

**COMMUNITY, CULTURE & ENTERPRISE
POBAL, CULTÚR AGUS FIONTAIR**

Draft Budgeted Expenditure: €9,574,900
Draft Budgeted Income: €2,393,100

The following pages set out the above as per each relevant Programme Group.

Programme Group 4

**DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES & CONTROLS
DREASACHTAÍ FORBARTHA AGUS STIÚRADH**

Draft Budgeted Expenditure: €2,103,000
Draft Budgeted Income: €632,200
(Pages 11 - 13 of Blue Pages)

Programme Group 6

**RECREATION AND AMENITY
CAITHEAMH AIMSIRE AGUS TAITNEAMHACHT**

Draft Budgeted Expenditure: €7,471,900
Draft Budgeted Income: €1,760,900
(Pages 17 - 19 of Blue Pages)

INTRODUCTION

The purpose and function of the Directorate can be broken into two specific areas.

CULTURAL SERVICES and COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE.

CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION/RANNÓG SEIRBHÍSIÍ CULTÚRTHA

The Cultural Services Division has responsibility for each of the following areas:

- **LIBRARY SERVICES**
- **ARTS SERVICE** (including Letterkenny Arts Centre, Countywide Arts and Public Art)
- **MUSEUM SERVICE**
- **ARCHIVES SERVICE**
- **HERITAGE SERVICE**

During 2006 the Service continued to consolidate and expand on the broad range of activity it undertakes to improve the quality of life and to contribute to the economic, social and cultural well-being of the county. The Cultural Services Division promotes education, recreation, imagination and culture. It deals with all sections of the community - young and old, urban and rural, through its network of service points (17 Libraries, Arts Centre, County Museum, Archives Centre), use of ICT, and its range of outreach activities and services in association with other cultural venues and organisations.

Also, during 2006 the process of preparing the new strategic plan for 2007 - 2011 began. Guiding principles were established, with goals and objectives then drafted. Internal consultation with staff took place during mid-2006, then an extensive consultation within Donegal County Council and with the public. A range of consultation tools were made available so submissions could be made online, on a printed questionnaire, or at an open public meeting (7 such meetings were held throughout the county). The Cultural Services Division was supported in this work by the Strategic Policy Unit and the Research & Policy Unit of the Community, Culture & Enterprise Directorate. In 2007 a detailed draft will be prepared, incorporating the public submissions. Following further consultation, the Plan will be adopted and launched in mid-2007.

The Draft Budget for 2007 includes a provision of €6,082,500 for expenditure under all of the headings listed above.

LIBRARY SERVICES/SEIRBHÍS LEABHARLAINNE

Included in the Draft Budget for 2007 under the Library Service is a provision of €3,627,600 for expenditure and €215,000 for income.

The Library Service continues to develop service points and expand the range of services provided. The programmes during Bealtaine, Wainfest and Heritage Week continue to be developed, along with the Summer Reading Programmes.

Expressions of interest were sought from land and property owners for the provision of the new Donegal Town Community Library, following the DoEHLG announcement of Stage 1 Approval-in-Principle in 2005. A detailed design brief was prepared and Approval to go to tender sought in December 2006. The Library in Donegal Town will be the main Library for the South and South West, and will support Ballyshannon, Bundoran and Killybegs Libraries.

In January 2006, Bundoran Community Library extended its opening hours from 31 to 38.5 per week. These extended opening hours include two late evenings until 8 pm and all day Saturday. In the *Branching Out* report on public library services, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government places particular emphasis on enhancing opening hours. The Council is committed to improving opening hours, tailored to local needs.

Services in Donegal Town Library were greatly enhanced in 2006 with the introduction of public internet access. In addition the library was added to the Genesis Library Management System. The Branch Librarian received training in Bundoran Library and in the Central Library, Letterkenny, with the support of other staff members.

It is planned to extend similar levels of service to Ballybofey Library and to Leabharlann Phobail Ghaoith Dobhair in 2007. A temporary premises is sought in Glenties, so that the Library Service there can be re-established. When a suitable premises is located, public access to the internet and extension of the Genesis Library network will follow.

An additional allocation of €391,200 towards salaries is being sought for the Library Service in the context of the National Agreement in relation to Library Services agreed with Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government.

Wainfest 2006

Library staff organised and co-ordinated a festival of over one hundred events in libraries throughout the county. It was a festival of fun, art and culture, which primarily aims to promote reading to children and young people. Darren Shan, the popular children's author, opened the festival and was followed by a range of artists, authors, storytellers, puppeteers, as well as creative writing and drama workshop facilitators. Michael Moylan returned with *Science is Magic* and *Life in Ireland in the early 1900s*. Storytelling featured highly in the programme with Niall de Búrca, Jan Caspers, Áine McKenna & Stephen Hall. Many events this year had a European theme to encourage debate and discussion on European issues. All events were free.

Europe Direct Information Centre

Central Library, Letterkenny is the NorthWest Europe Direct Information Centre (catering for Donegal, Sligo & Leitrim), one of seven throughout the country. The project is co-ordinated by the Library Council, funded by the European Commission and managed by the staff in the Central Library. The Centre provides a range of services including: an information point providing a whole range of free publications, brochures and guides; an on-the-spot question and answer service; computers with access to the EU's Europa website; a meeting room capable of hosting talks, promotional events etc. on European matters; freephone access to the Europe Direct call centre (in Brussels) in the event of a query having to be referred to the Commission; and to act as a relay for neighbouring counties.

Central Library staff ran a number of events throughout 2006 to promote the service and to promote an understanding of EU issues, including inviting various primary and secondary school classes to workshops and activities in the library as well as a number of exhibitions.

Taobh Tíre Library Research Project

Taobh Tíre, a better library service for rural and isolated communities is a national research project run by Donegal County Council. Fourteen models/service points have been established in isolated locations across Donegal, including the offshore islands of Tory and Arranmore and two urban points in Letterkenny. There are now over 1200 Taobh Tíre members. Taobh Tíre won a Pride of Place 2006 award in the category Community Services Outreach. Pride of Place is an all-island competition directed towards recognising improvements by local communities to create civic pride in their area. The competition focus is on people coming together to shape, change and enjoy all that is good about their area. The final report will make recommendations to the DoEHLG on replication of this type of service delivery by other local authorities. It will also recommend the mainstreaming and consolidation of Taobh Tíre by Donegal County Council in

2007. The Taobh Tíre service may be viewed as a virtual branch and should be resourced appropriately both financially and in term of personnel. Future funding will allow the initiative to consolidate existing service points, and allow extension to other isolated communities into the future.

Cross-Border Mobile Library/Leabharlann So-Ghluaiste

Donegal County Council and The Western Education & Library Board (WELB) began mainstreaming this service in the East Donegal/South Inishowen areas in July 2006, up to which point the service was fully funded by the EU Programme for Peace & Reconciliation. WELB are our partners in the provision of this service. The service will be fully funded by Donegal County Council and WELB in 2007.

ARTS SERVICES/SEIRBHÍSI EALAÍONA

Regional Cultural Centre Letterkenny/Ionad Cultúrtha Réigiúnach Leitir Ceanainn

The new Regional Culture Centre Letterkenny is due to open in March 2007. The flagship, state of the art facility will be one of the finest arts centre buildings in Ireland. The building will incorporate an exhibition gallery, a 140-seat studio cinema/ theatre, three multi-purpose workshop spaces, two digital media spaces and two music rehearsal rooms.

The centre will continue and build on the countywide and cross-border programme developed by Letterkenny Arts Centre in recent years. It will organise and commission a high quality arts programme of an international standard that addresses and responds to the local context. It will specialise particularly in visual arts, the Centre will be the main visual arts resource for County Donegal. It will also specialise in music, film, digital media, creative writing and education/ participation. There will be a particular emphasis on programmes for children and young people.

A very strong and extensive opening year programme of exhibitions, concerts, film and educational initiatives is planned. The exhibition programme features three major exhibitions organized specially by the Centre, the inaugural exhibition *Painting in the Noughties: British and Irish Painting since 2000* will focus on abstract and semi-abstract works and will feature world renowned artists such as Sean Scully, Callum Innes and Ian Davenport. Other major exhibitions will include *Migration, Diaspora* a series of five shows inspired by themes related to the Flight of the Earls to coincide with the Earagail Arts Festival in July/ August and *The New Leonardo's* an international exhibition of the key works of art/technology of the last 40 years as part of the Leonardo, the international Art &

Technology Magazine's 40th Anniversary Celebrations, to be held in September/ October.

The Centre will continue to programme high quality national and international Classical, Jazz, Traditional and World music concerts and will organise an extensive programme for young people including Battle of the Bands. The Centre will have film projection facilities and will have an expanded Letterkenny Film Club and feature screenings as a part of the Foyle Film Festival, Darklight and other festivals.

An extensive education and outreach programme will include Bealtaine Arts Festival for Older People in May, Party in the Park in July, Wainfest The 12th Annual Children's and Young Persons Arts Festival in October and Digital Storytelling Projects as part of The Nerve Centre led North West Film Archive Project.

Strategic Partnership Revenue Funding Programme/Urraíocht reatha fá coinne eagraíochtaí Straitéiseacha

The purpose of this Programme is to support a strong independent arts sector throughout the county, complementing those services currently offered by the Regional Cultural Centre, the Public Art Programme, An Grianán Theatre and Earagail Arts Festival. It is the policy of Donegal County Council to create a sustainable support structure for a broad range of strategically important, independent arts initiatives and facilities, serving local and regional needs, throughout the whole county. In 2006, nine such independent arts organizations received funding support under the Programme, to a total of €60,000 - an increase of €35,000 on the 2005 allocation. In the provision for 2007 an additional allocation will be made to the Balor Theatre in recognition of an expanded programme of work.

Earagail Arts Festival/Féile ealaíne an Earagail

Earagail Arts Festival continued to develop its staff structure in 2006 with the appointment for the first time of a dedicated Festival General Manager. Highlights of the 2006 programme included the spectacular No Fit State Circus from Wales, a new touring theatre show - 'Limavady, My Heart's Delight' - from Little John Nee, Letterkenny Arts Centre's Conflict and Resolution exhibition series and a new series of packaged, weekend traditional, contemporary and world music events in Dún Lúiche, An Falcarrach, Ramelton and Culdaff. The Festival also began the process of recruiting a new Festival Director who will programme the event in 2007. The Draft Budget for 2007 includes a provision of €65,000 for a contribution to this festival.

Donegal Bay and Blue Stacks Festival/Féile Chuan Dhún na nGall agus na Cruacha Ghorma

Initiated by Donegal County Council in 2001, the highly successful Donegal Bay and Blue Stacks Festival will present its seventh programme in 2007. New performance commissions and a strong traditional music programme as well as arts educational, community, carnival, literary and visual art events, will be at the core of this South and South West Donegal festival which is funded jointly by Donegal County Council and The Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon. The Draft Budget for 2007 includes a provision of €50,000 for a contribution to this festival.

Building on the success of the Blue Stacks Festival and a number of other related projects - Killybegs Community Carnival etc. - the Council, in partnership with The Arts Council, created a new post of Community Arts and Arts Education Officer in 2006 to work specifically in the South and South West of the county. In 2007, the new Officer will continue to support and direct the development of existing projects as well as devising new programmes within her areas of expertise.

An Grianán Theatre / Amharclann an Ghrianáin

Donegal County Council will increase its revenue support in the Draft Budget for 2007 to An Grianán Theatre to €110,000. Donegal County Council continues to pay loan charges on the building which amounted to €101,800 in 2006. Letterkenny Town Council contributes 50% to the cost of these loan charges (€50,900). An Grianán Theatre is a major resource for the county, providing access to top quality drama, music and other events from Ireland and abroad, as well as commissioning events for Donegal audiences and for tours throughout the country and internationally. Highlights in 2007 will include a co-production of Brian Friel's 'Making History' as part of the Flight of The Earls commemorations and a further series of high profile incoming productions arising from An Grianán's membership of the new, Arts Council funded, NASC touring theatre venues network.

Public art/Ealaíon poiblí

2007 will see the continued implementation of Donegal County Council's Public Art Policy & Plan *Making Shapes¹ Public Art in Donegal 2006 - 2010* and the completion of the following commissions that are currently in progress:

Red Hugh O' Donnell Commission, Donegal Town

Untitled Seat, Porthall

Untitled Projection, Regional Cultural Centre

Flight of the Earls Sculptural Commission

Flight of the Earls Composition Project.

2007 will also see the beginning of the Residency Strand of the Public Art Plan in association with the Regional Cultural Centre along with the appointment of the curator to work on the 'Context - Specific' element of the plan.

The www.donegalpublicart.ie website was launched in 2006, and includes details of all public art commissions to date. The website will continue to be updated during 2007 as new commissions are completed. During 2007, the Public Art Manager will explore the possibility of creating a Public Art trail as a cultural tourism product.

COUNTY MUSEUM SERVICE/MUSAEUM AN CHONDAE

In 2006 the Museum in conjunction with the Archives Service organised a series of events to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the Easter Rising

Exhibitions included

- *Touching the Past - Exhibition for Children* - a hands on exhibition aimed at young children
- *"Lost and Found, rediscovering the past"* - organised in conjunction with the NRDO, the Museum displayed artefacts from the archaeological excavations on the route of the N15 Bundoran-Ballyshannon Bypass. The exhibition told the story of the excavations and explained the significance of the sites and artefacts found. It was the first time that artefacts from the excavations went on public display.
- *World War I Travelling Exhibition*. This exhibition travelled to venues and centres throughout Ireland in 2006, including the St Johnston/Carrigans Resource Centre; the Archives Centre, Lifford; the Tower Museum, Derry; Fort Dunree, Inishowen; the Somme Heritage Centre and the Royal Fusiliers Museum, Enniskillen.

Donegal County Museum collaborated with Illinois State University on the *Irish Rural Lifeways Project*, during the summer of 2006. The project operated as an archaeological field school for university students from the US at the site of a cottage in Glenveagh National Park and used the Museum as the base for the processing of all finds. These finds are now housed in the County Museum.

The 2007 exhibition programme includes the following:

- *Flight of the Earls Exhibition* - travelling and in-house

The Donegal County Museum and County Archives Service are planning two major exhibitions and an education project on the theme of the Flight of the Earls and the Plantation to run from September 2007 to December 2008 in venues in Donegal and throughout Northern Ireland. The

exhibitions will consist of a travelling exhibition, part funded by Interreg, which will travel to venues throughout Northern Ireland and the border counties from 2007 to 2008, and a major exhibition based in the County Museum from September 2007 to March 2008.

- *Railway Exhibition*

The Museum will organise a Railway exhibition in the Spring incorporating the *All Change* exhibition organised by the Northern Ireland Regional Curator's Group and memorabilia, photographs and objects from the Museum's own collection relating to the history of the railways in Donegal.

- *Childhood Exhibition*

The Museum will be involved in a major national exhibition on the theme of Childhood in conjunction with other Local Authority Museums throughout Ireland. The exhibition will incorporate artefacts from the collections of the participating museums. The exhibition will be launched in 2007 and will travel to each Museum throughout 2007 and 2008.

The Museum will work towards achieving full accreditation under the Heritage Council's Museum Standards programme over the next few years. This programme sets in place a professional framework serving to support the governance, management, care of collections, administration and delivery of services within the museum sector.

The Draft Budget for 2007 includes a provision of €377,000 under this heading of which 50% is recoupable from Letterkenny Town Council.

COUNTY ARCHIVES SERVICE/CARTLANN AN CHONDAE

The Draft Budget for 2007 includes a provision of €208,500 for expenditure under all headings within the Archives service.

A number of significant events were initiated in the Archives Service in 2006. The Archives Primary School facsimile pack was launched in March and rolled out to the pilot schools in September. €3,000 grant was received by the Heritage Council for a Teachers' & Students' Guide to the Donegal Archives Collection.

The Education programme will continue in 2007 with the launch of the Teacher's Guide and the completion and launch of the Flight of the Earls Study pack for secondary level students.

Exhibitions in the Archives in 2006 included: a photographic exhibition and travelling exhibitions on World War 1 and on Roger Casement. A joint Co Museum/Archives exhibition to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the 1916 Rising took place in the County Museum. Several outreach events took

place across the county for the festivals of Bealtaine and Heritage Week, and similar events will take place in 2007.

In 2006 the microfilming of Letterkenny Union archives took place. Microfilming of Milford Poor Law Union will take place in 2007.

An application under the ACCESS funding programme for a grant towards the building of a stand alone archives centre was submitted by the Archives Service in November 2006.

In 2006 shelving of the first phase of the second unit of the temporary repository for archives, Kiltroy, Letterkenny, took place. The second phase will be completed early in 2007.

The County Archives will, in conjunction with the County Museum, launch a major exhibition on the subject of the Flight of the Earls, in September 2007.

A new strategy for effective records management will commence in 2007.

COUNTY DONEGAL HERITAGE OFFICE/OIFIG OIDHREACHTA

The Draft Budget for 2007 includes a provision of €143,400 for expenditure under all headings within the County Donegal Heritage Office.

In conjunction with the County Donegal Heritage Forum, the Heritage Officer produced a draft of the first County Heritage Plan (2007-2011). The draft plan, which contains 79 actions and is costed at €750,000 over five years (excluding staff costs), was adopted unanimously by Donegal County Council in May 2006. The Heritage Officer made a Heritage Plan funding application to The Heritage Council for matching funds on behalf of Donegal County Council in October 2006. A part-time Field Monument Advisor for County Donegal was appointed in November 2006.

A three-year strategy to audit and manage historic graveyards in County Donegal was initiated by the Heritage Office and the Roads Section. The Heritage Office received a 'Local Heritage' grant award of €4,000 from The Heritage Council to hold two Traditional Field Boundaries' seminars and workshops on the conservation of stone walls and hedgerows which were held in December 2006.

'Heritage Week' was highly successful in 2006 with over 60 events taking place across County Donegal.

In October 2006, the Heritage Office secured €62,800 in funding from the Heritage Council for 8 heritage projects in the county including the purchase of a mobile heritage unit, the development of a heritage website and the reprint of the 'Archaeological Survey of County Donegal'.

The Heritage Office produced a series of brochures on the five Heritage Towns of County Donegal in 2006.

The County Donegal Heritage Plan will be launched in 2007. Some of the principal activities of the Heritage Office in 2007 will relate to the implementation and management of Heritage Plan actions which will include a thatch survey of County Donegal. Village Design Statements for a selected number of towns and villages will be undertaken in 2007 in conjunction with The Heritage Council. The Heritage Officer will contribute to the emerging cross-border Historic Landscape Characterisation study being developed by The Heritage Council, Environment & Heritage Service (Northern Ireland), Derry City Council and Donegal County Council.

The outreach role of the Field Monument Advisor will be developed.

The Heritage Office will host seminars on the 'Care & Conservation of Historic Graveyards' and vernacular architecture, and other events to raise awareness of the natural, built and cultural heritage.

A 'Golden Mile' competition will be initiated in 2007. It aims to promote awareness of the natural and built heritage to be found along a mile of country road.

The Heritage Office will coordinate 'Heritage Week' (August 25 - September 2) in County Donegal in 2007.

CDB CULTURE SECTORAL FORUM/ FORAM EARNÁLACH CULTÚR

The Forum identified the need to create and sustain Cultural Linkages priorities including Taobh Tíre, Archives Centre, Heritage Towns, Local Music Education Partnership, Regional Culture Centre, Co-ordinated strategy for funding, Festival Support Resources and Research into Cultural provision in the County.

The funding application to the Peace II Task Force for Peace and Reconciliation was successful, with €47,500 awarded towards conducting an audit of existing cultural infrastructure, activity and services, as well as qualitative research seeking to identify the strategic needs of this infrastructure. Tenders for the completion of *Cultural Compass - A Profile of Provision* will be sought in late 2006, with the work completed by mid-2007. This baseline data will enable the Cultural Development Forum to better determine future direction and priorities.

COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE

The Community & Enterprise services can be categorised to include

- Fund & Grant Management
- Developmental Projects In A Range of Economic, Cultural and Social Areas
- County Development Board - Project Leads and Management of CDB Process
- Research Unit
- Strategic Policy Unit
- Social Inclusion Unit
- Community Development
- Cross Border Projects

This Division aims to maximise, to the benefit of the County and its inhabitants, opportunities arising from various legislation and initiatives including the Local Government Act 2001.

COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE DIVISION / RANNÓG POBAIL & FIONTAIR

This Division will continue to pro-actively interface with organisations, Government Departments and Cross Border bodies to maximise economic, social and cultural development opportunities for the County in 2007.

The Division will also continue to develop and initiate specific developmental projects across a range of sectors with the objectives of employment creation, natural resource utilisation and retention of rural communities across the County.

The Division will continue to support the development of the County Development Board process and will aim to maximise opportunities for the County through working with the various Sectoral Fora within the County Development Board.

The Division will also continue to consolidate and further expand on the County Councils role and functions with regard to Community Development and Social Inclusion.

DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT FUNDS

The Division manages the allocation and distribution of a range of development support funds. During 2006, funds as detailed below were managed by the Division.

	€	No. of Projects
Donegal County Council Led Peace II Task Force	9,490,000	200
Council Community Development Fund	535,900	16
Council Members Development Fund	184,100	250
Council Bursaries	16,300	15
Council Tourism Development Fund	42,000	12
	10,268,300	493

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL LED PEACE II TASK FORCE / TASCFHÓRSA SÍOCHAÍN II FAOI CHEANNAS CHOMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHÚN NA NGALL

In addition to the €7.09 million allocated during 2002 - 2005, a further €2.4 million was allocated in 2006 to 56 projects across a range of revitalisation and regeneration projects. All monies allocated during the 2002 - 2005 period were drawn down by the end of 2006 with no de-committals attributed to County Donegal. Administration costs of 2% were the lowest of any intermediary funding body for the Peace Programme, North or South. Grants allocated in 2006 will continue to be drawn down in 2007 and 2008.

A decision regarding the role and function of the Task Forces with regard to the Peace III programme is awaited. It should be noted that the Border Task Forces have been acknowledged as being the most efficient, effective and transparent of all intermediary funding bodies under Peace II.

A sum in the amount of €31,600, fully recoupable from the SEUPB is included in the Draft 2007 Budget.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND / CISTÍ FORBARTHA POBAIL / PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT FUNDS INITIATIVE FROM 2007

In order to maximise the potential of the development funds in the future and in order to address a desire among the members to ensure equity of allocation with each electoral area a revised proposal regarding the allocation and disbursement of these funds has been proposed for 2007.

A total of €540,000 is proposed for 2007 with an equal allocation of €90,000 to each of the six electoral areas in the County. Each electoral area will determine its developmental priorities, within the agreed guidelines and taking cognisance of legal and multi-annual commitments in place.

The Development Funds Initiative will continue to represent significant on-going investment to a range of sectoral areas in the county including Tourism, Transport, Air Access, Community Development, Arts, Culture and Heritage Related Activities.

DEVELOPMENT FUND / MEMBERS ALLOCATION / CISTE NA MBALL TOFA

It is proposed to allocate €184,100 in the 2007 Draft Budget for this Development Fund that allows the members to aid local development initiatives through micro-financial contributions. A review document on this fund will be brought to the Members in early 2007 and it is envisaged that the broad categories of eligibility will continue across areas of Tourism, Sporting Organisations and Events, Residents Associations, Community Groups etc.

At any given time there may be 400 - 500 active applications within the category of funding with some 250 applications alone made to 31/10/06 in respect of 2006.

The funds may also be used by the Members in supporting the installation of public lights. 2006 funding committed to date is illustrated as follows.

Electoral Area	€ ¹	No. of Allocations ¹	Average
Donegal	27,975	36	777
Glenties	18,734	42	446
Inishowen	24,950	44	567
Letterkenny	32,841	59	557
Milford	21,025	33	637
Stranorlar	20,583	18	1144
Public Lighting	17,900	18	994

¹Note: Reflects total allocation to projects, may represent more than one members allocation.

COUNCIL BURSARIES / SPARÁNACHT

The County Bursary and Award Scheme has been in existence for 10 years. To date funding has been allocated as follows:

Period	No. of Applications Approved	Amount €
1997 - 2005	81	76,000
2006	15	19,370

During 2006 a review of the scheme was completed which found that most demand for assistance falls into the sports category. As a result of this, a new Sports Bursary Scheme was adopted by the members of the Council to provide funding under 3 categories i.e. World / Olympics / International, Developmental and Veteran. It was further agreed that arts applications would be considered by Cultural Services and individuals seeking support for academic study would be referred to the appropriate education authority or partnership group. The Draft Budget 2007 includes a provision of €16,300 under this heading.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT FUNDS / FORBAIRT TURASÓIREACHTA

The purpose of the tourism development funds is to allow, at the discretion of the members within each electoral area, seed funding to be allocated to prioritised tourism product initiatives within each area. This may be done on a stand-alone basis or in partnership with local, regional or national bodies. Good examples of such initiatives include the Inch Lake Project (in association with, inter-alia, the National Parks and Wildlife Service), Sliabh Liag (in association with the local community and relevant agencies). It is intended to be proactive in the identification and advancement of potential tourism projects to add to the overall tourism product in all parts of the County (e.g. exploration of opportunities presenting at Lough Mourne and Doe Castle being two such examples).

It is proposed that this figure be increased to €88,000 in 2007, subject to the funds being utilised solely for product development initiatives.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS - COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

PLAYGROUND PROGRAMME

A multi-annual programme, aimed at putting in place playgrounds in prioritised areas and commencing in 2004 has essentially been completed by the end of 2006, (monies allocated to certain areas are awaiting site selection or project completion in early 2007. These projects have been funded through a combination of Peace II Task Force funds, National Children's Office, Disability Access Funding and finally, Council Development Contribution Scheme. A further multi-annual programme will be considered by the Members in early 2007.

E.A.	Playground Location	Status
Donegal	Donegal Town	Complete
Donegal	Ballyshannon	Target mid '07
Donegal	Killybegs	Target mid '07
Stranorlar	Castlefin	Complete
Stranorlar	Killygordon	Complete
Stranorlar	Ballybofey / Stranorlar	Target 2007
Glenties	Dungloe	Complete Dec / Jan 2007
Glenties	Falcarragh	Complete
Glenties	Tory Island	Target Feb '07
Glenties	Arranmore Island	Target Feb '07
Milford	Ramelton	Complete
Milford	Milford	Complete Jan / Feb '07
Milford	Rathmullan	Target March '07
Inishowen	Moville	Complete
Inishowen	Culdaff	Complete
Inishowen	Ballyliffen	Target March '07
Letterkenny	Glenwood Park	Complete
Letterkenny	Lifford	Target mid '07

WALKING AND TRAILS

The Walking and Trails Development initiative currently has three principal strands:

- Consolidation and enhancement of the existing walking product within the County;
- Research and Planning for the expansion of the path network (particularly with reference to areas within the County which currently lack walking and trails infrastructure);

- Exploration of the potential to create a network of healthy walking routes at local community level (based on the existing Slí na Slainte model).

In addition, material is being collated for inclusion in promotional material which will inform people of what is currently available in terms of walking and trails infrastructure.

The following walks in each Electoral Area are being developed:

Glenties

Cloghermore/ Sli na Finne Walk

Milford

Woodlands Walk Milford

Inishowen

Inishowen Head Walk

Letterkenny

Letterkenny Walks

Donegal

Slieve League Walk

Stranorlar

Riverside Walk & Trusk Lough

A multi-annual programme is also currently being developed and which will be brought to each E.A. for discussion early in 2007. Funding for this initiative is proposed through the Development Contribution Scheme in conjunction with relevant external funds.

SPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE

The Council has been successful in November 2007 in obtaining funding from the Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism and the Football Association of Ireland in obtaining some €175,000 to assist in the putting in place of mini-pitch sites at various locations throughout the county in 2007. While primarily aimed at soccer they may also be used for other sports. The Council will be working with relevant local groups to complete this initiative in 2007.

In association with this, the Council will also, in conjunction with other relevant stakeholders, carry out a review of its current and potential future role in assisting and supplying sporting infrastructure and initiatives. This will be done in conjunction with CDB partners and the Donegal Sports Partnership.

SOCIAL & COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAMME

The Division will continue to coordinate this National Programme in a Donegal context in 2007. 2006 saw the completion of a funded programme at Glenswilly GAA to a value of €110,000.

2012 OLYMPICS

The Council will also review, in conjunction with Derry City Council and other relevant stakeholders in the North West, opportunities presented by the London 2012 Olympic Games, from the perspective of the North West being used as a training / preparation area for international teams.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS - ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE

MARINE AND WATER LEISURE UNIT

The unit will continue to develop a range of projects in 2007 with the aim of initiating and programming projects that will have a tangible economic impact in their respective areas. These will include;

- Beach Management Project - Completion of pilot project, Rossnowlagh, review of best/recommended practise, decision on next steps in early 2007
- Sea Life Centre, Bundoran - Progress to completion in collaboration with Bundoran Town Council and Fáilte Ireland in 2007
- Coastal Research and Education Centre - Review of feasibility study and conclusion on final location 2007, progress funding, planning permission etc. 2007
- Erne Canal Project - commence public consultation process, review planning requirements, progress funding options, assess potential interests in developing proposal
- Angling Development / Marketing Project - Continue development of project funded by Interreg IIIA, established of further in-river technology, sale of product using website, associated marketing.
- Marine / Sea Angling Centre Development - Continue with liaison and support of projects at Burtonport, Tory, Ballywhoriskey and Bunagee

An amount of €311,100 is included in the Draft Budget for this unit.

FOREST LINK PHASE II / NASE FORAOISEACHTA

The Forest Link Project was initiated in 2004. The first phase of this project came to a conclusion in May 2005. Funded by the SEUPB through the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation this research based project examined regional, national and international models of best practice in relation to a number of key issues:

- Adding value to timber resources of private growers
- Biomass for renewable energies
- Creation of community forests

Donegal County Council, in conjunction with Donegal CDB Forestry Forum, have been successful in obtaining funding from the Department of Agriculture and Food for funding the first year of phase 2 of Forest Link. Phase 2 will concentrate on implementing the lessons learned during the research phase with particular emphasis on developing community forests and the promotion of biomass as an alternative fuel source.

A provision of €106,700 is included in the Draft Budget for 2007.

INCH LAKE PROJECT

Donegal County Council has been working with National Parks and Wildlife service on the development of a flagship tourism / education project at Inch Lake. The Council has committed €10,000 through the Tourism Development Fund, to facilitate the commissioning of a feasibility study, to investigate the viability of establishing visitor facilities at Inch. In addition to this, Fáilte Ireland, have funded 50% of the costs of the feasibility study which has the following aims.

- The development project should provide for the establishment of an environmentally sustainable and economically viable educational and tourism resource which will add value to the existing tourism product in County Donegal.
- To ensure that the educational and tourism product which Inch Lake offers to overseas and domestic customers provides and continues to provide, a positive and memorable experience.
- Be developed in line and with and in accordance with the conservation objectives as outlined in the National Parks and Wildlife 'Conservation Plan for Natura 2000 sites for Lough Swilly and Inch Lough'
- To promote public awareness of the nature conservation value of the site by establishing educational and visitor facilities.

The feasibility study will be complete by March 2007.

SLIABH LÍAG

The further development of Sliabh Líag, as a unique tourism and amenity destination is co-ordinated through the Council in conjunction with local development interests and Udaras na Gaeltachta. The requirement to restore and develop walking and viewing points is an environmentally sensitive way will be the focus of this development project which will be carried out in 2007.

RENEWABLE ENERGIES

The "Non Food Use of Land" project, co-funded by Interreg III A concluded in late 2006. Opportunities to both conserve energy and to take advantage of technological advances in maximising the use of alternative energy have been identified as a result of this initial project. On this basis, it is proposed to establish, on a pilot basis, a renewable energies function with the objectives of

- Reducing direct energy costs (electricity) to the Council by 5% - 10%.
- Advancing the use of bio-fuels in Council plant.
- Identifying and developing energy saving initiatives in Council owned property
- Advancing the renewable sector in the County across a range of opportunity areas.

A budget in the amount of €46,700 is included in the 2007 Draft Budget for this function.

FERRY SERVICES

The Council continues to support this important economic infrastructure which sees a year round service between Greencastle and Magilligan and a seasonal service serving Buncrana and Rathmullan. These initiatives are funded through the Development funds on an annual basis. It should be noted that it has been negotiated with the service provider that the Foyle service will, effective from June 2007, be provided on a non-subsidised basis to Donegal County Council and Limavady Borough Council.

ATLANTIC DRIFT (PHASE II)

Following on from the initial capital programme and the subsequent marketing programme (Atlantic Drift, Phase I) the final phase is designed to create positive cross border networks between private sector tourism enterprises and to increase standards amongst providers in the target area. Co-funded by Interreg III A and Limavady Borough Council a figure in the amount of €95,400 is included in the Draft 2007 Budget for this initiative.

The Atlantic Drift project has been awarded 2 prestigious awards in 2006, namely the Cross Border Achievement Award and the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government award for Economic Development.

DIASPORA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

In conjunction with Donegal County Enterprise Board and Derry City Council a joint initiative to support existing business and to attract new business start up from the North-West diaspora has been funded under Interreg IIIA. This project, which will commence in 2007 and run until mid 2008 will aim, inter-alia, to attract knowledge based business start up or relocation from within the Donegal Diaspora back to the County.

In parallel with this, the project will also assist in establishing a network of Donegal persons outside the county, both home and abroad, with the objective of developing and strengthening links at economic, cultural and social levels.

There is a provision of €112,000 included in the 2007 Draft Budget under this heading.

INTERNATIONAL / NATIONAL AIR ACCESS AT DONEGAL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The Council supports Air Access through a multi-annual commitment to support ongoing capital investment at the airport. This is indicated at €60,000 for 2007. Furthermore, the Council has a watching brief on the City Of Derry Airport committee with regard to its ongoing development plans and proposals.

It is proposed that both of the above initiatives will continue in 2007.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS - YOUTH & CULTURE

DONEGAL YOUTH COUNCIL

The Donegal Youth Council completed its third set of elections in October 2006 with a new group of 36 councillors elected, representing all six electoral areas in the county. The Youth Councillors systematically feed into the electoral area committee meetings on areas of concern and will serve a 2-year term of office to 2008. Key actions in 2007 will include progressing issues raised in the Donegal Youth Survey, inter-agency work on various issues and training.

The project will be partially funded in 2007 by the HSE North West, Office of the Minister for Children and Border Action. A total of €78,300 has been set aside in the Draft 2007 Budget for this initiative.

POBAIL LE GAELGE

The Council is committed to continuing to develop and maximise the Irish language in supporting cultural and economic development in the County. For 2007 a greater emphasis will be placed on the following areas under this programme.

- Systematic and consistent use of An Coiste Logainmeacha
- Targeting and assisting specific, appropriate flagship cultural projects
- Development of Bi-lingualism within the Directorate of Community, Culture and Enterprise

A sum in the amount of €60,000 has been set-aside in the Draft 2007 Budget for this.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY PHASE II

In partnership with Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council, the Council was successful in being awarded 100% grant aid from the Special E.U. Programme Body for a continuation of the initial, successful cross-border project. This project aims to develop links across a range of thematic areas including politics, youth, sport, tourism and arts with the objective of developing mutual understanding and respect between different areas and communities. This project will form an integral and important part of the Flight of the Earls commemoration activities for 2007.

A sum in the amount of €52,200 has been set-aside in the 2007 Draft Budget to facilitate this.

HEART PROJECT

The HEART (Heritage, Environment, Arts and Rural Tourism) project is targeted at 12 towns/villages on a cross border basis (DCC and Strabane District Council) to give the area a much needed boost of investment. The project includes an environmental improvement scheme, shop front improvement scheme, public art scheme and signage in each town or village.

The HEART programme was initially funded through the INTERREG IIIA Programme (€1.5m) managed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and Border Action, the International Fund for Ireland (€198,000.00), the private sector (€545,000.00), Strabane District Council and Donegal County Council. A further allocation from Interreg IIIA of €268,500 to this project in December 2006 demonstrates the confidence of the primary funder in the project and its co-promoters. The Council

contributions to the project are made up of contributions in kind and the programming and complementarity of existing work programmes in Planning & Economic Development, Roads and Cultural Services.

The total cost of the original project is €2.5m split evenly between the two Councils with Donegal seeing the following investments:

Environmental Improvement Schemes/Signage	€460,000.00
Shop Front Scheme	€445,000.00
Public Art	€187,500.00

The utilisation and split of the €265,800 additional funds will be considered in early 2007.

The project represents an investment of in excess of €150,000.00 for each of the towns in Donegal - Lifford, Ballybofey/Stranorlar, Ballyshannon, Moville, Ardara, Ramelton and Raphoe. These towns will also benefit from the marketing and tourism aspect to the project and also from the cross-community and coordination elements within the project.

Works on Ballyshannon and Ardara were commenced in 2006 - a spend of approximately €94,000.00. 36 in Ardara and 58 in Ballyshannon. Street furniture for Ballyshannon and EI works as part of a park and river walkway in Ardara.

COUNCIL SUPPORT SERVICES

STRATEGIC POLICY UNIT / AONAD POLASAÍ STRAITÉISEACH

The Strategic Policy Unit has undertaken a wide ranging work programme in 2006. This will continue to include the following.

- Provision of executive and administration support to Donegal CDB. This included a comprehensive review of the CDB Process in 2006. The CDB held a strategic development review in Rossnowlagh in April 2006 to highlight priority interventions for the year. The Unit is continuing to co-ordinate the implementation of CDB Local Area Teams in 6 pilot areas across the County. These areas are - Glencolmcille, Castlefin, Newtowncunningham, Ballyshannon, Letterkenny and Donegal Town.
- Continued development of a central repository of information on external funding opportunities for the organisation as a whole - (including purchase of the Donegal Funding Advisor and access for staff and elected members of Donegal County Council) tracking of funding applications by the Council to external bodies and information

briefings for staff on programmes of interest (Clar, Peace II, Interreg, BMW, EU Structural Funds etc.)

- Preparation and co-ordination of submissions on behalf of Donegal CDB and Donegal County Council on policy matters at local, regional, cross border and national level. Submissions in 2006 have included Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland, North West Gateway Initiative Programme, Rural Development Strategy 2007, Spatial Benchmarking for the NW region, and Cultural Inclusion.
- Assisting on a cross-Directorate basis in the preparation of medium and long-term policy in various areas of Council responsibility and functions.

RESEARCH UNIT

The role of the Research Unit has continued to evolve in 2006 with substantial work carried out in Newtowncunningham, Castlefin, Glencolmcille and Letterkenny in establishing baseline data, which supported the "Local Area Team", initiative. This will evolve further in 2007 with baseline data being prepared to assist the ongoing Local Area Plan process led by Planning & Economic Development.

The Unit has also worked closely with Senior Management on an ongoing basis during 2006 providing data to support various reviews, submissions and reports and will continue to provide an invaluable service in 2007.

The Unit generates a substantial proportion of its running costs from external sources and it is planned for this to continue in 2007 from various areas.

A further planned piece of work is the updated County Profile, which will form an essential reference document when completed in late 2007.

Substantial cost savings have and will be made as a result of this in-house resource as opposed to procuring of external consultancy services in the completion of various research and interpretation tasks.

A budget in the amount of €180,000 is proposed in 2007 for this unit.

COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BOARD INITIATIVES

The C & E Division is responsible for the co-ordination and management of the CDB and its sub structures. These sub structures, which carry out their functions primarily through sectoral fora, have had a number of notable achievements in 2006. Examples are listed below, it is felt that this cross-organisational approach to developing projects of a mutual interest and benefit demonstrates the potential of this methodology of integrating and maximising local development for the benefit of a local area.

Lifelong Learning Forum

During 2007, this forum will undertake a comprehensive audit and will develop a Skills Profile for the region. This work will be carried out in the context of the North West Workforce Development Forum.

Transport Sectoral Forum

The Council has acted on behalf of the fora as facilitator between Rural Transportation Initiative (R.T.I.), Transport Companies and community groups seeking to have an R.T.I. service extended into their respective areas. Discussions and agreement has been reached between Seirbhisi Iompair Tuaithe Teoranta (S.I.T.T.) Board and South West Transport group of the South Fora. A proposal is being submitted to Pobal by the Board of S.I.T.T. for further extension of their services across the south of the county into Pettigo. They are proposing the implementation of five routes linking the rural areas of Bundoran Rural, Pettigo, Ballintra, Rosstown, Townawilly, and Lough Eske of south Donegal with a service into Ballyshannon and Donegal Town. Subject to approval of additional funding by Pobal this service could commence in late January. Similar discussions are also being held with Rural Areas Networking Together (R.A.N.T.) based in Raphoe and Action Inishowen and subject to agreed routes being identified it is expected that a further submission will be made to Pobal to service these areas also.

Agricultural Sectoral Forum

The "Opportunity for non-food crops project", which was co-ordinated through this forum is coming to a close and the project has held a second information exposition on Renewable energy from alternative land use in LYIT with over eighty participants at the formal conference. Speakers addressed the themes of eco-friendly building design, (both commercial and domestic units), the development of Energy Towns and urban wind turbines and Management and operation of a Combined Heat & Power plant. Teagasc representative also gave a Farmers Perspective on Bio fuels and Bio energy. This project was funded under Interreg III A through the North West Regional Cross Border Group. The cross border partners with Donegal County Council on this project are Derry City Council, Tyrone Donegal Partnership.

Economic Forum

The executive membership of the forum are in the process of setting up a liaison working group with a senior Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment official through which recommendations from the Interdepartmental Report can be progressed. The County Development Board Economic Development Forum will be the conduit back to Government regarding the implementation of the recommendations of the report and will report back through both the County Council and the County Development Board Meetings.

Culture Development Programme

During 2007, a substantial project will be undertaken by this forum. The Cultural Compass Project will audit and map all cultural resources and amenity in the County. This work will cost some €80,000, funded through Peace II and CDB agency contributions.

Tourism Sectoral Forum

The Forum is actively seeking to engage the trade in product development and joint promotions through local marketing groups. The areas being focused on are Culture, Activities, Walking and Marine Leisure. The Council will continue to support through an annual subvention Donegal Tourism in marketing and promoting the county through a partnership with Udaras na Gaeltachta, Fáilte Ireland North West and the Tourism trade.

A budget of the amount of €43,000 is proposed as part of the 2007 Draft Budget for the CDB support process.

SOCIAL INCLUSION

Social Inclusion Unit

Donegal County Council is committed to responding to the needs of those experiencing poverty and social exclusion in the County and the Community and Enterprise Division will continue to work towards ensuring that every member of the community has an opportunity to participate fully in the development of the County.

Community and Enterprise will continue to pursue the setting up of a Social Inclusion Unit in the Council to support the work of the existing AO with responsibility for Social Inclusion. Various activities will continue in 2007 including the co-ordination of the inter-agency Social Inclusion Measures (SIM) group (the co-ordinating body for Social Inclusion in the County), supporting the work of the Health Forum, supporting the Councils Disability Access group; exploring measures to enhance the capacity of the labour

market to meet the needs of lone parents; working with local development companies in achieving the aims of the Cohesion process; supporting and promoting volunteerism in the County; working with various CDB partners to ensure that the needs of vulnerable groups are addressed such as supporting the sustainability agenda of the Donegal Youth Workers Consortium.

Donegal County Council will also lead out with regard to the development of a Local Anti-Poverty Strategy and will continue to participate in the Lone Parent Anti-Poverty Training Network.

In addition, a key social inclusion objective in 2007 will be initiating and supporting interagency co-operation in the delivery of services and supports to the Traveller community through the establishment of a High Level Group in the County and the roll out of specific outcome focused pilot projects.

2007 will also see Donegal CDB lead out on one of these pilot areas for the establishment of County Children's Committees.

The first ever County Development Board Summer Scheme took place in 2006. This pilot scheme was run in the Letterkenny Electoral Area and was able to cater for 60 children from a range of different areas within the Letterkenny Electoral Area. The objective of this pilot scheme was to introduce children to a range of events and activities that they may not ordinarily have a chance to participate in.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Fora

The Donegal County Community Forum, established in 2000, acts as the voice for the Community and Voluntary Sector in Co. Donegal and is recognised by the Local Authority and statutory agencies as the body to be consulted on community issues affecting the County.

Community Development Officer

To support and build on the work of the County Community Forum, the newly appointed Community Development Officer within the Directorate will work closely with community and voluntary groups throughout the county providing a resource in terms of networking, funding opportunities, and shared learning in terms of best practice in the sector.

Tuath

The Division will continue with its active participation and support for Tuath - the Donegal Community & Local Development Centre.

Community Development Support

Initiatives such as Pride of Place and An Baile Beo will also be pursued in the context of Community Development. The Division will continue to support a range of community groups to identify and advance local needs and opportunities.

Volunteering

During 2007, the Division will continue to support and coordinate Voluntary Initiatives in the County. A number of workshops with regard to this will be arranged.

Policing Committee

Community & Enterprise will provide support for the Pilot Policing Committee initiative in Letterkenny and will prepare for the rolling out of similar Committees to all parts of the County.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO EXTERNAL BODIES

The Council has made annual contributions for many years to a range of organisations and bodies to assist in economic development, sporting development, tourism marketing, cross border co-operation activities and corporate sponsorship. It is proposed that this be continued in 2007 to include the following.

Junior Achievement

The Council will continue in its active involvement and support for this programme, working in schools at all levels during 2007. A sum in the amount of €7,200 is proposed for the initiative in 2007.

Rehab People of the Year

The Council will continue in its long-term partnership with Rehab in 2007 in a joint initiative that recognises the commitments of individuals to the County. The events offer an important public relations platform for the Council on an annual basis. A sum in the amount of €9,000 is proposed for this initiative in 2007.

Cross Border Co-operation / Project Supports

The Council continues to work proactively with inter-alia, the North West Regional Cross Border Group in advancing a range of various regional initiatives of mutual benefit to the Donegal, Derry, Limavady and Strabane Council areas. A sum in the amount of €4,800 is proposed to facilitate Donegal's contribution to this initiative in conjunction with potential matching funding for cross border projects.

Donegal Tourism Ltd

Donegal Tourism Ltd is the marketing vehicle established to assist in attracting additional visitors to Donegal for tourism purposes. A sum in the amount of €45,000 is included in the Draft Budget for 2007 to facilitate this.

Strabane, Lifford Development Commission

An allocation in the amount of €10,000 is included in the draft 2007 Budget to assist this cross border initiative in further developing this area.

Club Dhún na nGall

A contribution in the amount of €3,000 is included in the Draft 2007 Budget in recognition of the key role that gaelic games play in the social and sporting fabric of the County.

Youth Development / FAI Initiative

In recognition of the importance of this sector an allocation of €30,000 to co-fund a youth development officer, in conjunction with the FAI, is included in the Draft 2007 Budget.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Flight of the Earls Commemoration

This is a joint initiative between the Community & Enterprise Division and the Cultural Services Division. With the agreement of the Elected Members of Donegal County Council and the Donegal County Development Board, all efforts will be made to ensure that this landmark event is commemorated throughout the County and further afield for the Economic, Social & Cultural benefit of the County. The year long Programme of Events will be initiated with the official launch of the Flight of the Earls website in Lifford Old Courthouse in January 2007.

The project is being promoted and led by the Council as the lead agency in association with a wide, high-level partnership of local authorities, third level colleges and cultural and tourism organisations including Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council, Derry City Council, The Ulster Scots Agency, The Institute of Ulster Scots, University of Ulster, Letterkenny Institute of Technology, An Grianán Theatre, UCD, (Micheal O' Cleirigh Institute) and The Irish College in Louvain, Belgium.

There are a wide variety of groups and communities within Donegal who are working on projects relating to the commemoration. The Cultural Services Division of Donegal County Council are planning a range of events of the highest quality to take place during 2007 from exhibitions by the County Museum and the Archives Service, through a full programme from the Library Service, Regional Cultural Centre, Earagail Arts Festival, Public Art Programme, An Grianán Theatre and the Heritage Office.

Flight of the Earls 2007 is a major international flagship centenary commemoration to mark the 400th Anniversary of one of the most significant events and periods in Irish history. It is an Ulster-wide, cross-border initiative, with a particular emphasis on the Northwest with Rathmullan (the departure point of the Earls on September 14th 1607) as the epicentre. Donegal County Council has organised an extensive and innovative programme of events to commemorate the Flight of the Earls 400th anniversary in 2007.

This forthcoming 400th Anniversary event has considerable local, national and international significance. The Flight of the Earls Commemoration will look at those events over the last 400 years that have shaped modern Ulster and Ireland - geographically, socially, economically, culturally, politically. It will provide an opportunity to work with and inform the community on issues relating to their shared history and heritage and its international importance.

Substantial external funding has been both approved (Interreg IIIA and Peace II) with further decisions on applications to the Department of An Taoiseach and Failte Ireland awaited. Furthermore, additional funding allocated to the development of the Flight of the Earls Centre and the Playground in Rathmullan from Peace II will support the commemoration activities.

The 2007 Draft Budget includes a provision of €345,000 in Expenditure and €220,000 in Income. This equates to an increased demand for Matching Funds of €75,000 over the 2006 Adopted Budget.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

During 2007, the Division will continue with its role in coordinating local development and community development support in a CDB context. The Division will manage the Local Development Endorsement Process which will deal with projects such as Donegal Local Development Ltd (DLDC), MFG Teo, Donegal Childcare Committee, Atlantic View Ballyshannon, South West Donegal Communities Partnership Limited, Killybegs, Lifford Clonleigh Resource Centre, Rosses CDP Dungloe, Donegal Travellers Project, Donegal Women's Network, Letterkenny CDP.

The Division will also continue to co-ordinate the Local Development Cohesion Process.

Pairc Pobail Gaoth Dobhair

During 2007, the Division will cooperate with Udaras na Gaeltachta on the development of Páirc Pobail Gaoth Dobhair as a play and recreation amenity for the west of the County.

**Three year Capital Programme & Asset Formation - Community, Culture
& Enterprise Directorate**

**Clár Capital 3 Bliana - Rannóg Seirbhísí Pobail, Cultúrtha agus Fiontair
2007 - 2009**

The Community, Culture and Enterprise Directorate manage a Capital Programme including investment and development in the following categories

- Local Authority Core Functions (Cultural Services)
- Community Infrastructure
- Economic Development

This includes investment in such areas as playgrounds, walking routes, libraries, heritage and arts facilities and water based leisure infrastructure to assist economic development.

The investment will specifically continue during 2007-2009 across the areas indicated below. Additionally, reviews of Council policy and eligibility to fund other initiatives are ongoing at present across a number of areas including sporting and recreational infrastructure and various forms of community and enterprise infrastructure (including community enterprise centres).

Local Authority Core Function Libraries

Approval for 75% funding has been received from the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government for the development of the Donegal Town Library. Expressions of interest from developers or landowners were invited in mid-2006. Approval to go to tender was sought in December 2006.

Approval is awaited for the development of the County Library Administrative Centre and the Ballybofey/Stranorlar Library. For the purposes of the capital programme it is estimated that approval will be received for these to allow development to go ahead in 2008.

A new library for Gaoth Dobhair is planned as an integral part of the Aislann Ghaoth Dobhair development. An extension to the Central Library is planned along with renovations to maximise use of the vacated Arts Centre space.

Cultural Centres

A range of cultural centres will be developed including Teach Cathal Uí Shearcaigh and the Regional Cultural Centre. Costs for Teach Cathal Uí Shearcaigh were updated during 2006 and approval to go to tender sought in December 2006. The Regional Cultural Centre building is well advanced and will be completed in early 2007. The Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism invited invitations to the ACCESS fund in late 2006. Applications for an extension to the County Museum, and for a purpose-built Archives Centre were submitted. The Department's decision is expected in early 2007. Should these applications be successful, there will be a requirement for Donegal County Council to provide matching funds.

Similarly, a proposal from Udaras na Gaeltachta to work in partnership in developing the proposed Aislann Gaoth Dobhair will be considered in detail by the Council in early 2007. If a decision to partner this development is taken, potential funding sources including Development Contribution Scheme will require consideration and agreement by the members.

Community Infrastructure / Bonnegan Pobail

Playground / Áiseanna Súgartha

Details of the completed capital programme for playgrounds are included in the yellow pages. It is proposed that a new multi-annual plan, to be prioritised by the members in early 2007, following public consultation and review, will be implemented during the period 2007-2009. In view of increasing costs associated with such infrastructure it is deemed prudent to indicate a gross cost of €540,000 (6 x €90,000) for this.

Walking Routes / Bealaí Siúloide

An annual programme, as indicated in the yellow pages was commenced during 2006. A multi-annual plan to cover the period 2007-2009 will be brought to the members in early 2007 and will outline a number of proposals to put in place a range of walking routes both of a local and way marked nature, to serve local amenity, health/activity and finally tourism infrastructure needs. A gross cost of €360,000 (6 x €60,000) is allocated for this. It is intended that, in the first instance, funding from external services will be maximised, with the balance of funding, for eligible activity, to be charged to the Development Contribution Scheme.

Economic Development

Marine Development / Forbairt Muirí

A range of capital projects within this sector will be progressed during 2007 as indicated in the yellow pages. The extent and conclusion of their development will identify as to whether a capital investment will be required. All proposals will be dependant to some extent on the Development Contribution Scheme and as such, will be subject to specific agreement by the members.

Project areas in these areas may include:

- Gweebara Angling Development
- Bunagee Marina
- Rossnowlagh Beach Centre
- Tory Safe Haven

Community Enterprise Centres

Draft proposals have been received from a number of areas to support community enterprise centres. Reviews are ongoing as to the legal limitations on monies raised through the Development Contribution Scheme and as to whether such projects are eligible for funding through the DCS. These proposals include initiatives on Council owned land in Donegal Town and Carndonagh.

<u>Category</u>	Description	Projected Cost Per Annum			Proposed Sources of funding	
		2007 €	2008 €	2009 €	Council €	External €
Core Function / Cultural Services	Libraries					
	Donegal Town	1,400,000			350,000	1,050,000
	Gaoth Dobhair	1,200,000			300,000	900,000
	Ballybofey/ Stranorlar		1,200,000		300,000	900,000
	Central Library		800,000		200,000	600,000
	Cultural Centres					
	Teach Cathal Uí Shearcaigh	250,000			75,000	175,000
	Regional Cultural Centre	1,500,000			400,000	1,100,000
	Cultural Services HQ		1,300,000	1,300,000	650,000	1,950,000
	Archives Centre	2,000,000	2,000,000		1,000,000	3,000,000
Records Centre	1,000,000	1,000,000		500,000	1,500,000	
Community Infrastructure	Playgrounds	540,000	540,000	540,000	270,000	1,350,000
	Walking Routes	360,000	360,000	360,000	540,000	540,000