



An Chomhairle Náisiúnta Eacnamaíoch agus Shóisialta  
National Economic & Social Council



# People & Places: Weaving Together Policies for Social Inclusion in Ireland

**Fingal LCDC**

**15<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

**Civic Offices, Blanchardstown**





# PROJECT OVERVIEW

- **OECD Initiated Project**
  - Worked with Pobal, identified 2 case study areas
  - NESC provided a 'national expert'
- **To examine how economic and social disadvantage being addressed in the wake of the economic crisis**
  - Job losses / unemployment
  - Hours / income reductions
  - Debt
  - Public service cutbacks
  - Reform
- **Impact in 2 Disadvantaged Areas**
  - RAPID area in Blanchardstown (urban) – 15,000
  - North County Meath (rural) – 3,00
  - Analysis, interviews, roundtables, project visits, draft report, follow up roundtables, final report
  - Timeframe = April 2014, Sep 2014, June 2015, finalisation now



## BLANCHARDSTOWN – OVERVIEW

- Young and growing population (Total pop. = 15,000)
- Large migrant population – ethnic diversity
- High levels of unemployment / low educational attainment
- Jobs ... but limited for local residents
- Poor spatial planning
- Many organisations ... but some disconnect between them



# CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

## 1. Improving governance and building capacities

1a. Coordination at the local level remains a key gap

1b. Following a series of public sector reforms, limited local capacities pose a challenge

1c. National policies can have unintended local consequences

1d. A more data-driven and evidence-based approach is needed



# CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

## 2. Better leveraging of community assets

2a. Community facilities and assets are not fully utilised

2b. There are underutilised policy levers to support asset-based development

2c. The potential for social enterprises has not yet been reached



# CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

## 3. Increasing accessibility to economic opportunities

- 3a. Key gaps exist in vocational education and training
- 3b. Entrepreneurship and SME support could better focus on an area's comparative advantage
- 3c. Improve early years education and care, family services and community development
- 3d. Improve systems for migrant integration
- 3e. The built environment also plays a role in facilitating ... or inhibiting ... access



# IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

## 1. Improving governance and building capacities

1a. Strengthen an integrated services approach

1b. Build capacities at the local level

1c. Establish a 'what works' centre



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# IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

## 2. Better leveraging of community assets

### 2a. Support social enterprises







# IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

## 3. Increasing accessibility to economic opportunity

3a. Re-invest in career guidance

3b. Expand and improve apprenticeship offerings

3c. Improve coordination of migrant integration services

3d. Invest in early years education and care



# BLANCHARDSTOWN RAPID AREA

- B1. Use a broker to stimulate better sign-posting between local services**
- B2. Encourage employers to engage more with local residents**
  - Employers Forum now established
- B3. Consider the development of a local training facility**
- B4. Establish a strategy for social enterprises**