

# SIX-YEAR PLAN FOR POLICING IN CORK

The Cork City Joint Policing Committee has launched its first six-year strategy in a bid to enhance relationships between Cork City Council, An Garda Síochána and the community, which aims to strengthen ties between the groups.

**T**his six-year plan, as developed by Cork City Joint Policing Committee, is the direct result of more than 12 months of consultation and sets out an overall strategy until 2021.

It establishes a clear format of communication between Cork City Council, the communities and the Gardaí, including regular local forums to raise issues. It includes a series of measurable goals, with specific aims reviewed on an annual basis.

According to Ann Doherty, Chief Executive of Cork City Council, the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) provides a formal structure for the city council to view and plan many of its services and functions from a community safety perspective.

"The strategy will provide a framework for the work of the JPC and underpins the strong working relationship that exists between the city council and An Garda Síochána at all levels," she added.

Chief Supt Mick Finn, echoed the Chief Executive's sentiments by stating: "We are committed to tackling all of the challenges presented by a modern vibrant diverse community on a day-to-day basis. No agency or service can solve all of the ills of society but together we are strong and better able to deal with these challenges."

## PILOT PROJECT

The Community Safety Structure part of Cork City's joint policing structure started in Mahon in 2006 as a pilot project. The forum proved to be so successful that it was subsequently used as a model for the national structure, now in place arising from the Garda Síochána Act 2005.

Cork City Council enjoys an excellent working relationship with An Garda Síochána, collaborating on a number of major events annually. These include Cork City Marathon, Glow Christmas Festival, Summer Fun Family Nights, St Patrick's Festival and a myriad of other major annual festivals, which incorporate inter-agency planning.

In his chairman's foreword to the strategy Lord Mayor Cllr Chris O'Leary said that as best practice is developed nationally and improvements delivered locally, the role of the JPC, as a driver of community safety initiatives will continue to grow in the coming years.

"This strategy will be delivered through annual JPC plans. The public will see this through improvements in the way that they can connect with the JPC, there will be clear reporting and a clear focus on issues that need interagency consideration to resolve them."



Pictured at the launch of Cork City's Joint Policing Committee Six-Year Strategic Plan (l-r): Garda Chief Supt. Mick Finn; Cllr Chris O'Leary, Chair of the Cork City JPC and then Lord Mayor of Cork, and Paul Moynihan, Director of Corporate and External Affairs, Cork City Council.

## EIGHT KEY AREAS OF STRATEGY

1. JPC Structure
2. Communications
3. Community Engagement
4. Crime Prevention
5. Anti-Social Behaviour
6. Road Safety
7. Misuse of Alcohol and Drugs and Related Crime
8. Support for Crime Victims

Work on developing the strategy commenced in September 2015 and involved a public consultation phase as well as consideration by councillors, Oireachtas members and the Public Participation Network (PPN).

The plan was compiled by a working group of Cork City Council, An Garda Síochána and the Cork City PPN. Annual plans will be developed with the JPC membership for the implementation of the different aspects of the strategy.