



Chapter

Introduction

In 2002 Clare County Development Board (CDB) launched its Integrated Strategy entitled 'Shaping the Future – Integrated Strategy for the economic, social and cultural development of County Clare 2002-2012'. This Strategy, referred to as the "CDB Integrated Strategy" in the remainder of this document, has now been reviewed by the CDB.

Key values such as Inclusion, Innovation, Integration, Sustainability and Spatial Equality underpinned the CDB Integrated Strategy. These key values were accepted as guiding principles for the current Review, the objective of which was to identify a number of key priority actions for implementation in the medium term (2006-2008). The implementation of these actions will benefit the people living in, working in and visiting County Clare. They take into account the many changes that have occurred at County, National and European level and which have impacted on the Social fabric, Economic structure and Cultural milieu in which the original CDB Integrated Strategy was set.

The challenges that are raised by these changes and the key policy objectives by which they will be addressed are discussed in Chapter 2.

The Review recognises that Clare CDB can be more effective in supporting and co-ordinating more joined-up local service delivery by focusing on a limited number of key actions. These are set out in Chapter 3.

The various operational plans, by means of which these actions will be implemented can be accessed on the accompanying CD and/or the Clare CDB website <http://www.clarecdb.ie>

The achievements to-date of Clare CDB augur well for the future. The various actions that have been completed over the initial period of the CDB Integrated Strategy have contributed much to the changing face of the County. While a number of actions are currently in progress, they are well advanced and thus clear the ground for a concentrated effort on the priority actions identified in this Review. These actions will be implemented in the period 2006-2008. Both the completed and ongoing actions can be accessed on the accompanying CD and/or the Clare CDB website www.clarecdb.ie