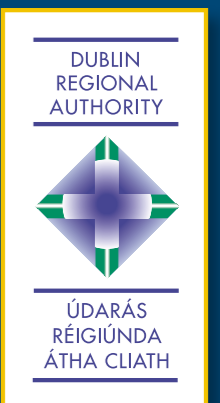




# Annual Report 2007

Dublin Regional Authority





## Message of An Cathaoirleach

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Dublin Regional Authority for electing me Cathaoirleach during this interesting and important time in Dublin's and indeed Ireland's development. During 2007 the Authority addressed European, National, Regional and Local issues which it considers are important for the development of Dublin as a global City-Region.

When considering the future development of Dublin it must be remembered that the Dublin Region is not only Ireland's Capital City Region it is also the main transport, trade, educational, health and urban tourism asset of Ireland. Indeed, much of the country's output is predicated on the Dublin Region having more than adequate infrastructure to provide essential national services, such as speedy access to and from the ports and airports. Therefore investment in the Dublin Region directly benefits the entire country.

However, there is an implicit assumption in many Government strategies, and indeed, among the other regions of Ireland, that Dublin can look after itself. This thinking is copper-fastened by a view that Dublin has grown disproportionately to the rest of Ireland; that an undue proportion of public investment has gone into the Region; and that public policy should seek to arrest the scale of development in Dublin. This view fails, however, to recognise the role and importance of city-regions in general, as recognised in the EU Lisbon Agenda, as the engine of regional and national growth.

The Dublin Regional Authority is concerned that there has been an under-investment in all areas of socio-economic infrastructure despite record levels of public investment in the past five years. Our competitor regions in the EU and across the globe do not have similar problems of catching up on infrastructure investments, which makes it difficult for the Dublin Region to beat its competitors in all areas where competitiveness matters. It is with this point in mind that the Dublin Regional Authority undertook its programme of activities in 2007.

One of our main activities in 2007 was to host an International Conference on the development of the Creative Region. This event identified new best practise internationally in the development strategies of cities and regions in relation to their becoming significant centres for attracting, growing and keeping creative workers and creative industries. Dr. Richard Florida was the keynote speaker and he outlined the issues that Dublin needs to address to compete in this new Creative age.

In 2007 the Authority also became a member of an international benchmarking consortium which involves the gathering and analysis of key social, economic and environmental data and drawing direct comparisons to partner regions in the consortium. The Authority further responded to European and National policy papers and initiated a number of position papers on issues of concern. The following pages of this Report outline the work undertaken by the Authority during 2007.

As a final comment, I would like to state that there is no doubt that Dublin has been extremely successful to date in terms of high value job creation, and as a result, the Region enjoys the highest disposable income per person of the eight regional authority areas. At the same time, however, and in striking contrast, Dublin also suffers some of the worst social and economic disadvantage within the country and as Cathaoirleach of the Dublin Regional Authority along with my fellow members, I hope that we have contributed to the development of regional policy for Dublin, which may assist in alleviating and ultimately, eradicating economic and social inequality in the Dublin region.

*Councillor Bronwen Maher,  
Cathaoirleach*



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## INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

The Authority undertook the following projects to

(1) provide the Dublin Region with an international profile and

(2) establish best international practice in developing strategies for the Dublin Region.

### Dublin - A Creative City Region

#### Context

A number of new economic and social developments are redefining the role and structure of cities and city-regions. A new global economy is emerging called the creative economy and this global economy increasingly revolves around the key city-regions which are recognised as international hubs of creativity and new economic development.

Ireland's future is dependent on Dublin's growth and Dublin's future development is ultimately dependent on it being recognised internationally as a city-region which is a significant international creative hub.

Culture and creativity are becoming central dynamics of the economies and life of the creative city-regions. Culture and creativity are key sources of personal development, social cohesion and quality of life, as well as sources of new industries and employment. They also define the international competitiveness of city-regions in relation to their ability to grow and attract creative workers, and the international investment which follows these workers. The quality of the built and natural environment is also recognised as an important part of the culture, quality of life and international competitiveness of the Creative City-Region.

There is a whole new sector of industries and jobs emerging based on culture and creativity - these are known as *the creative industries*.

#### Dublin's Conference

A Creative City-Regions Conference was organised by the Dublin Regional Authority and the Dublin Employment Pact in Dublin on 18th October, 2007 to identify new best practise internationally in the development strategies of cities and regions in relation to their becoming significant centres for attracting, growing and keeping creative workers and creative industries. The conference focused on identifying the new industries, the skills of creative workers, the infrastructural investments and cultural initiatives which city-regions are undertaking, with a focus on growing, attracting and keeping these knowledge workers and creative industries.

#### Conference structure

The conference was a one-day event involving several key global leading figures in the area of the inclusive, creative city-region, accompanied by cutting edge thinkers and strategists from Ireland. The target audience consisted of politician, planners, developers, educators, public officials, national and local strategists, policy

makers and practitioners, among others. The aim of the event was to engage influential national, regional and local circles in Dublin with strategic thinking in relation to an inclusive, creative city, and to shape the agenda in this crucial coming policy debate.

#### Speakers

A panel of international experts discussed theory and practise of creative city/regions, together with representatives from other city/regions who are considered leaders in this new Creative Age. The speakers included:-

- Mr. John Gormley, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government
- Mr. Richard Florida, Professor of Business and Creativity at the University of Toronto, and author of "*The Rise of the Creative Class*"
- Mr. Gianluca Monte – author of the key European Commission study – "*The Economy of Culture in Europe*"
- Professor Joyce O'Connor, Chair of the Digital Hub and Dublin Inner City Partnership and former President of National College of Ireland
- Mr. Michael Stubbs, Assistant City Manager responsible for planning and economic development
- Ms. Rui Jing, Director of the London based UK office of the Beijing Z-Technology Park
- Ms. Gina Quin, Chief Executive Officer of Dublin Chamber of Commerce
- Mr. Kieran Rose, Chair of Gay and Lesbian Network and Board Member of the Equality Authority
- Mr. Jordi Pascual, Urban Development and culture specialist at the Institute of Culture of the City of Barcelona.

The Conference identified how city-regions can overcome the growing divide between the incomes and living conditions of creative workers and the rest of the society, also new ways to ameliorate the growing inequality which is built into society, e.g., inequality between people, age groups, areas, regions. While creative workers are highly paid they represent just 30% of the workforce. The remaining 70% work in service jobs and do not command high wages. The result is a growing divide and inequality between these workers. This growth in income inequality is another major challenge for cities and city-regions.

City-Regions also need to ensure that all communities experience participation in knowledge creation. This will involve new types of local structures as well as skills development. There is also a need to upgrade the creative content and opportunities for creative inputs of those in these serviced jobs.

## International Regions Benchmarking Consortium

A delegation from the Puget Sound Regional Council in Seattle came to Dublin to discuss the economic growth of Ireland and the role played by the Dublin region. The Department of Transport hosted the delegation's visit and organized speakers. On behalf of the Dublin Regional Authority, the Director made a presentation to the delegation highlighting the issues and challenges facing Dublin.

The delegation considered that there were similarities in the challenges facing Dublin and those facing Puget Sound. On their return, the Puget Sound Regional Council decided to set up an International Regions Benchmarking Consortium and has requested the Dublin Regional Authority to take part. Six other regions from around the world agreed to become a part of this first-ever consortium, i.e. Barcelona, Spain; Fukuoka, Japan; Helsinki, Finland; Melbourne, Australia; Munich, Germany and Stockholm, Sweden.

The work of the Consortium will involve each region gathering economic, social, environmental and cultural data with a view to comparison analysis and benchmarking. The Dublin Regional Authority agreed to join this consortium on behalf of the Dublin Region and to work with relevant agencies and authorities in gathering the regional data.



## EUROPEAN ISSUES

*The Dublin Regional Authority is represented on the EU Committee of the Regions (CoR) to provide the EU with comments and opinions on EU policy from the perspective of the Dublin Region. To enhance our involvement in the CoR, the Authority undertook a number of EU focused projects to (1) directly respond to the EU Commission on EU policy approaches, (2) highlight Dublin's culture and traditions among the institutions and authorities of the EU and (3) establish partnerships with other EU city-regions.*

### Irish Delegation to the Committee of the Regions

The Committee of the Regions (CoR) is the EU body representing the views of local and regional authorities in the EU policy-formation and legislative processes. It is composed of 344 elected members from the 27 Member States, the Irish Delegation consists of 9 'full' members backed up by 9 'alternate' members with all Irish regional authority areas represented. The Dublin Regional Authority is the designated secretariat to the Irish Delegation.

The core work of the Committee is the elaboration of opinions to represent the local and regional response to EU policy proposals. Since establishment in 1993, the CoR has been expanding its advisory role. It produces studies relevant to the local and regional level and has set up policy monitoring initiatives such as the Lisbon Monitoring Network, the Subsidiarity Monitoring Network and the EGTC (European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation) network. The Delegation works to facilitate the participation of Irish local and regional authorities in these networks.

### Dublin Region Membership

The current four-year term of the Committee is from 2006-2010 and the nominated members from the Dublin region are:

Full Member: Cllr. Maria Corrigan\* (Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Co. and Dublin R.A.). \*Ms. Corrigan was nominated to the Seanad following the General Election and her membership of the CoR terminated in August 2007.

Alternate Member: Cllr. Peter Coyle (Fingal Co. Council)

### The Irish Delegation

Irish members work together across party lines to ensure that the Irish regional viewpoint is promoted within the CoR. Irish members meet before plenary sessions to develop and agree common positions to ensure that the Irish perspective is taken into consideration in the CoR response to every issue.

There is a co-operation agreement between the Irish CoR members and the Association of Irish Regions (AIR) which facilitates the input of regional authorities and assemblies into the work of Irish members as all draft opinions are circulated for their observations prior to plenary sessions. There are also meetings of all Irish CoR members

to which the Directors and Cathaoirligh of the regional authorities and assemblies are invited. Full members are required to make annual reports on CoR activities to their regional authorities.

In March in Athlone, there was a joint session of the Irish Delegation with the AIR which discussed topical EU issues. Invited speakers were Mr. Noel Treacy T.D., Minister for European Affairs, Ms. Anne Barrington, Director of the National Forum on Europe and Mr. Gerhard Stahl, Secretary-General of the CoR.

Working through the DoEHLG, the Delegation has also established contacts with Departments in Ireland and with the Irish Permanent Representation in Brussels to help ensure that members are briefed on key EU policy issues.

During 2007, Cllr. Hanniffy served as 1st Vice President of the ECOS (Economic and Social Policy commission) and is due to assume the Presidency of ECOS in February 2008 for a two year period. The CoR has accepted her invitation for ECOS to meet in Athlone in late September 2008 and plans are advancing to host the commission meeting and accompanying seminar on Supporting Enterprise Development. Events in Athlone will take place over three days.

### Some activities of the CoR in 2007

44 opinions were adopted by the CoR in 2007 including that on *Rights of the Child* by Cllr. Maria Corrigan. During 2007, Irish members also worked as rapporteurs on opinions on the *CAP Health Check* (Cllr. Seamus Murray), the *Contribution of Volunteering to Economic and Social Cohesion* (Cllr. Declan McDonnell) and *Adult Education* (Cllr. Mary Shields).

### Selected 2007 Highlights

- 2007 was the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome and numerous commemorative events took place around March. For the CoR, a plenary session was exceptionally held in Rome.
- Irish became one of the official and working languages of the EU in 2007 and CoR members have since taken the opportunity to address plenary sessions in Irish. The CoR has also published a version of the Irish Delegation's brochure in Irish.
- Participation in the annual Open Days event through the Irish Regions Office (IRO) in the European Week of Regions and Cities took place in October in Brussels.
- In November, the Irish Delegation met with Mr. Bobby McDonagh, Irish Ambassador to the EU to discuss issues of importance from the Irish perspective.
- In December the Irish Delegation accepted an invitation to hold a joint meeting with their UK CoR counterparts in Belfast. Irish and UK members of the Council of Europe's Congress also attended.

### Further Information

Further information on the work of the CoR and the Irish Delegation can be obtained by contacting the Dublin Regional Authority, by viewing the Delegation website at [www.iro.ie/delegation](http://www.iro.ie/delegation) or by visiting the CoR website at [www.cor.europa.eu](http://www.cor.europa.eu)



### Towards a future maritime policy for the European Union

In May 2007 the Dublin Regional Authority made a submission to the European Commission's Maritime Policy Task Force responding to the European Commission's Green Paper on Maritime issues.

Within its submission, the Authority responded to a number of key questions posed by the Commission, for example,

- Should the EU have an integrated maritime policy?
- How can the EU add value to the many national, local and private initiatives which already exist in the maritime field?
- What mechanisms should be in place to ensure that new maritime development is sustainable?
- How can maritime policy contribute to maintaining our oceans resources and environment?
- Should a European Marine Research Network be developed?
- In what way should stakeholders be involved? What are the principles and mechanisms that should underpin maritime spatial planning systems?
- How can systems of planning on land and sea be made compatible?

Full details can be obtained from [www.dra.ie](http://www.dra.ie)

## Meeting with Dublin's MEPs in Brussels

In April 2007, the then Cathaoirleach Councillor Gerry Horkan accompanied by four members of the Authority as well as officials from the Dublin local authorities, met with the Dublin MEPs in Brussels.

The meeting provided an opportunity for MEPs to discuss their on-going work and activities in the European Parliament and for an exchange of information on Dublin and European activities.

The members also took the opportunity to discuss current EU and National policy development with representatives of the EU Commission and the Irish Permanent Representation. The issues discussed were:-

1. EU Energy Policy – the Emergence of an EU Policy with Mr Tom HOWES, Policy Officer, DG TREN, European Commission
2. EU Energy Policy – Implications for Ireland with Ms. Una DIXON, Energy Attache, Permanent Representation of Ireland to the EU
3. EU Drugs Strategy and the Drugs Prevention and Information Programme with Mr. Carel EDWARDS, DG JLS, European Commission

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## PURPLE (Peri-Urban) Network

The “PURPLE” network focuses on the specific peri-urban geographical area, (that is, areas which form the fringe or boundary between distinctively urban and rural landscapes), addressing the interrelation between metropolitan areas and the adjacent countryside. PURPLE was set up in 2004 bringing together the following regions - Catalunya, Flanders, Frankfurt Rhein/Main, Île de France, Mazovia, MHAL (Province of Limburg), Nord Pas de Calais, Regio Randstad, Rhône-Alpes, South East England, Stockholm, West Midlands - to work closely to maximise the advantages resulting from their location in proximity to large urban areas while minimising adverse impacts on landscape, the environment and heritage which characterises these areas.

PURPLE recognizes the specific needs and values of peri-urban areas in that they represent a major resource pool and can act as positive drivers of sustainable growth in wider metropolitan areas. In order to promote this sustainable growth, however, the balance between sustainable open spaces, sustainable agriculture, urban spatial sprawl and economic dynamics needs to be re-established.

The relationship between urban and adjacent rural areas is simultaneously both simple and complicated - *simple* in that rural areas have long been a source of food, raw materials and labour for adjacent city areas whilst congruously cities are places of opportunity for rural dwellers, providing markets for agricultural and other products, specialised services and sources of employment; and *complex* in that urban-rural linkages are particularly intense along the peri-

urban interface, characterised by (1) constant infrastructural flux, (2) complicated and dynamic social structures and (3) institutional boundaries. Therefore, different policy solutions are needed for peri-urban areas to those already advanced for areas with more definite rural or urban characteristics.

The Dublin Regional Authority joined the PURPLE Network, in May 2007, with a view to working in conjunction with other peri-urban regions in Europe to maintain the diversity – resource and landscape, heritage and quality of life of our own peripheral urban areas. The Authority acknowledges that this will be achieved through information share of best practices, the development of partnerships for EU projects and the incorporation of peri-urban specific policies into regional and local level plans and programmes.



## Dublin Regional Authority and Dublin City Council Brings Irish Culture To Brussels – ‘A Rough Guide To Flann O’Brien’s Comic Genius’

Dublin: One City, One Book, is an annual event held in Dublin in April each year. The project, which is designed to encourage everyone in the city to read the same book over the same few weeks, has been a surprise success with Dubliners and visitors alike. The book in 2006 was Flann O’Brien’s comic masterpiece ‘At Swim- Two-Birds’ which takes the reader around the backstreets and landmarks of Dublin giving a very different perspective on the city and its citizens in the 1930s.

‘A Rough Guide to Flann O’Brien’s Comic Genius’ by Dr. Eibhlin Evans (University College Dublin) and well-known Irish actor, Mr. Jack Lynch was presented at a cultural event in Brussels in November, 2007 by Dublin City Council in association with the Dublin Regional Authority and the Irish Regions Office. The audience received a professional reading and artistic impression of the wit and humour of Flann and this Irish literary genius’s view of the world.

The event also showcased Dublin City’s rich heritage of traditional Irish music and ballads through the group ‘Boxty’, one of the finest exponents of both traditions. The name ‘Boxty’ refers to a traditional Irish potato pancake and the band played a mixture of traditional music and ballads, predominately with a Dublin origin. Boxty are resident musicians in Dublin’s Abbey Tavern and members of the group have toured Europe and the US.

For more information on the event or on the Cultural Programme in Brussels contact the Irish Regions Office at Tel: 32-(0)2-2828474 or E-mail: [admin@iro.ie](mailto:admin@iro.ie)

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## Irish Regions Office, Brussels

The Irish Regions Office (IRO), established in Brussels in 2000 as a resource for the Irish members of the Committee of the Regions and the regional authorities, provides a range of EU information services and policy and project supports to local and regional bodies in Ireland.

In 2007, the IRO consolidated the services it delivers. As part of its information service it produced 11 monthly EU News Bulletins, a range of policy briefings and an enhanced web-based service. During the course of the year it directly assisted ten local/regional authorities’ participation in EU funded projects by hosting events in Brussels and representing partners’ interests at meetings and assisted a further eight authorities in identifying partners for EU supported projects. In developing its representational role, the IRO facilitated Dublin’s enhanced engagement in EU affairs by organising and hosting a study visit to Brussels in April, for a group of elected members and officials from the DRA and Dublin local authorities, focusing on EU energy policy and combating drug abuse. This group also met with the Dublin MEPs and as a follow-up to the meeting the four MEPs met with the local authority managers in November to discuss common issues. Also in November, the IRO hosted a Dublin City Council and DRA event: ‘A Rough Guide to Flann O’Brien’s Comic Genius’, as part of the Celtic Connections Cultural Programme. In its support role to the Irish CoR members, the IRO further developed the briefings service that members receive, especially through enhanced contacts and meetings with the Irish Permanent Representation to the EU.

## NATIONAL ISSUES

*The Authority addresses national issues of relevance to the social, economic and environmental development of the Dublin Region. In addition the Authority prepares position papers on issues of concern for the attention of Government departments.*

### National Development Plan 2007-2013

The National Development Plan (NDP), Transforming Ireland – A Better Quality of Life, was launched in January 2007 and sets out the economic and social investment priorities needed to realise the vision of a better quality of life for all. The NDP proposes to invest some 184 billion over the next seven years (2007-2013) to achieve a number of key objectives, namely to:

- Decisively tackle structural infrastructure deficits
- Greatly enhance enterprise development, Science, Technology and Innovation, working age training and skills provision
- Integrate regional development with the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) framework
- Invest in long-term environmental sustainability
- Realise the opportunities of strengthened all-island collaboration in areas of mutual interest
- Deliver a multi-faceted programme for Social Inclusion
- Provide Value for Taxpayers’ Money

The Dublin Regional Authority prepared its response to the NDP in its document “The NDP, What’s in it for Dublin”. This document set out a strategic vision for the City Region and made the case that 50% of the total resources in the NDP should be allocated to the Dublin Region. It also set out a comprehensive list of investment priorities for the Region and catalogued a number of measures and projects that it would have liked to see included in the NDP.

Full details can be obtained from [www.dra.ie](http://www.dra.ie)

## Sustainable and Renewable Energy Options for Dublin

The Dublin Regional Authority prepared a Position Paper entitled ‘Sustainable and Renewable Energy Options for Dublin’ in October 2007. This Position Paper made reference to a submission to the Government’s Green Paper on Energy ‘*Towards a sustainable energy future for Ireland*’ in December, 2006, within which the Authority recommended, among other things, that as a fundamental part of its Energy Strategy, Ireland must make efforts to meet the EU targets for renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Within its sustainable energy Position Paper, the Authority explored sustainable and renewable energy options while providing an up-to-date account of the current situation in Ireland with regard to our energy consumption, our use of technologies and our progress in reducing carbon emissions.

The Paper also set out a roadmap for the development of a regional renewable energy strategy to facilitate a more coherent approach to renewable energy challenges in the Dublin Region.

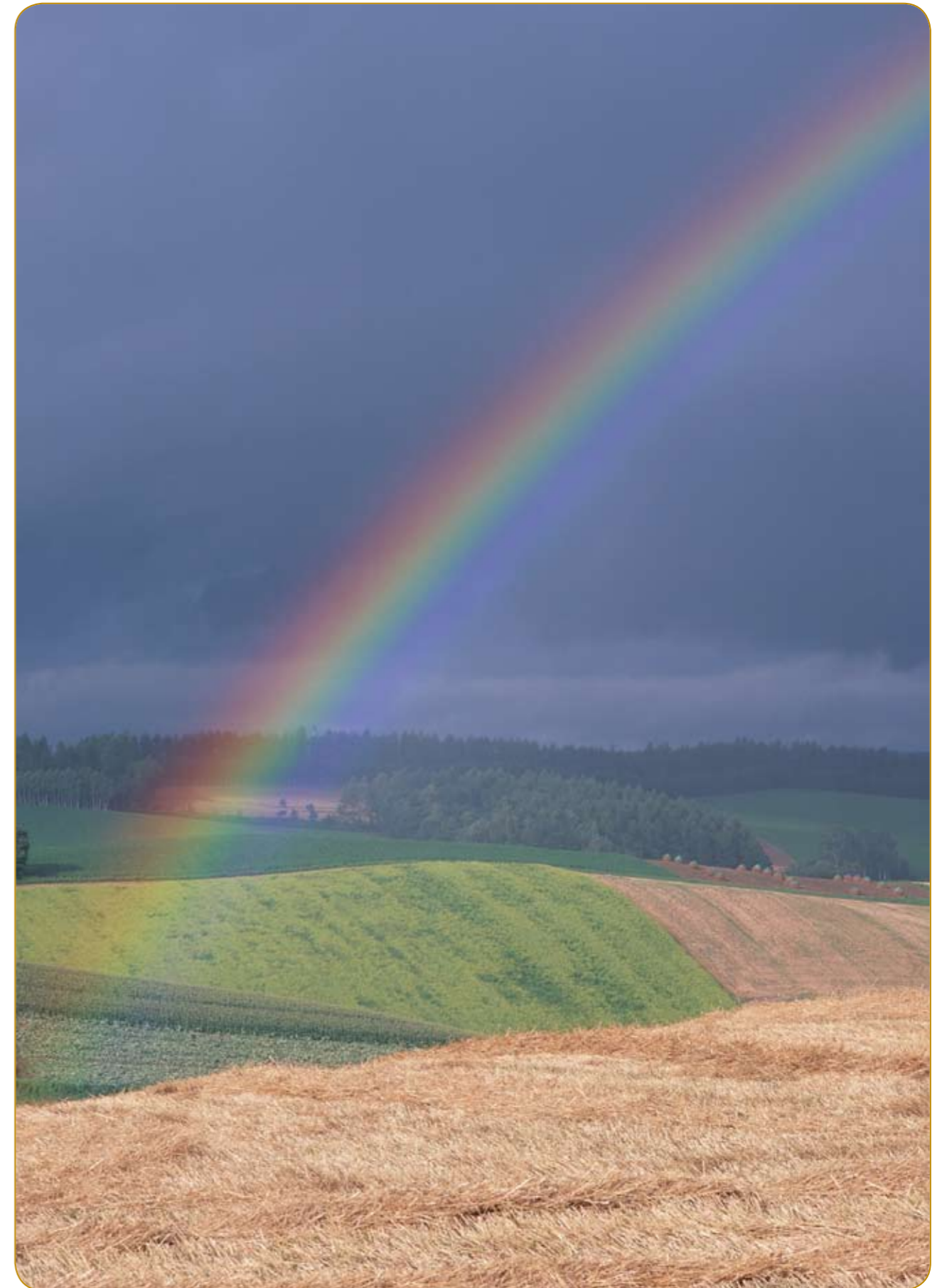
Full details can be obtained from [www.dra.ie](http://www.dra.ie)

## Greening Dublin’s Transport Fleet

In November, 2007 that Dublin Regional Authority prepared a Position Paper entitled ‘Greening Dublin’s Fleet’, which broadly outlined the potential benefits of transforming Dublin’s transport system into a “Green Fleet”. The Paper highlights the fact that promoting, producing and maintaining a public bus, and indeed public transport, system which is run on primarily green fuels is one prospective step towards making Dublin and its hinterland a more sustainable and pleasant environment for residents, businesses and tourists alike.

The report concluded that the expansion of a City wide and country wide public transport system operating on green fuels would provide fresh impetus to fledgling sustainable growth patterns. Moreover, combined with higher density settlements which tend to precipitate reduced car ownership levels and distances travelled, and strategically located housing and commercial developments located in close proximity (within walking distance) to public transport access points, a green fleet would help promote an improved quality of living for all Dublin’s residents. Better infrastructure and cleaner fuels go hand-in-hand: all evidence points up the fact that uptake of public transport services will continue to increase as more user friendly, accessible travel modes are provided. Within a well-connected and integrated system, economy of fuel use will simultaneously increase. With improved fuel economy and increased passenger numbers there will develop a golden opportunity to introduce the extensive use of green fuel use. Rather than crawling out of one hap-hazard planning scenario to fall into another, preliminary steps should be now taken to investigate the feasibility of setting aside land specifically for energy crop rendering within the Dublin Region and its hinterland.

Full details can be obtained from [www.dra.ie](http://www.dra.ie)



## LOCAL ISSUES

*The Authority has regard to all issues of local interest and in 2007 the members discussed the work of Dublin City Council on the future of Dublin Bay.*

### **Dublin Bay – An integrated economic, cultural and social vision for sustainable development**

Dublin City Council commissioned a wide-ranging economic, amenity and environmental study of Dublin Bay, including the Dublin Port area. The study is intended to be the first stage in the preparation of a strategic framework plan for the Dublin Bay area that will guide stakeholders in the long-term development of this resource.

The study assessed the impact of leaving the port undisturbed as well as a number of potential options for development of the port lands based on partial or complete relocation of the port.

The Dublin Regional Authority was presented with details of the study findings at its meeting in November, 2007 and having discussed the matter comprehensively, the Authority submitted the comments of its members to Dublin City Council as part of the consultation phase.

Within its submission the Dublin Regional Authority made the following comments:-

- The Dublin Regional Authority welcomes a debate about the future of Dublin Port, however, it considers that there is a need to undertake a comprehensive approach to the sustainable development of the wider Bay area
- The Authority considers that a further study is needed to address the specifics of the relocation of the port outside Dublin. This study should address the implications of such a move on the proposed new location
- There is currently no overall co-ordination between the many authorities, State agencies and organisations whose remit includes the Dublin Bay area, and as such, it is difficult to monitor the development of Dublin Bay to ascertain if it is being developed to its full potential and, in this regard, the Dublin Regional Authority considers that the sustainable management of Dublin Bay should be addressed. Further, the Dublin Regional Authority recommends that, as the only democratic regional body operating in the area, it should be the overarching body responsible for Dublin Bay, augmented by other agencies, e.g. Dublin Docklands Development Authority, etc.



## Conferences Attended 2007

The Regional Authority was represented at the following Conference/Seminars during 2007			
Title	Date 2006	Location	Attended By
BMW Regional Assembly, "Renewable Energy"	13th June	Carlingford	Cllr. M. Ahearne
Ceifin Centre - Ennis	6th/7th November	Ennis	Cllr. M. Ahearne
AMAI Annual Conference	13th - 15th September	New Ross	Cllrs. M. Ardagh, S. Laing
Irish Council for Social Housing - "Social Housing - A Lifestyle choice"	25th - 27th September	Wexford	Cllr. E. Byrne
Merriman Summer School 2007 - "Change Utterly? - Ireland 1967-2007"	19th - 25th August	Lisdoonvarna	Cllr. G. Horkan
AMAI Spring Conference	9th/10th February	Tralee	Cllr. M. Richardson
LAMA Annual Spring Conference	12th/13th April	Killarney	Cllrs. A. Carter, S. Laing
AIR 10th Annual Conference	19th October	Killarney	Cllrs. D. Lacey, C. Keane
S & E Regional Assembly 8th Annual Conference	20th April	Naas	Cllr. L. McCarthy
Environment Ireland 2007	4th September	Dublin	Cllr. L. McCarthy
Humbert Summer School	23rd - 26th August	Ballina	Cllr. M. O'Donovan
Cumann Merriman Winter School	26th - 28th January	Westport	Cllrs. P. Hand, M. McKeon
Training Seminar for Councillors	16th - 18th November	Letterkenny	Cllr. P. Hand
Douglas Hyde Conference	26th - 28th October	Ballaghaderreen	Cllrs. D. Ellis, C. Burke
Colmcille Winter School	23rd - 25th February	Churchill	Cllrs. C. Burke, T. Smithers
Training for Councillors	8th - 10th June	Castlebellingham	Cllr. B. Maher

## Statement of Accounts for the Financial Year ended 31st December 2007

Expenditure	2007€	2006 €
Salaries	197,407.34	189,328.79
Office Equipment	25,791.33	30,577.95
Postal & Telephone Charges	13,004.73	13,293.24
Annual Allowances (Art.34(1))	46,495.01	46,552.29
Travel & Subsistence Allowances:		
I.Article 34(2)(a)	20,210.11	20,238.47
II.Article 34(2)(b)	-	-
III.Staff	12,398.00	6,869.97
Rent and Rates	-	-
Miscellaneous	100,359.54	103,899.17
Committee of the Regions Irish Delegation	262,372.89	250,969.48
Irish Regions Office (IRO)	57,752.07	68,828.70
Irish Sea Platform	1,616.26	-
EU Projects	5,716.47	23,932.77
S2S Project	-	39,296.36
PURPLE Project	7,772.47	-
Regional Planning Guidelines for Greater Dublin Area	205,986.29	220,105.44
<b>Expenditure total</b>	<b>956,882.51</b>	<b>1,013,892.63</b>
	€	
RECEIPTS	2007 €	2006 €
Local Authorities Contribution	407,180.00	388,008.00
Public Bodies Contribution	2,500.00	5,000.00
Southern & Eastern Regional Assembly Contribution	23,679.40	38,646.77
Other:		
• DoEHLG (Committee of the Regions)	217,232.87	317,065.13
• Committee of the Regions – miscellaneous	1,277.88	3,233.35
• Miscellaneous	14,205.40	1,717.55
• Irish Regions Office	78,043.62	74,498.21
• RPG Contributions	258,158.70	273,049.65
• RPG Miscellaneous	45.50	4,439.50
• Bank Interest (Bol)	11,869.27	5,432.37
<b>Receipts total</b>	<b>1,014,192.64</b>	<b>1,111,090.53</b>
Surplus	57,310.13	97,197.90
Opening Balance (Surplus)	422,936.37	325,738.47
<b>Closing Balance at end of year (Surplus)</b>	<b>480,246.50</b>	<b>422,936.37</b>