

The Masterplan attempts to be a flexible framework. Consultation will be on-going throughout the regeneration process.

This section interprets the statistics currently available. Further survey work will be necessary.



THE POPULATION

- Total population 16,556
- This is 479 (2.8%) less than in 1991
- Women form the majority of the population of the estate and this is particularly the case in the 20 to 40 age group
- 37% of households are lone parent households
- 46.5% of children on the estate are being raised by lone parents.
- There are less than 35% of two parent households
- 64% of the population are of working age
- 20% of the working age population are registered unemployed but more people than that would like to find work but are unable to do so at present.
- 64.5% of unemployed people have been unemployed for over 1 year
- 70.9% of the Dublin Corporation tenants in Ballymun depend on social welfare as the only source of income



EDUCATION & SKILLS

- The current information available on Ballymun shows that:-
- The majority of children leave school at 15
- A high proportion of adults have limited educational achievements.
- A high proportion of unemployed people on the estate have low levels of educational achievement.
- There is a low level of vocational skills in the labour force.
- The lack of educational achievement and vocational skills is a cycle that shows every sign of continuing unless positive action is taken.
- Information from the schools shows that very high numbers of children are from households who are suffering as a result of unemployment. Very many of these children will leave school without formal qualifications which means, they too, are likely to be unemployed in future.
- Many parents have had bad experiences at school in the past and this negative attitude is often passed on to their children.



EMPLOYMENT & WELFARE DEPENDENCY

- The working age population of Ballymun is 10,656. That is 4,866 men and 5,790 women.
- The number of unemployed people on the Live Register fell from 2,636 in April 1996 to 2173 in 1997, a fall of 17.56%.
- 20.4% of the working age population are registered unemployed but many others are dependent on social welfare.
- 10% of people between 15 and 19 years are unemployed
- Registered unemployment rate for women is 11.1% and yet there is a high population of women of working age.
- Registered unemployment rate for men is 31.5% and yet there are less men than women of working age in Ballymun.
- Registered unemployment rate is over 40% for men aged between 25 and 44 years
- These figures indicate that many women who are heads of households are solely dependent upon social welfare for financial support



ACTION NEEDED

- Consultation has revealed that many of those women would like to work if they have access to affordable child care. Recommendations around this issue have been included in the submission to Government for tax incentives under the Urban Renewal Scheme.
- If this cycle is to be broken and the long term prospects for the people of Ballymun are to be improved then it is vital that a major focus is placed on education and training.
- A programme of support and reinforcement for education and training is a key component in ensuring that the population of Ballymun will have long term and sustainable benefits from the redevelopment programme.

