

# Limerick Food Partnership

*PLANT September 2008*

*Jim Magher*

*PAUL Partnership*

# *Background*

- *Started in November 2004*
- *Overall Objective to improve the health of target communities in Limerick City through increasing people's understanding of, and access to affordable, healthy quality food.*

# *Specific Objectives*

- **Raising Awareness Among Consumers**
- **Improving Access**
- **Improving Supply**

# *Partners*

*Local Community Groups (5)*

*City Council*

*HSE*

*PAU Partnership*

*LD*

*DSFA*

*Dept. Of Education*

# *Role of Food Partnership*

- *Enable Strategic Approach*
- *Back individual community projects*
- *Research / evaluation support*
- *Coordinate activity*
- *Pilot / operate project where necessary*

# Community Food Enterprises

- *School Meals*
  - *15 Primary Schools + 3 Bun & Milk*
  - *2500 Children*
  - *4 Community Suppliers, 1 Private Supplier*
  - *€25,000 per week*
- *Community Meals*
  - *6 Community Suppliers*
  - *Around 400 individuals availing of service*
  - *1,500+ meals week (€6,000)*

# *Community Food Enterprises*

- *Southill Food Co-op*
  - *Fruit & Veg. to local community*
  - *Dissemination of information*
  - *Home deliveries*
- *Food-bank*
  - *Modelled on Dublin City Food-bank*
  - *Linked to production unit*
  - *Looking for High demand / high value food*

# Planned Social Food Enterprises

- *Community Café*
- *Cook-it Programme*
- *Urban Growing Schemes*
- *Grower's Market*

# *Why Community Enterprise*

- *Community Ownership*
- *Participation influences perceptions*
- *Generates local employment*
- *Generates Economic Activity*

# Challenges

- *Community Enterprises well suited to this area*
- *Increasingly reluctant to carry costs*
- *Scale limits efficiency - richness & reach issues*
- *Too many chefs in kitchen*
- *A case for cohesion!!*