

# An Comhdháil 2008

Terry Ó Niadh

Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann Thuaidh

# Introduction

- ▶ Background Information
- ▶ Dealing with obligations under the Official Languages Act 2003
- ▶ Compilation of our Irish Language Scheme
- ▶ Promoting the Irish language
- ▶ Obstacles in rolling out our scheme
- ▶ Plans for the future

# Background

- ▶ Non-Gaeltacht area
- ▶ 49% of population have ability to speak Irish
- ▶ 8,637 daily through educational system
- ▶ 203 daily educational system & outside
- ▶ 491 daily outside educational system
- ▶ 1,535 weekly outside educational system
- ▶ 10,633 less often
- ▶ 7,768 never speak Irish (despite having the ability to do so)

# Support for Irish language in North Tipperary

- ▶ Gaelscoileanna & Gael Choláistí
- ▶ Glór na nGael
- ▶ Tiobraid Árann ag Labhairt
- ▶ Active Irish language groups

# Obligations under OLA 2003

- ▶ Section 9 – responding to correspondence in same language as received
- ▶ Regulations re stationery, advertisements, signage
- ▶ Section 10 – simultaneous publication in Irish and English
- ▶ Section 11- preparation of Draft Scheme

# Meeting Obligations

- ▶ No Oifigeach Gaeilge
- ▶ Responsibility assigned to Corporate Support
- ▶ Communications, training, action planning
- ▶ Budget provision
- ▶ Panel of translators

# Compilation of Irish Language Scheme

- ▶ Request January 2006
- ▶ Six months
- ▶ Action Plan
- ▶ Co. Council + 3 Town Councils + Libraries
- ▶ Consultation
- ▶ 6 submissions received

# In-house consultation

- ▶ Individual sections
- ▶ Workplace Partnership Committee
- ▶ Members
- ▶ Corporate Policy Group
- ▶ Strategic Policy Committees

# In-house survey

- ▶ 141 staff responded
- ▶ 19 had received requests for service in Irish
- ▶ 1 staff member fluent
- ▶ 57% Library Staff – reasonable, good, very good, good or fluent
- ▶ 67% want to improve competencies
- ▶ 19 willing to be identified to the public

# Customer Survey

- ▶ 256 replies
- ▶ 11 would prefer to deal through Irish (4.3%)
- ▶ 236 do not want to deal through Irish (92.2%)
- ▶ 9 no response to this question

# Scheme

- ▶ Sent to Dept 25/7/2006
- ▶ Set out:
  - Background
  - Summary of services and activities
  - Assessment of services and demand
  - Proposed measures
  - Arrangements for monitoring and review
  - Publicising
  - Details of submissions
- ▶ Approved by Minister May 2007
- ▶ 3 years from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2007

# Implementation/Promotion of Irish

- ▶ Action Plan
- ▶ Irish Language Category on Intranet
- ▶ Quarterly Reports to Members as Gaeilge
- ▶ Training – Language Awareness, Diploma in Irish, Gaeleagras, Teastas Eorpach Gaeilge
- ▶ PDPs
- ▶ Website
- ▶ Tiobraid Árann ag Labhairt
- ▶ Bi-lingual forms etc.
- ▶ Seachtain na Gaeilge

# Obstacles

- ▶ Negative view because of costs/time delays
- ▶ Quality of translations
- ▶ Not always a priority

# Future Plans

- ▶ Continue implementation
- ▶ Encouragement and support
- ▶ Monitoring

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Go raibh maith agaibh