

Foreword



Over the past number of years, the unprecedented economic and social changes both Nationally and in County Clare have significant implications for agencies involved with the delivery of services.

Traditional industries are disappearing, the knowledge economy is expanding, levels of unemployment are at an all-time low, in-migration rather than out-migration is now a common feature of Irish life. However, not everyone has benefited from this new-found prosperity. As a result of this rapid change there is a need for agencies involved in strategic planning to respond accordingly.

Against this background the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government decided that each County/City Development Board should carry out a review of its Integrated Strategy in 2005. The Clare Integrated Strategy "Shaping the Future (2002-2012)" was launched in February 2002. It was the strategic policy blueprint for all key agencies and organisations in County Clare to agree a common vision for the future of the County in the context of economic, social and cultural development.

To date, I am pleased to report that many of the actions contained within this document have either been completed or are currently in progress. I wish to acknowledge the efforts of the many agencies and groups in Clare who have contributed successfully to achieving the targets set in the CDB Integrated Strategy.

Clare is a county recognised and celebrated for the beauty of its landscape, its culture, and the warmth of its people. However, the priority actions identified in this Review also recognise and address the problems facing the County over the next three years.

I am grateful to the public and especially all the members of the six implementation Groups and the Board, who contributed to the process. I am particularly appreciative of the staff of the Community and Enterprise Directorate of Clare County Council who contributed enormously in the preparation of this document. Clare County Development Board is committed to playing an active role in responding to an ever-changing environment in Clare and leading the implementation of this Review.

Gach rath ar an obair.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pat Hayes". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light background.

Cllr Pat Hayes
Cathaoirleach
Clare County Development Board