

NEXT PHASE OF REGENERATION OF BALLYMUN BEGINS

Friday, 22nd June 2012: The Lord Mayor of Dublin, Andrew Montague was today joined by Minister Roisin Shortall, T.D., for the launch of **Sustaining Regeneration: A Social Plan for Ballymun.** Key local organisations in Ballymun worked closely together and consulted with the community to create an integrated coordinated approach to enable Ballymun to become self-sustainable, after the Ballymun Regeneration programme is completed in 2014. The Plan covers seven distinct themes; Place Making; Education; Community Safety; Health and Wellbeing; Child Development and Family Support; Arts and Culture; Recreation and Sport and is available to download from www.brl.ie.

Lord Mayor Andrew Montague said the Ballymun Social Plan marks the next phase of development in the regeneration of Ballymun and would work equally well as a blueprint for sustaining social regeneration in other communities. The Social Plan is one of the final milestones in the more than €1 billion government and private investment in the 15-year Ballymun regeneration programme.

"Sustaining Regeneration: A Social Plan for Ballymun is groundbreaking in its ambition" he said. "It recognises the imperative to deliver social regeneration across a wide range of public, private and community initiatives. Productive partnership working is critical to the success of social regeneration and this Social Plan will make it work for the benefit of everybody living and working in Ballymun."

"Delivering sustainable social regeneration for Ballymun demands an inter-agency collaborative effort, supported by pro-active inputs from the community and voluntary sectors; a robust approach that my Government actively promotes", says Róisín Shortall, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Health. "Creating shared value through effective collaboration is critical to underpin government investment in Ballymun. I welcome this model and stress the imperative for agencies, particularly in our current challenging fiscal circumstances, to continue to work together as closely and as holistically as possible.".../

"Local residents have been involved in every stage of developing the Social Plan for Ballymun and people in the community are key to its implementation", says Anne Keating, Board Member at Ballymun Regeneration Ltd. "People's priorities for the future are in the areas of reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, a stronger focus on education and more support for families and children. Everybody in Ballymun recognises that we have to work together if we are to continue to make progress. We've made great strides already with things like the Partnership's school attendance initiative which has seen a rise in the numbers of children in Ballymun attending school to match other areas and the Safer Ballymun initiative which sees the community, the local authority and the Gardai tackling local issues caused by antisocial behaviour."

"The groundbreaking approach in the Plan, adopted by all the agencies working in Ballymun, is one of the final milestones on the journey initiated almost 15 years ago to regenerate Ballymun physically, socially, economically and environmentally," Andrew Montague, concluded. "The regeneration of Ballymun has given hope to this community and *The Social Plan for Ballymun* is the key to ensuring that the regeneration continues long after the last flat block is demolished in 2014.

A new Implementation Steering Group will be established to implement the Plan; lead partners include all statutory agencies involved in delivering education, health, employment, local authority, policing, drugs, arts and youth services and the community in Ballymun.