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Regional and City/County Dimensions

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7 Regional and City/County Dimensions

While this Strategy focuses primarily on the development of the County, cognisance has to be taken of the National situation. One of the core principles of the National Development Plan (NDP) is to ensure that there is **Balanced Regional Development**. The NDP identifies a number of **Development Gateways** of which **Limerick/Shannon** is one. These Gateways have a strategic location relative to the surrounding areas, possess good social and economic infrastructure and support services and have the potential to open up their zones of influence to further development by providing transport links. The Draft National Spatial Strategy (NSS) has also identified Limerick/Shannon as a Gateway.

The promotion of the Mid-West Region as an economic alternative to Dublin requires co-operation between all public bodies. A number of issues requiring a regional focus to their development have been identified. The County Development Board Structure and the Mid-West Regional Authority provide a means of assessing the Region's current strengths and highlighting the strategic need for future investment.

The four County/City Development Boards have agreed broad objectives for improvements in these areas. The Directors of Community and Enterprise will work in conjunction with the Mid-West Regional Authority in developing appropriate actions.

Map 7. The Midwest Region



Regional Issues

Area of Co-operation	Objective
Public Transport	To create an integrated public transport network that links the major settlements of the region with each other and that links the region with the rest of the Country.
Shannon International Airport	To ensure that Shannon remains Ireland's second largest airport by securing the necessary investment including a rail link and improved road access and the development of new routes to Irish, UK, American and European locations.
Information Technology	To ensure that the Mid-West Region has competitive broadband connectivity.
Energy and Power	To seek to ensure that the national providers of energy resources are aware of and respond to the energy needs of the Region.
Third Level Education	To ensure that a wide range of educational courses are available to all those within the region including those for whom full-time attendance at third-level education is not possible.

Limerick City & County Co-operation

Limerick City is the Regional hub of the Mid-West in terms of transport, employment, and services. There are many formal and informal arrangements in place where Limerick County Council and Limerick Corporation co-operate with each other in a spirit of partnership. Good management and the efficient use of public resources have been the guiding principles. Current areas of co-operation include water, fire and archive services and the design and building of roads and waste management.

The public launch of the Limerick City and County Development Boards took place jointly in April 2000. Since then there have been a number of areas of co-operation. Studies have been jointly commissioned and undertaken in relation to Recreational Needs,

Planning Land Use and Transportation Study (PLUTS) and Retail Needs. An application for funding for increased broadband connectivity in Limerick City and environs has been submitted to the Department of Public Enterprise. A number of additional action areas requiring County/City co-operation have been identified. The Board considers that the best way forward to more efficient and effective delivery of public services is through the already established partnership approach.

One example of this is the LODIS programme which is a European Programme under which the Limerick Co-ordination Office has been established and will focus on and exploit the positive aspects of Limerick.

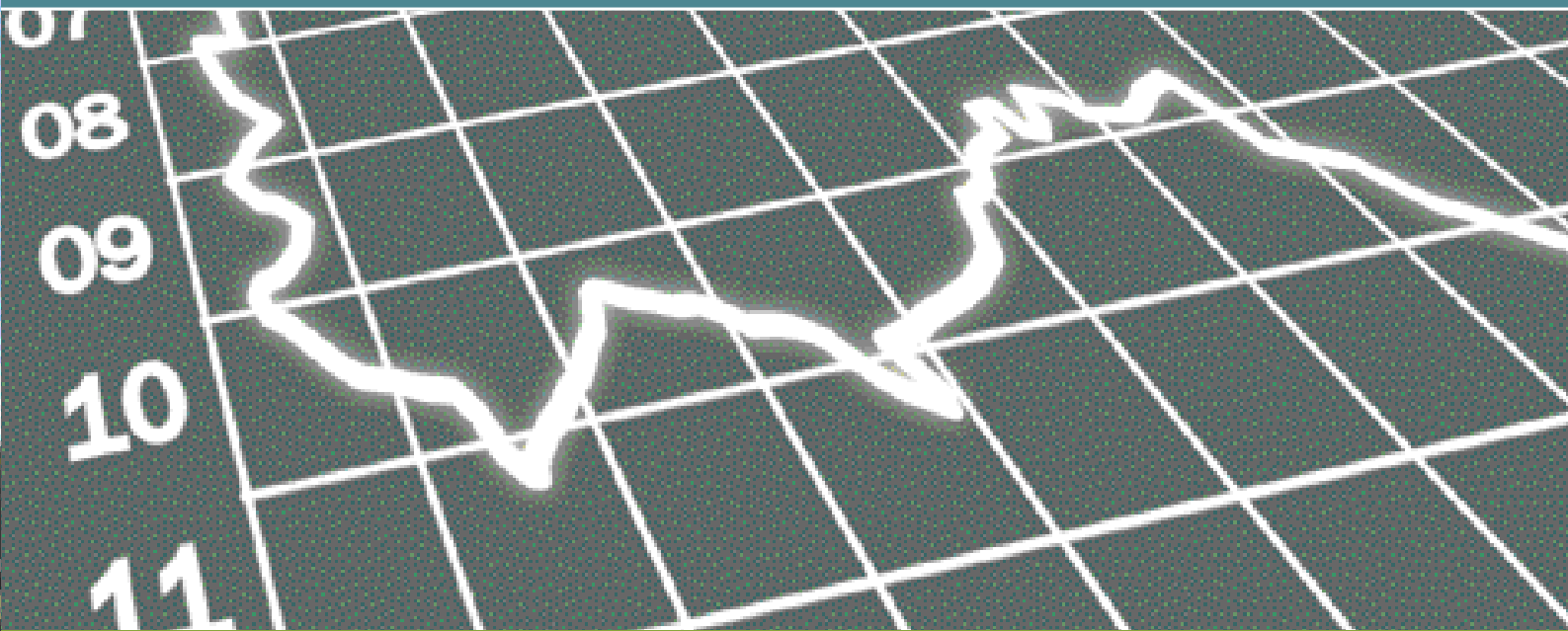
Objective A

To increase co-operation between the two development boards to improve public service delivery

Action	Lead Agency/Support	Timescale		
		2002-2004	2005-2007	2008-2011
Co-operate in the provision of recreation and amenity facilities in Limerick City and Environs	City & County Development Boards/ Local Sports Partnerships	✓	✓	
Encourage the joint promotion/packaging of Tourist Attractions in Limerick City and County	City & County Development Boards/ SFADCo/ Loc.Dev. Co.s/ Limerick Tourism Trade Assoc.	✓	✓	
Utilise the LODIS Programme to promote a positive image of Limerick	Limerick Co-ordination Office/ Local Authorities/ City & County Development Boards/ Chamber of Commerce	✓	✓	



Innaugural meeting at Greenmount Racecourse Patrickswell



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Implementation, Monitoring & Evaluation



8 Implementation, Monitoring & Evaluation

The First Economic, Social and Cultural Strategy for the development of County Limerick is the result of two years research, consultation and deliberations. This Strategy is not merely a series of goals and objectives, it contains specific actions and indicators which will measure the success of these actions. Implementation is the key to the success of the County Development Board process.

Implementation

In the Strategy each sub-theme identifies necessary actions to achieve the specific goals. The Board has adopted two methods to ensure the implementation of actions in the Strategy.

The majority of actions under Balanced Geographic Development will be delivered by the identified lead agency in conjunction with the supporting organisations. An Annual Report on the progress of these actions will be prepared and considered by the Board.

The implementation of actions under the Quality of Life Theme requires a different approach. The actions identified involve a number of agencies in delivery. For example, in County Limerick seven agencies share responsibility for enterprise development. To ensure optimum value from the efforts of individual agencies, co-ordination is essential. This co-ordinated approach is established through the Action Group structures.

Action Groups will have board members and nominees where appropriate. The Chair of each new Action Group will be a Board member. They will identify and address gaps and overlaps in service delivery and pilot new initiatives. This will involve agencies altering their operational programmes in accordance with their findings. A yearly action plan will be produced by each Action Group.

In a number of areas a group already exists to facilitate inter-agency co-operation. Board Member organisations are represented on these groups. To avoid duplication these groups are considered the appropriate mechanism to deliver actions. See Chart on facing page for Existing and new Action Group Structures.

Collection of Data on County Limerick

One issue which became apparent in the gathering of information for the development of the Strategy was the lack of County-specific data. It is not possible to plan with certainty in the absence of information at County and District Electoral Division (DED) Level. This was particularly evident in separating County/City data and relates to a broad range of areas such as tourism, employment, social welfare, crime, health and training. A priority action for the Board therefore is to impress on Central Government the necessity to require all agencies to maintain data at County and at DED level. Where research is undertaken locally it should be Countywide, where appropriate, and carried out under the auspices of the County Development Board.

Priority Actions for County Development Board

While implementation of all actions is important to the Board, there are some actions which are paramount to the success of the Strategy. The following actions have been identified as priorities.

- Significant investment in water and sewerage infrastructure
- Partnership approach to the improvement of river water quality
- Additional capacity for broadband connectivity
- Development of a flagship tourism project and a promotional strategy for tourism
- Further development of educational facilities and opportunities
- Increased provision of childcare facilities
- Integrated development of sport and recreation facilities/amenities
- Provision of community facilities in local authority housing estates
- Development of the Shannon Estuary
- Integrated public transport delivery
- Impressing on Central Government the need for all agencies to maintain statistics at a County/District

Electoral Division level and the need for all research which is carried out locally to be Countywide, where appropriate, under the auspices of the County Development Board

- Innovative and pilot actions to address identified gaps and overlaps to be undertaken under the auspices of the County Development Board.

Monitoring

The Board will meet at least four times a year to evaluate the overall progress of the Strategy. Reports will be presented on whether the actions are contributing to achieving the goals specified in the Strategy. At its meetings the Board will proof the Strategy against emerging and changing needs and make alterations to priorities where appropriate. The Board will produce an Annual Report on its activities.

The Economic, Social and Cultural Analysis of County Limerick will be revised after each census of population and more frequently if circumstances warrant same. This analysis will assist the Board in assessing the success of its activities and comparisons can be made with the study carried out in 2001. **Appendix 4 contains the Table of Contents of the Economic, Social and Cultural Analysis of County Limerick May 2001.**

Proofing

Proofing is now regarded as an integral part of monitoring, therefore this Strategy must be proofed in relation to its impact on the environment, equality, poverty and rural development. The Board has completed an initial assessment of the intended impact of the actions:

Impact of the Actions under the Balanced Geographic Development and Quality of Life Themes:

Balanced Geographic Development

Impact on Environment

The improvements in sewerage infrastructure will protect the environment and result in the reduction of pollution levels. The public transport actions will have a positive impact by decreasing reliance on private cars, thus alleviating congestion and reducing concentrations of emissions.

Impact on Equality

Many of the actions are gender-neutral. The provision of high-quality childcare facilities enables the greater participation of women in the workforce. The transport actions will benefit women as they are more dependent on public transport. The expansion of and

improvements to health centres will be beneficial to women as they are more likely to be involved in caring for the elderly, the disabled and children who need medical services.

Impact on Poverty

Improvements in employment opportunities will have a positive impact on poverty and will lead to a wider range of employment opportunities for those on low incomes. Provision of affordable housing and improved access to recreational amenities will have a positive impact on alleviating the effects of poverty.

Impact on Rural Development

Balanced Geographic Development will have a positive impact on rural development as the benefits of economic development will be more evenly distributed. Improvements in water quality will support rural development as the provision of clean water to rural dwellers will improve the quality of their lives and make these areas more attractive places in which to live.

Quality of Life

Impact on Environment

There will be a positive benefit on the environment arising from increased recycling and a reduction in waste going to landfill. Actions under Local Agenda 21 will have a positive impact on the environment by encouraging communities to balance economic, social and environmental needs.

Impact on Equality

A wider range of employment options will offer greater opportunities for women, especially in the tourism sector because of its ability to accommodate atypical working arrangements. Women (particularly with young families) will benefit from proposed improved primary healthcare as they are more likely to be involved in the care of young children.

Impact on Poverty

Increased lifelong learning opportunities will have a positive impact on poverty levels. Specifically, training and apprenticeship courses linked to the needs of the economy and an increased level of adult literacy will lead to greater employability potential for those on low incomes. Provision of supports for families will increase opportunities to engage in economic opportunities and thus increase income.

Impact on Rural Development

Support of the community and voluntary sector will have a positive impact on rural development. Vibrant,

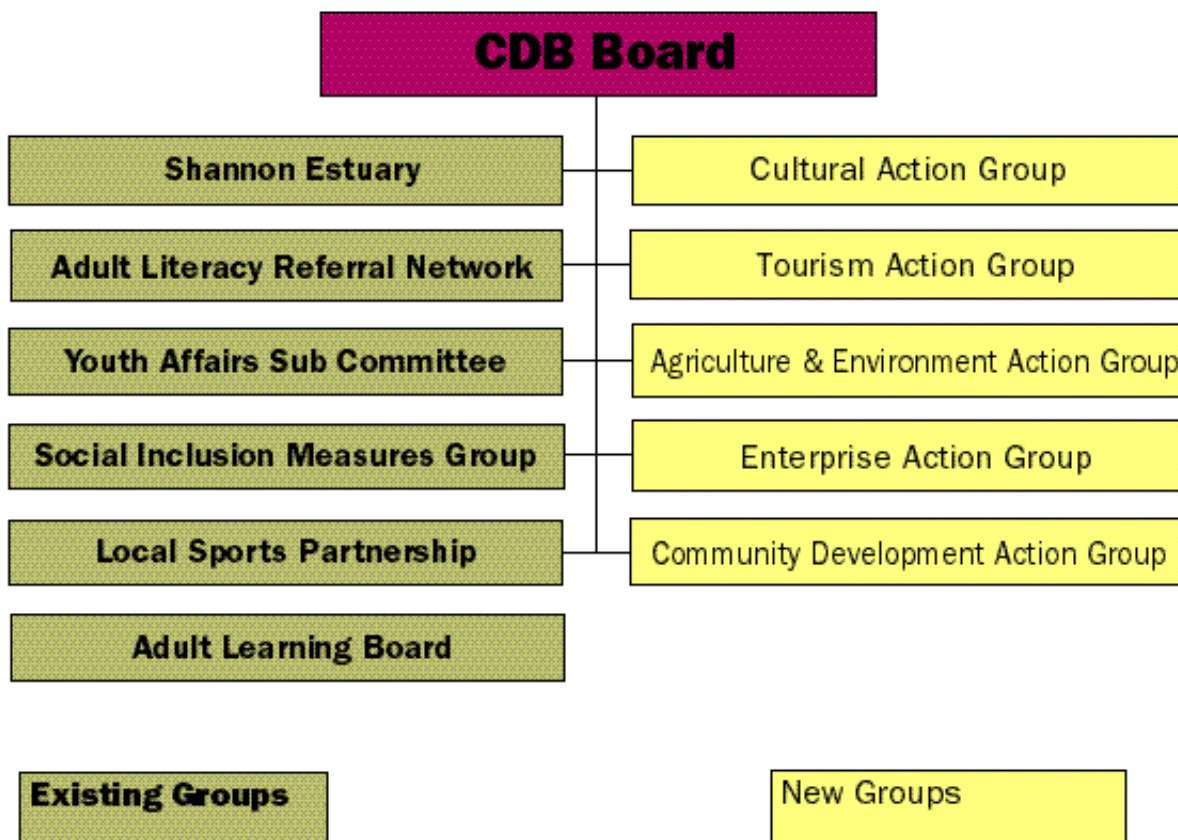
active communities will result in improvements in facilities leading to an improvement in the quality of life in rural areas. Conservation of the natural environment will increase the potential of the tourism industry in local areas and thus provide an additional source of income to the rural community. The improvement in river water quality will increase the potential for water based recreational activities.

Proofing will be an ongoing process with records of the implementation of actions maintained by the implementing agencies to ensure that the actions are having the desired results and are not causing unanticipated negative impacts.

Evaluation

It is essential for the Board to know the added value impact of the Strategy. This can best be achieved through independent evaluation at five yearly intervals. This evaluation will include the views of the residents of the County by using a Quality of Life survey similar to the one already conducted by the Board.

Board & Action Group Structure



Appendices

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BD	Ballyhoura Development Limited
CDB	County Development Board
C&V	Community & Voluntary Forum
CEB	County Enterprise Board
D.SCFA	Department of Social Community and Family Affairs
DoE&LG	Department of the Environment and Local Government
DoES	Department of Education and Science
EU	European Union
IDA	Industrial Development Agency
Limk.CoCo.	Limerick County Council
Loc. Dev. Cos.	LEADER and ADM Companies
MWHB	Mid-Western Health Board
NAPS	National Anti-Poverty Strategy
PLUTS	Planning Land Use and Transportation Study
REACH	Body with responsibility for e-government
REPS	Rural Environment Protection Scheme
SFADCo	Shannon Free Airport Development Company Ltd.
SIM	Social Inclusion Measures
TL	Tipperary LEADER Ltd
VEC	County Limerick Vocational Education Committee
WLR	West Limerick Resources Limited

Appendix 1:

Membership of Limerick County Development Board (as at December 2001)

Local Government Sector (7 Members)

Cllr. Michael Brennan	Cathaoirleach
Cllr. John Cregan	Chair Environmental Policy SPC
Cllr. Paddy McAuliffe	Chair Social, Cultural & Community Development SPC
Cllr. David Naughton	Chair Planning & Development SPC
Cllr. Noreen Ryan	Chair Housing Policy SPC
Cllr. Bridget Teefy	Chair Transportation & Infrastructural Policy SPC
Mr. Pat O'Connor	County Manager

Local Development Sector (5 Members)

Ms. Brenda Cahill	West Limerick Resources Ltd.
Ms. Isabel Cambie	Tipperary LEADER Ltd.
Mr. John Fitzgerald	West Limerick Resources Ltd.
Ms. Carmel Fox	Ballyhoura Development Ltd.
Mr. Ned Toomey	Limerick County Enterprise Board

State Agencies (8 Members)

Mr. Finbarr Brougham	Shannon Development
Mr. Mary Buckley	Mid-West Region, IDA Ireland
Mr. Leonard Burke	Dept. of Social, Community & Family Affairs
Mr. Sean Burke	Limerick County VEC
Mr. Donal Griffin	FÁS
Ms. Dympna Kavanagh	Mid-Western Health Board
Mr. Jerry Kelly	An Garda Síochana
Mr. Fachtna O'Driscoll	Teagasc

Social Partners (5 Members)

Sr. Mary Crosbie	Community & Voluntary Sector
Mr. William Davoren	Trade Union Pillar
Ms. Mary Fitzgerald	Business & Employers Pillar
Ms. Mairead Lavery	Farming Organisations Pillar
Mr. Sonny Ward	Community & Voluntary Sector

Former Members of Limerick County Development Board

Cllr. Michael O'Kelly	CDB Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Kevin Sheehan	CDB Cathaoirleach
Mr. Pat Doherty	Mid-West Region, IDA Ireland
Mr. John Hennessy	Mid-Western Health Board
Ms. Mary Kelly	Limerick County Enterprise Board
Mr. Denis McMonicle	Mid-Western Health Board
Mr. Roibeard O'Ceallaigh	Limerick County Manager
Mr. Noel O'Sullivan	An Garda Síochana
Mr. Liam Quinn	An Garda Síochana

Appendix 2:

Membership of the Working Groups of Limerick County Development Board

Agriculture & Rural Development Working Group	
Individual	Organisation
Fachtna O'Driscoll (Chair)	Teagasc
Cllr John Cregan	Limerick County Council
John Fitzgerald	West Limerick Resources Ltd.
Mairead Lavery	Farming Organisations Pillar
Mary Lyons	Teagasc
Vincent Murphy	Dept of Agriculture & Rural Development
Cllr Kevin Sheehan	Limerick County Council
John Walsh	Irish Co-operative Organisation Society

Social Inclusion Working Group	
Individual	Organisation
Leonard Burke (Chair)	Dept. of Social, Community & Family Affairs
Patricia Forde Brennan	National Parents Association - Primary
Sean Burke	County Limerick VEC
Brenda Cahill	West Limerick Resources Ltd.
Kieran Coyne	Comhairle
Sr Mary Crosbie	Community & Voluntary Sector
Dairine Cross	Mid-Western Health Board
Donal Griffin	FAS
Sheena Hanrahan	Ballyhoura Development Ltd.
Mairead Lavery	Farming Organisations Pillar
Kieran Lehane	Limerick County Council
Supt Eddie McEoin	An Garda Síochána
Ann McMahon	Dept. of Education & Science
Seamus O'Connor	Limerick County Council
Cllr Noreen Ryan	Limerick County Council
Sandra Ryan	Mary Immaculate College
Seamus Woods	Mid-Western Health Board

Enterprise and Employment Working Group	
Individual	Organisation
Ned Toomey (Chair)	Limerick County Enterprise Board
Finbar Brougham	Shannon Development
Isabel Cambie	Tipperary LEADER Ltd.
Mary Fitzgerald	Business & Employers Pillar
Noreen O'Flaherty	FÁS
Cllr Brigid Teefy	Limerick County Council
Sonny Ward	Community & Voluntary Sector

Infrastructure Working Group	
Individual	Organisation
Pat O'Connor (Chair)	Limerick County Council
Mary Buckley	IDA
Sean Burke	County Limerick VEC
Brenda Cahill	West Limerick Resources Ltd.
Bill Davoren	Trade Union Pillar
Denis McMonicle	Mid-Western Health Board
Cllr David Naughton	Limerick County Council

Tourism, Culture Sport & Leisure Working Group	
Individual	Organisation
Mary Fitzgerald (Chair)	Business & Employers Pillar
Damien Brady	Limerick County Council
Sean Burke	County Limerick VEC
Seamus Crowley	Duchas
Carmel Fox	Ballyhoura Development Ltd.
Brendan Lynch	Shannon Development
Joan MacKernan	Limerick County Council
Andrew Mawhinney	West Limerick Resources Ltd.
Cllr Paddy McAuliffe	Limerick County Council
Sarah McCutcheon	Limerick County Council
David O'Grady	As Duchas Dochas
Cormac O'hAodha	Limerick County Council
Denis Power	Duchas
Pat Walsh	Tipperary LEADER Ltd.

Appendix 3:

Contents of Economic, Social and Cultural Analysis of County Limerick (2001)

Chapter 1 - Physical Features	
Chapter 2 - Key Infrastructure	
2.1	Roads
2.2	Rail/Bus Service
2.3	Airport & Port
2.4	Energy/Telecommunications Network
2.4	Telecommunications / Media
2.5	Housing
2.6	Educational Infrastructure
2.7	Fire Service
Chapter 3 - Demography	
3.1	Historical Trends
3.2	Population Density
3.3	Future Trends
Chapter 4 - Labour Force	
4.1	Employment by Sector
4.2	Unemployment
4.3	Labour Force Participation
Chapter 5 - The Economy	
5.1	Industrial Production
5.2	Enterprise Development
5.3	Agriculture
5.4	Forestry
5.5	Tourism
Chapter 6 - The Environment	
6.1	Water Quality
6.2	Solid Waste
6.3	Hazardous Waste
Chapter 7 - Social Situation	
7.1	Education
7.2	Health
7.3	Sport
7.4	Amenities
7.5	Childcare
7.6	Security
Chapter 8 - Social Inclusion	
8.1	Unemployed
8.2	One Parent Families
8.3	Older People
8.4	Low Paid
8.5	People with Disabilities
8.6	Travellers
8.7	Educationally Disadvantaged
8.8	Tenants of Local Authority Housing
8.9	Homeless
8.10	Children at Risk

Chapter 9 - Cultural Situation	
9.1	Arts Facilities
9.2	Public Libraries
9.3	Irish Language
9.4	Areas of Conservation

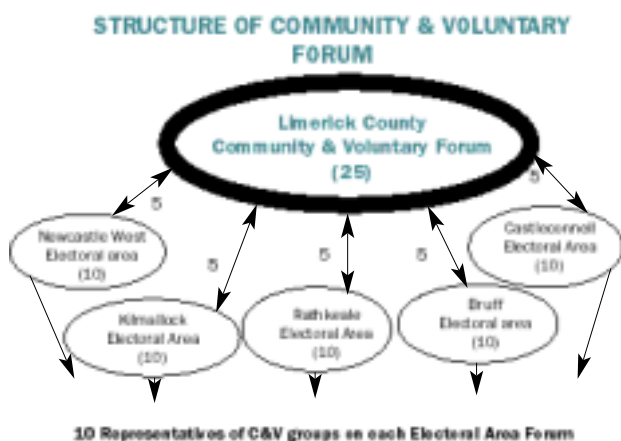
Appendix 4 - Findings of the Quality of Life Survey (August 2001) were:

- Two thirds of people believe they have a good quality of life.
 - A good living environment and a strong community spirit were some of the positive aspects of living in County Limerick.
 - Over 80% of people surveyed felt there is an alcohol/drugs problem.
 - The absence of facilities for young people is regarded as a major gap in services.
 - Older people are under-provided for in terms of social outlets and activities.
 - There is a reasonable level of Community facilities but in some cases access is limited to just one organisation.
 - There are problems associated with public transport including access, irregular service and a poor infrastructure.
 - The health services at GP level received a relatively good rating.
- The Council services received a poor rating with litter control and roads showing up as areas of particular difficulty.

**Appendix 5:
County Limerick Community & Voluntary Forum
Structure**

Electoral Area Fora

An area forum has been established for the five electoral areas in the County. The community and voluntary representatives with the elected Local Authority Members constitute the electoral area fora to consider Community Development Issues. Five community and voluntary representatives are selected from each Electoral Area Forum to sit on the County Forum. The structure of the Forum is set out below. The County Community & Voluntary Forum and the five Electoral Area Fora have been consulted extensively in the drawing up of the Strategy.



**Appendix 6:
Construction of Haase Deprivation Index**

Census Variables used in Index	
% of the population in the unskilled manual class	•
% of the population in the combined higher and lower professional class	•
% of the adult population leaving school at 15 years or below	•
% of the adult population leaving school at 20 years or above	•
% of economically active persons with third-level education	•
% of adult population with none or primary education only	•
% of adult population with third-level education	•
average number of rooms per person	•
Unemployment rate	•
Proportion of long-term unemployed in the labour force	•
Proportion of lone parents	•
Proportion of permanent private households which are Local Authority rented	•
Proportion of permanent private households which are owner occupied	•
% of those at work engaged in small farming (under 30 acres)	•
age dependency rate	•
proportion of households with two or more cars	•

(Source: National Childcare Census Report, County Limerick, April 1999)

**Appendix 7:
Staff of the County Development Board Dec 2001**

Gerry Behan	Director of Services, Community & Enterprise
Michael Griffin	Administrative Officer
Anthony Coleman	Community & Enterprise Development Officer
Bernadette Cullen	Community & Enterprise Development Officer
Jannette Deegan	Assistant Staff Officer
Kieran Curtin	Administrative Graduate
*Majella McLoughlin	Administrative Graduate (July 2000-Feb 2001)
*Patricia Walsh	Administrative Graduate (March-August 2001)
*Seamus O'Brien	Co-op Student (Summer 2001)

(*Former Staff)