

Foreword

Is mór an onóir domsa mar Chathaoirleach ar Bhord Forbartha Chontae Thiobrad Árann Thuaidh fáiltiú roimh fhoilseachán den straitéis imeasctha seo d'fhorbairt eacnamaíochta, sóisialta agus cultúrtha Thiobrad Árann Thuaidh.

Léiríonn an straitéis seo bealach aontaithe don deich mbliana atá amach romhainn a thacóidh le hiarrachtaí maidir lenár rathúnas eacnamaíochta a mhéadú, forbairt a dhéanamh ar bhealaí feabhasaithe sa chomhaireamh sóisialta agus ár n-oidhreacht chultúrtha a láidriú.

It gives me great pleasure as Chairman of North Tipperary County Development Board to welcome the publication of this Integrated Strategy for the Economic, Social and Cultural development of North Tipperary. The Strategy represents an agreed direction for the next ten years which will support efforts at increasing our economic prosperity, developing improved approaches to social inclusion and strengthening our cultural heritage.

I wish to congratulate all sectors of the community within North Tipperary for their participation and contribution towards shaping this ten-year strategy. The statutory, local development and voluntary organisations operating within the county have embraced the principle of working together in the best interests of the citizens of the county. In total, 27 such organisations have committed to participation in delivering on agreed actions, which will help achieve the overall strategy. The Social Partners represented by the farming, business and community & voluntary sectors have outlined their own issues and concerns in shaping the future direction of the county. Lastly, Local Government has brought the democratic endorsement to the process through its representatives on the Board and its approval of the Strategy.

At national level the County Development Board process has been led by the Inter-Departmental Task Force chaired by the Minister for the Environment and Local Government, Mr. Noel Dempsey. The Minister has been fully committed to the process and has ensured the co-operation of Government Departments in delivering on the integration of services at county level.

Having completed the first Integrated Strategy for North Tipperary, the County Development Board must now take responsibility for monitoring and evaluating its implementation. I am confident that this will be achieved through the collective efforts of all involved.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to the staff of the Community & Enterprise Department of North Tipperary County Council for their professionalism in facilitating the completion of the Strategy.

**John Hogan,
Chairman,
North Tipperary County Development Board.**