Statement by John Curran T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs,

in relation to the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme (LDSIP)

and the Community Development Programme (CDP)

There have been numerous comments and reports in the media and elsewhere recently regarding the Community Development Programme and the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme. Both programmes have a community development element and both are currently delivered through separate local delivery structures. However, I believe that a focussed programme with a single integrated delivery structure is needed in order to maximise the impact of the LDSIP and the CDP, which serve disadvantaged communities.

My overall aim is to ensure that, from 2010, having regard to the budgetary position, disadvantaged communities will benefit from a more focused programme with clear objectives, simplified and streamlined delivery structures and better integrated actions, leading to significant administrative savings and impact efficiencies.

The Department is currently undertaking a review of the Community Development Programme and will shortly have a full report on the findings and recommendations that arise from that review. Recent reports in the media and elsewhere claiming that the majority of CDPs will close as a result of the review process is completely inaccurate.

On the contrary, I would reasonably expect the majority of projects to be deemed viable and that they would move into the new integrated Programme. However, some CDPs are not dependant solely on funding provided by the Department and may decide to continue in a separate existence, outside of the new integrated programme. The Department cannot instruct these companies or indeed any independent legal entity to close.

The intention is to preserve elements of best practice from the existing CDP/LDSIP programmes in the redesigned model, to minimize structures and to enhance benefits for individuals and communities through a focus on provision of front-line services and supports.

As previously indicated these developments are taking place at a time of extreme budgetary difficulties, the full extent of which will not be known until Budget Day.

6 November 2009

Issued by the Press & Information Office at the Dept. of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs

Eisithe ag Oifig Preasa & Eolais na Roinne Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta.

Tel/Teil: 01 647 3130 Fax/Facs: 01 667 0826 087 7956378

Email / Ríomhphost: eolas@pobail.ie Web/Gréasán: www.pobail.ie

Ráiteas ó John Curran T.D., Aire Stáit ag an Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta, maidir leis an gClár Forbartha Áitiúil um Chuimsiú Sóisialta (CFÁCS) agus leis an gClár Forbartha Pobail (CFP)

Tá an-chuid tuairiscí agus ráitis sna meáin agus in áiteanna eile le déanaí maidir leis an gClár Forbartha Pobail agus an Clár Forbartha Áitiúil um Chuimsiú Sóisialta. Tá gné forbartha pobail i chaon cheann acu agus cuirtear an dá cheann ar fáil faoi láthair trí struchtúir éagsúla soláthair áitiúil. Mar sin féin, creidim go dteastaíonn clár amháin spriocdhírithe le struchtúr soláthair chomhtháite amháin chun an leas is fearr a bhaint as feidhm an CFÁCS agus CFP, a fhreastalaíonn ar phobail atá faoi mhíbhuntáiste.

Is é an cuspóir foriomlán atá agam ná a chinntiú, ó 2010 ar aghaidh agus an cháinaisnéis san áireamh, go mbainfidh pobail atá faoi mhíbhuntáiste leas as clár a bheidh níos spriocdhírithe agus a mbeidh aidhmeanna soiléire aige, chomh maith le struchtúir a bheidh simplithe agus athchóirithe chun éifeachta agus gníomhaíochtaí a bheidh níos comhtháite, rud a fhágfaidh go ndéanfar sábháil shuntasach ar riarachán agus go mbeidh éifeachtacht níos suntasaí ann ó thaobh iarmhairtí an chláir.

Tá an Roinn ag tabhairt faoi athbhreithniú i láthair na huaire ar an gClár Forbartha Pobail agus beidh tuarascáil iomlán ar fáil di go luath ar na torthaí agus na moltaí a thagann as an athbhreithniú sin. Tá tuairiscí a tháinig ó na meáin agus áiteanna eile le déanaí, a éilíonn go ndúnfaidh formhór na dTionscadal Forbartha Pobail mar thoradh ar an bpróiseas athbhreithnithe, go hiomlán míchruinn.

Is é a mhalairt atá fíor agus bheinn ag súil go measfaí formhór na dtionscadal a bheith inmharthana agus go mbogfaidís isteach i gClár nua comhtháite. É sin ráite, tá roinnt Tionscadal Forbartha Pobail nach bhfuil ag brath go hiomlán ar mhaoiniú a chuireann an Roinn ar fáil agus d'fhéadfaidís sin cinneadh a dhéanamh leanúint ar aghaidh ar leithligh, lasmuigh den chlár nua comhtháite. Ní féidir leis an Roinn ordú a thabhairt do na comhlachtaí sin, nó go deimhin d'aon aonán dlíthiúil neamhspleách eile, dúnadh síos.

Is é an aidhm atá ann ná gnéithe dea-chleachtais ón gCFP/CFÁCS atá ann faoi láthair a choinneáil sa samhail athdheartha, chun a laghad struchtúr is féidir a choinneáil agus chun feabhas a chur ar na buntáistí a bhaineann daoine aonair agus pobail as na cláir trí dhíriú ar sholáthar seirbhísí duine le duine agus tacaíochtaí.

Mar a luadh roimhe seo, tá na forbairtí seo ag tarlú ag am ina bhfuil deacrachtaí móra ag teacht chun cinn ó thaobh cúrsaí buiséid de agus ní bheidh tuiscint iomlán againn ar sin go dtiocfaidh lá na Cáinaisnéise.

6 Samhain 2009

Issued by the Press & Information Office at the Dept. of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs

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Tel/Teil: 01 647 3130 Fax/Facs: 01 667 0826 087 7956378

Email / Ríomhphost: eolas@pobail.ie Web/Gréasán: www.pobail.ie

Galway Traveller Movement Ltd (Company Limited by Guarantee)
Registered in Ireland. Registered Number: 227975

Galway Office:
1 The Plaza
Headford Road
Galway

Loughrea Office:
61 Main Street
Loughrea
Co Galway