from end of June 2009 to December 31st 2010.

House completions have been steadily falling over the past few years. From Q3 2009 to Q4 2010, state house completions totalled 26,743, down from 65,803 for the preceding 18 month period.

Total new house completions in Cork City and County for the first 6 months of 2010 were down 52% on the same period last year from 1832 in 2009 to 955 in 2010. House completions for Cork City Council from Q3, 2009 to end of 2010 totalled 510 (268 in Q3&Q4 2009; 242 in total for 2010). This compares to a total of 666 house completions in 2009 and 1,001 in the year 2008.

Residential commencements for Cork City Council from Q3 2009 to end of 2010 amounted to 30 (11 in Q3&Q4 2009; 19 in total for 2010). This compares to 33 residential commencements for the full year of 2009 and 206 in 2008.

Vacancy

The National Housing Development Survey was undertaken in October 2010. 21 developments were inspected in Cork City. The total number of residential units to be delivered from these developments is 1,964. 42% of these were complete and occupied while no construction had started for 26% of the units. The survey found that 21% or 412 of the units were complete and vacant while those under construction amounted to 216. While the presence of vacant and partially completed units in the city is of concern the scale of the problem is less extensive than in other parts of the country.



Facilitating Residential Development

The North and South Docklands have the potential to accommodate by far the largest proportion of new housing units, and the City Council will seek to ensure that Docklands will be an attractive residential location providing a range of dwelling types for residents of all age groups. A number of substantial planning applications have been received in the South Docklands. One of these was granted permission prior to the adoption of the existing development plan which consists of a total of approximately 598 residential units (depending on compliance with conditions). Further to this, two applications with residential elements in the Docklands have been received since June 2009. One of these was refused and the other (Marina Commercial Park) is currently on a further information request.

Other key development locations promoted by the City Development Plan include sites at Blackpool and Mahon. There are currently Local Area Plans being drafted for both these areas which will specifically address residential issues in these areas.

Local Authority Housing

Cork City Council's Housing construction programme includes provision of social and affordable housing units. 497 units were completed in 2009 with 214 units to mid Q4 in 2010.

Table 5.1 Schemes in Progress:

Scheme	No. of Units	Completed Year to Date	Balance Outstanding	Estimated Completion
The Glen Phase II	59	0	59	Oct '12
Total	59	0	59	

Table 5.2 Turnkey Schemes in Construction:

Scheme	No. of Units	Status	Estimated Completion
Atkins Hall	100	Under Construction	Dec '12
Lovers Walk, Farranferris	34	Under Construction	May '11
The Meadows, Knocknacullen	61	Under Construction	Apr '11
Hyde Park, Tory Top Road	50	Under Construction	Feb '11
Corrin Close, Glen Avenue	16	Under Construction	Feb '11
Total	261		

Table 5.3 Affordable Schemes in Construction:

Scheme	No. of Units	Status	Estimated Completion
Shanakiel	32	Under Construction	May '11
The Meadows, Knocknacullen	38	Under Construction	Apr '11
Total	70		

Regeneration Projects

The following information pertains to Social Housing Regeneration Projects which were current since June 2009.

Table 5.4 Regeneration Projects

Knocknaheeny Block D	This Contract is now completed. 12 No infill houses were completed since June 2009. Works to the curtilage of 40 no. other properties were also completed.
Glen Regeneration	Boundary improvements and other miscellaneous curtilage works were carried to 41 no dwellings. Work commenced on the construction of 58 No new dwellings.
Sunvalley Drive	Work concluded on the refurbishment of 37 No existing units and on the construction of 11 No new units.
Cushing Road/Place	Work concluded on the refurbishment of 54 No flat units

21 No Sheltered Housing Units were built as part of the Knocknaheeny Block D Regeneration Project and are located on Foyle Avenue. A number of community based groups have also been accommodated in the new Town centre Building at the same location as is a Senior Citizens Club and a Temporary Branch Library. The North West Area Housing Office has also been moved to the New Town Centre. The development also includes an underground car park & a building which will be taken over by the HSE. In relation to the wider Knocknaheeny area, proposals for the refurbishment of another 260 houses have been put on hold pending a review of the Masterplan.



Traveller Accommodation:

A Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013 is now in place. The target for the provision of Traveller Accommodation in 2009 was 11 units, and in 2010 17 units were expected to be provided. In 2010 11 Standard Local Authority Housing Units were provided along with 3 Halting Site Bays. In terms of Group Housing Schemes, the programme had identified a need for an additional 6/8 units (to be provided by 2011). Given the fluid nature of meeting these needs, this figure has since been revised to the possible provision of 12 units.

Planned Maintenance

As a consequence of the changed economic circumstances for Cork City Council in general, since 2009 the approved Housing budget for Planned Maintenance has decreased as follows:

Table 5.3 Planned Maintenance Budget

Year	Planned Maintenance Budget
2008	€ 4.4m.
2009	€ 1.5m
2010	€ 1.2m
2011	€ 0.9m

Central Heating Installation Programme

This was separately funded (80% by DOE with 20% co-funding from Cork City Council) rather than drawing down on the Planned Maintenance budget. The DoEHLG funding ceased for Central Heating Installation programmes in 2009. However, approx 500+ houses are still without central heating and there are also a significant number of houses where tenants are requesting that existing central heating (i.e. those they themselves installed prior to the DoEHLG scheme) should be upgraded.

Chapter 6 Social and Community

Aim: To promote Cork as a socially inclusive city providing for the needs of all members of the community and ensuring that there is a good range of services and facilities which are easily accessible to those communities.

Introduction

This section outlines the progress made in relation to social and community development in Cork City.

Key Objectives

- To support the actions of the Social Inclusion Action Plan;
- To promote provision of good quality community, educational and childcare services in the city;
- To promote the concept of “urban villages”, where community and neighbourhood facilities are provided close to where people live;
- To support and promote the development of the RAPID and other disadvantaged areas.

RAPID

RAPID stands for Rejuvenating Areas through Planning, Investment and Development. It is a Government programme which aims to bring agencies together with residents in a local area to create a shared plan for regeneration of the area. There are 4 RAPID areas in Cork City:

- Knocknaheeny/Hollyhill/Churchfield
- Blackpool /The Glen/Mayfield
- Fairhill/Gurranabraher/Farranree
- Togher/Mahon

Actions:

- 5 Community Wardens have been employed in the RAPID areas since August 2008.
- The number of childcare places in RAPID areas has been increased significantly over the life of the programme, which means that children have access to quality childcare and early education which sets the foundation to prepare children for their future lives. 4 crèches/ pre-schools have been opened up under the RAPID programme since 2009.
- 2 new parent/community rooms have been created in RAPID schools since 2009 to enable parents to enrol in education and training as well as support their children's learning. The first was established prior to 2009. Homework clubs have been funded to enable young people to receive study support.
- 5 new multi-use games areas or playgrounds have been built in RAPID areas since 2009.
- RAPID has worked with various sports bodies to set up summer camps across the RAPID areas allowing local groups and agencies to nominate young people to participate. 8 camps have been held since 2009.



- Another youth café was created in 2010 in addition to the 2 youth cafés which were set up since the RAPID programme began.
- Project “Re-focus” has been set up in 2009 to support long-term unemployed young people to moving into long-term education, training or employment. This is aimed at 18-25 year olds. 68 people participated.
- In 2010, 42 young people participating in an “Exploring your work options” course.
- Funding was secured in 2009 to purchase 5 community buses for use in RAPID areas since 2009.
- In relation to health, walking groups have been set up, health checks have been carried out, mental health awards and health promotions events held.

Community Facilities

Community facilities such as halls and resource centres provide an essential function for people to socialise and meet as well as providing for general recreational and other needs. As outlined above, a number of community facilities have been provided under the RAPID programme. Works have been completed on upgrading The Hut community facility at Gurranaברה. A new community & services building in Knocknaheeny has also been provided. This also encompasses a citizen's information office and a day centre for the elderly. This facility has been provided as part of an overall master plan for Knocknaheeny town centre.

Childcare Facilities.

Cork City Childcare Committee's Strategic Plan 2007-2010.

There has been a slight drop in demand for full day care in the city due to the down turn in the economy. It is essential that the advances made in the provision of full day places are retained. Progress has been made in the provision of community services in several areas of Cork City. A collaboration with Cork City Council lead to the recent opening of 2 new facilities adjacent to new housing developments. A preschool and an after school- service was developed at Cushing Place, between Blackpool and Farranree. This service is thriving with a local management committee supported by local agencies. The second facility was developed in The Glen as part of the Susie's Field development. For this service the City Council came together with the Cork Steiner Kindergarten to develop a preschool service. Both these services were supported by the National Childcare Investment Programme (NCIP) to fit out the premises. An existing preschool service in Mayfield has purchased new premises in



Silversprings. This service will now develop an after-school service. Several schools have added a preschool within the school premises, including Scoil Ursula, Sundays Well Girls School and Christ the King Girls School. An after-school service has been developed in St. Patricks Boys School. Two private full day services have been opened in Shanakiel and Ballinlough. The Office of Public Works developed a full day care facility in Blackrock for Public or Civil servants in Cork. No progress has been made to date is in relation to including work place crèches in either CIT or the University Hospital. The lack of facilities for the college and the hospital remains an issue for the city.

Educational Facilities

Permission for educational use has been granted for 10,286sq.m from July '09 to December '10.

Ashton School received permission for a new 3-storey, 30 classroom building to replace the existing single-storey building (4,180sq.m). FÁS has received permission for a 2,323sq.m educational facility at Millfield, Blackpool.

Under the RAPID scheme 42 young people participated in a FAS course entitled "Exploring your work options" course in 2010. This course supports young people looking at their future work options and helping them re-train.

Healthcare Facilities

Cork City Council granted a total of 6,150 sq.m of additional medical space over the 18 period from June 2009 to December 2010. The €90m Cork Medical Centre, a private facility, opened last October. This hospital is located at City Gate, Mahon and provides the city with an additional approximately 13,000 sq.m of medical space. However, it is unfortunately noted that the centre's future is in question and rests on securing cover from VHI. Another 93 bed medical facility totalling 10,713 sq.m at Lancaster Gate was refused permission by An Bord Pleánala. However, the applicants have recently submitted another planning application to An Bord Pleanala for the medical facility at this location. Brookfield, on College Road, received permission for change of use to a nursing home.

New fire-station to service southside of the city.

The need for a new fire station to service the southside of the city has been identified. Opportunities to progress this objective need to be investigated including locating a suitable site for this facility.

Library Facilities

A new Cork City Libraries Strategic Plan covering 2010 to 2014 was published in autumn 2010. In 2009 Douglas Library (operated jointly by Cork City & County) reopened in new premises in the redeveloped Douglas Village Shopping Centre. The new Library, 980 M² in area, is bright and airy and twice the size of the previous unit, and has led to much increased usage. In the longer term the Council's preference is to have a purpose-designed and Council-owned library; the new premises will enable the Council to achieve that objective in due course. Also in



2009 the Council decided to relocate the library for the North Central Ward from St. Mary's Road to Blackpool. This decision was based on the recommendations of a representative working group (in July 2008) which reviewed the library needs of the various communities which make up the Ward. The working group considered all possible options and recommended that a large library, 1,100 m² in area, be located as close as possible to the heart of the Ward in Blackpool. Blackpool Library opened in April 2010 in the Blackpool Shopping Centre. The Council further decided that the building originally built for the ABODE charity on Skehard Road should be refurbished as the library for the Blackrock and Mahon areas. Hollyhill Library reopened for service in Foyle Avenue, Knocknaheeny, in June 2009. The library service now operates from the Sonas building at the rear of the new Drum building on Harbour View Road.

Chapter 7 Arts, Culture, Tourism

Aim: To support the continued advancement of and participation in arts, culture and tourism services in Cork City.

Introduction

Arts and culture supports the quality of life for individuals and communities in addition to forming part of urban value systems. Arts and culture facilities also act as tourism attractions.

Key Objectives

- To encourage and facilitate the development and retention of high quality cultural amenities including theatres, concert halls and other performance venues in the City Centre.
- To facilitate and encourage sustainable tourism development which is based on and reflects the city's distinctive history, culture and environment.
- To support and develop festivals and encourage the establishment of new festivals which will be supported as a celebration.

Arts

The Arts Service now comes within the remit of the Tourism Development Unit established in January 2011 as part of the Directorate of Corporate Affairs. This unit aims to actively further promote tourism in Cork City.

The Arts and Cultural Strategy previously ran from 2006 to 2009. Work began on developing a new strategy in 2010 and the Draft Arts and Cultural Strategy 2011-2015 was produced in January 2011. Public consultation concluded in March and the plan finalised taking submissions into consideration.



Despite the challenges faced by Council the commitment of Cork City Council to the Arts was maintained in the 2011 budget allocation. Contributions to the arts represent 1.35% of the overall budget of Cork City Council in 2011.

Investigations have begun into the implementation of a rates relief scheme, "Creative Cork", to promote the city centre as a key location, providing accommodation to artists and arts organisations. A number of buildings which are currently vacant/ derelict are being assessed for suitability.

Tourism

A new Tourism Development Unit was established in Cork City Council in January 2011. This has been set up to further promote and market tourism in Cork City.

- Cork City was named among the top 10 in the best cities to visit in the Lonely Planet guide's 'Best in Travel 2010'.
- 2010 saw the arrival of the "Around the World Clipper Race" to Cork City. A new city marina was constructed to facilitate this and to encourage further maritime events in the future.

- Cork harbour tours have also been introduced. These are organised sea safari tours and kayaking trips departing from the city.



- Two iwalks were launched in August 2010. These are self guided walks with route directions given throughout the commentary taking in some of Cork's most iconic cultural and heritage attractions. They can be downloaded from the internet onto an iPod.
- Two signed walking trails have been developed in Shandon and South Parish. These have 10-12 signed boards on the route with an accompanying map for visitors to follow. Work is rapidly progressing on a third City Centre trail which will be established in 2011.

Chapter 8 Built Heritage and Archaeology

Aim: To protect Cork's architectural and archaeological heritage and reinforce the distinctive character and identity of the City.

Introduction

The consideration and conservation of the city's heritage is an integral part of Cork City Council's plans and programmes for the physical, economic and social planning and development of the city.

Key Objectives

- Ensure that elements of archaeological, architectural and cultural significance are identified, retained and interpreted wherever possible and the knowledge placed in the public domain.
- Promote the retention, reuse and enhancement of buildings and other elements of architectural or other significance
- Improve and encourage access to and understanding of the architectural heritage of the city.

Archaeology

Since May 2009 50 applications have had archaeological conditions recommended.

A book entitled "Cork City's Burial Places" was published by Cork City Council in 2011. The book enhances knowledge of past societies and the people who shaped the city, and will allow for a more informative management of the burial grounds in the city.

A lecture series was given in the City Library. These were undertaken between April to October 2010. The theme was "Cork Revealed – What stones and bones can tell us".

A Medieval Day Celebration was organised and held in Bishop Lucy Park during Heritage Week to celebrate Irish Walled Towns Day.



A comprehensive archaeological excavation took place at Christ Church as part of the refurbishment works. This uncovered a total of 52 burials which have been recorded and excavated.

There is ongoing archaeological monitoring of the works at Cornmarket Streetscape and also at Dr. Mary Hearn Park in Shandon.

Excavations at Christchurch

Conservation of the Built Heritage

Since June 2009, 89 conservation reports have been completed on planning applications.

Record of Protected Structures

1 building was added to the RPS in October 2009. A further 6 buildings were added in February 2011. The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage is currently undertaking a survey of the Cork City suburbs with a view to identifying buildings of importance that are located outside of the City Centre.

Conservation Grants Scheme

This scheme, which is funded by the Dept. of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government, operates annually and is very important in promoting the conservation of Protected Structures in Cork City. In 2009, 26 grants were paid out totalling €134,058. In 2010, 17 grants were processed totalling €102,472. Unfortunately, the scheme is unlikely to receive funding in 2011 due to constraints on public finances.

Promoting Awareness

The Conservation Officer involves works to raise awareness of conservation with interest groups and the general public. Some of the projects undertaken include:

- An Energy Efficiency in Historic Houses Seminar was held in Nov 2010.
- A Workshop to inform public about Architectural Conservation Areas is proposed to be held in the Blackpool/ Shandon area shortly.



Red Abbey

Slips Survey

Cork City Council, with the support of the Heritage Council, contracted suitably qualified professionals to survey, map and assess the slips, steps and access points of an identified area along the River Lee in the centre island of Cork City. A final 2-part report was produced in 2010: Vol. 1 dealing with the issues, analysis and recommendations; and Vol. 2 comprising of the database which contains details of each of the slips, steps and access points.

Chapter 9 Landscape and Natural Heritage

Aim: To protect and enhance the landscape and natural environment of the city.

Introduction

With the intensification of the city, its landscape and natural heritage assets are of huge importance to those living, working and visiting Cork. They are vital to quality of life, are non-renewable assets and help enhance the attractiveness and image of the city.

Key Objectives

- To promote the sustainable use and management of the landscape and natural heritage of the city.
- To integrate natural heritage and recreation facilities to form a combined resource.
- To protect and enhance the landscape and the natural heritage.
- To improve social and physical access to the natural heritage and recreational facilities of the city.

Biodiversity

Cork City Council has prepared the first ever Biodiversity Action Plan for Cork City. This is a five year plan (2009-2014) which outlines the wealth of nature and wildlife that exists in Cork City and sets out a series of actions to raise awareness and help to protect and enhance Cork City's natural heritage.



Biodiversity Training

A series of seminars and workshops related to biodiversity training were held in May 2010. The aim of this project was to raise awareness of biodiversity amongst technical staff and Council members in Cork City Council through the delivery of. Workshops were tailored for staff members, to ensure that information and practical advice for participants was as relevant as possible to their areas of interest and responsibility.

Tree Surveys

A Tree Survey was undertaken in 2009 which surveyed, mapped and assessed trees and semi-natural woodland along the Mardyke and Curraheen area within Cork City, with a view to developing a maintenance strategy for these trees and prioritising trees of significant biodiversity importance for protection. In addition the existing Tree Preservation Order (TPO) trees were resurveyed and their condition assessed.

Wildlife Book

A new and exciting book on the “Wildflowers of Cork City and County” by Tony O’ Mahony was published by Collins Press in October 2009. This book is a stimulating and contemporary account of the flora and habitats of Ireland’s largest county. Funded by Cork City Council, Cork County Council and the Heritage Council, this book is an action from the Cork City and the Cork County Heritage Plans.



Walking Trails

As previously mentioned in Chapter 7, signed Heritage walking trails have been established in South Parish and Shandon. Two city iWalks for downloading to an iPod have also been developed. It is hoped to investigate the feasibility of developing a third iWalk shortly.

Appropriate Assessment

As per Policy 10.9 in the City Development Plan, all land use plans and projects arising from the plan will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. The Development Plan itself was screened under AA. The North Blackpool LAP which is being prepared has also undergone screening for Appropriate Assessment. The process will also be applied to the upcoming Local Area Plan for Mahon.

Chapter 10 Sports and Recreation

Aim: To ensure that there are excellent and accessible recreational facilities and public spaces provided to meet the needs of all citizens.

Introduction

Properly maintained and easily accessible public open spaces and sports and recreational facilities are key elements in ensuring a good quality of life is achieved for all members of the community.

Key Objectives

- To protect existing green areas and public open spaces which provide for the passive and active recreational needs of the population.
- To protect and enhance recreational areas including sports grounds and facilities.
- To improve the quality and range of uses provided within parks and public open spaces including sports facilities and encourage their greater use and enjoyment.

Parks Strategy

The current *Parks Strategy (2000)* is due to be updated jointly by the Planning and Development and Recreation, Amenity and Culture Directorates. This will provide the overarching framework for the provision of parks and open spaces within the city and also include updated planning standards. Preparation of the strategy commenced in 2010 and it is hoped that it can be completed by the end of 2011. The procurement of designs for major parks projects will generally be through design competition.

Parks Projects

Amenity Park at Kinsale Road Landfill

The design for this future City Park is at its very early stages. Given the transboundary nature of this future park, as well as its location, scale and role, the ambition is to hold extensive consultation to secure a design that matches the potential of the site.

Marina Park

Cork City Council will be shortly appointing consultants to prepare detailed designs to an international standard for the proposed Marina Park in the Docklands. The 30-hectare city park, which is hoped to consolidate and improve the existing amenity lands at the Marina and surrounding lands including those recently acquired under Compulsory Purchase Order, will cater for the active and passive recreational needs of the proposed Docklands community and the wider city-region.



The following projects have not yet commenced and will be progressed as resources allow:

- North-West District Park (Knocknaheeny)
- North-East District Park

Smaller new parks

- The Military Cemetery Park in the Glen was opened in 2010;
- Saint Anne's Park in Shandon was opened in 2010.

Blackrock Village Park: Preliminary design for this park has been completed. Delivery of the park is dependent on Council capital funding and is included in the 2011 Parks Capital Programme for consideration.

Parks enhancement projects

The following parks enhancement projects have been completed:

Glen Amenity Park: A project to improve disabled access to this park was completed in 2010.

Fairfield Park – completed 2010;

Bride Valley Park – works due for completion 2011.

Allotments

Two allotment projects are currently being provided by the City Council at:

- Churchfield allotments – new allotments on Sun Valley Drive are due to open in early summer 2011;
- Blackpool allotments – community garden allotments at The Foyer, opened in 2009.

A review of the above will be undertaken in late 2011 to determine the uptake on the above pilot scheme and the unmet demand not satisfied. Following this review an allotment strategy will be prepared to guide future allotment provision in the city and to meet the requirements of the *Planning and Development Act 2010*.

Amenity Routes

A new pedestrian bridge was constructed to the rear of the Western Gateway Building by UCC in order to connect walkways on both sides of the south channel at this location.

Recreational Needs Study

This study will update the *Recreational Needs Study 2003*, and will provide an overall understanding of recreational need based upon current and future needs. This study was commissioned in 2010 and is due to be completed by the end of 2011.

Sports Facilities

- Three new City Council pitches were opened at Mahon Estuary Drive in 2010;
- The City Council has made a planning application to the County Council for the development of 4 new pitches on a site at Inchigaggin.
- Two pitches are in the process of being de-commissioned at Carrigrohane Road to enable the development of a new park and ride facility, these will be replaced by two pitches at Inchiggan.
- Improvements to the UCC Mardyke sports facilities are being implemented in 2011;

Play Facilities

A new play ground was opened in 2010 at the newly opened Military Cemetery Park in the Glen.

Chapter 11 Environmental Infrastructure and Management

Aim: To secure a high quality, clean and healthy environment, while facilitating the sustainable development of the city, through the continued improvement of infrastructure services and appropriate environmental protection and management.

Introduction

The Council seeks to maintain and enhance the quality of the city's environment and eliminate potential environmental risks, while also facilitating sustainable economic and physical development.

Key Objectives

- Avoid or reduce, where relevant, the negative environment impacts of development in the city
- Provide high quality water and wastewater infrastructure in the city and improve the supply and quality of drinking water.
- Minimise the production of waste and encourage environmentally friendly waste disposal practice.
- Improve the energy efficiency of new and existing buildings and promote renewable energy use in the city's building stock.



Flooding

The Office of Public Works (OPW) and its partners, Cork City Council and Cork County Council, have recognised the high levels of existing flood risk in and around the River Lee, its tributaries and Cork Harbour. To address this issue, the Lee Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (Lee CFRAMS), a catchment-based flood risk assessment and management study of the entire Lee Catchment, including the River Lee, its tributaries and Cork Harbour, is now being undertaken. Lee CFRAMS Management Study Draft Plan was published in 2010. Following the completion of the consultation period in April 2010, the draft Plan is being finalised, taking account of submissions received.

Waste Management and Recycling

A review of the Waste Management Plan (2004-2009) was carried out in 2009 and as a result the Waste Management Plan was varied in order to extend its period of application beyond 2009 in order to allow consideration of the International Review of Waste Management Plans Policies and Practice and issues arising therein in the preparation of a new Waste Management Plan.

Kinsale Road Landfill Site

The Kinsale Road Landfill Site ceased the landfilling of waste in July 2009. Capping of the site and development of the site into a public park and various amenities is now underway.



Re-use and Recycling of Waste

Cork City Council still collects refuse from approx. 27,000 households in Cork City. All domestic customers are provided with two collections (general refuse and dry recyclable) that take place on alternate weeks. Commercial customers are provided with an additional collection for food waste since June 2010 in accordance with national legislation.

There were approximately 40 bring sites in place in 2009. There are currently 42 in place. A new pilot glass collection is due to begin in Mayfield where 5 temporary bring sites will be in place each Saturday from 10am to 4pm. This is to facilitate residents accessing glass recycling facilities without requiring transport. The collection will be monitored over a 3 month period.



Energy Statements

Cork City Council requires that developments above 1,000sq.m submit an energy statement. The Environment Section has made comments on approximately 6 applications which have included these statements since June 2009. These include (amongst others) the Topaz application and the Beamish and Crawford application.



BER

Cork City Council has 5 BER certificates for its public buildings which include City Hall, Douglas Swimming pool, the City Library, the museum and Bishopstown library. In relation to BER's carried out by the local authority for its own housing stock approximately 600 dwellings have been certified from late 2009 to present

Climate Change Strategy

Cork City Energy Agency commissioned the first climate change strategy for the City Council in June 2010. The purpose of this document is to set out the current international and national policies in relation to global warming and thereafter to detail various actions which Cork City Council will take in support of same.