

HOUSING, CORPORATE and EMERGENCY SERVICES DIRECTORATE

I enclose the proposed budget for 2010 for the Directorate of Housing, Corporate & Emergency Services. The work programmes in all Departments will be impacted on by the current financial crisis in 2010. As a result of cuts in all public expenditure areas the capital and revenue expenditure in this Directorate will be reduced dramatically by a minimum of 20% if not more in all areas. Reduction in staff numbers has also occurred during the year.

Housing Supply

In the current financial climate, the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government has advised that Housing Capital Allocations for the next number of years will be drastically curtailed and have emphasised that our priorities should be on the Long Term Leasing Scheme & Rental Accommodation Scheme rather than on the Construction Programme.

Our proposed target for 2010 is 59 units to be delivered from a combination of the following:

- Completion of existing build schemes already in progress
- Part V Agreements coming to fruition
- Single Instance rural dwellings
- Acquisitions

Funding in excess of €9.8m has been requested for the Housing Programme for 2010 from the Department of the Environment Heritage & Local Government.

Leasing Arrangements

To assist Local Authorities in responding to housing needs the range and supply options available continue to be broadened. The source of supply has now been extended through the introduction of Long Term Leasing Arrangements. The Local Authority will enter into a lease arrangement with a property owner for periods of between ten and twenty years, with the housing authority responsible for insurance, maintenance and upkeep. The accommodation leased will be used to house those from the Local Authority housing waiting list.

Fire & Emergency Services

Under the Fire & Emergency Services the construction of the new Fire Station in Ballymote is very much welcomed. Work is to commence on site before the end of 2009 and it is anticipated that it will be completed and operational before the end of 2010.

The provision of a new Branch Library for Ballymote will also occur in 2010. Negotiations are well underway to develop a new state of the art branch library in a building in the centre of Ballymote under a long term lease arrangement.

Provision will also be made for a new Area Office and for a new HSE Primary Care Centre in the same building.

The Local Authority has also received a huge increase in the number of applications for Higher Education Grants for the academic year 2009/2010. The numbers of new applications has increased from 172 in 2009 to 329 in 2010.

Details of the proposed income and expenditure for 2010 are set out in the attached documentation.



Dorothy Clarke
Director of Services
1st December 2009