

Partnerships in Action

The City of Cape Town has doubled its financial contribution to the Cape Town Partnership over the next three years. This means the City will contribute R18 million over the next three years – an increase of more than 50%

This year was also the first time that the City has entered into a three year financial contract with the Partnership – opposed to the normal one-year contract since inception in 1999.

Shaun Johnson, CEO of the Mandela Rhodes Foundation and Partnership Board Chairperson, said that this vote of confidence in the work of the Cape Town Partnership will ensure that the Partnership will be financially sound to deliver on its mandate and that projects planned for 2010 and beyond will be finished on time. Johnson expressed his sincere appreciation for the City's contribution during the Partnership's Annual General Meeting held today.

Johnson said that the Partnership, since its inception, has generated an impressive rate of return on the City's investment. "Projected forward to 2010, for a total investment of R28,2 million of ratepayer's money, the City will leverage R202,5 million of private sector contributions in the form of City Improvement District (CCID) levies, an impressive gearing ratio of 1:7 public to private funding. This demonstrates the specific value of the public private partnership in the Central City."

The past year has been the busiest year to date in the eight years of the Partnership's existence, said Andrew Boraine, Chief Executive of the Cape Town Partnership, at the Partnership's 8th Annual General Meeting, held at the new Mandela Rhodes Place Conference venue today.

"We've seen a turnaround of the fortunes of the most important business node in Cape Town in a relatively short period. This is a good news story, not just because of increased investment, growth and jobs, but also because it demonstrates the ability of Capetonians from different public, private and community sector organisations to come together and tackle problems collectively.

On its own, the Cape Town Partnership is a very small organisation, and I have always said that we are only as strong as our partners. The achievements of the Cape Town Central City show what can happen when we actively work together,” said Boraine.

While the Partnership continue to work closely with their traditional partners in the public, private and community sectors, Boraine said he is struck by the number of new organizations involved in the Central City, and the wide range of innovative ideas, projects, events and activities on display.

He highlighted a few examples of successful local development partnerships:

Walking Bus Project

The Walking Bus project, funded by the Provincial Department of Transport and Public Works, achieved multiple objectives of training and income generation for thirty unemployed people, making the streets safe and promoting public transport.

In April this year, thirty people – most of who had previously lived on the street – were trained as security guards by the CCID’s security team. In May they were deployed by the CCID as “Walking Bus” drivers, escorting groups of people along natural pedestrian routes from various points around the Central City to the Cape Town Station. The public have responded positively with more than 100 000 people using the ‘busses’ every month.

Partners include The Haven Night Shelters, Straatwerk, G4S Security, the Protea North Wharf Hotel and Metrorail.

Security

The past year has seen a noticeable decrease in crime within the Central City. This is due to the range of innovative partnerships in place between the various security agencies and local businesses.

They are:

Sector Policing: The CCID has successfully implemented sector policing in all four precincts. Numerous businesses, retailers, body-corporates and restaurateurs form part of the project, which is aimed at making everyone taking responsibility for their areas. SAPS have received twenty additional vehicles to patrol the City as part of the Sector Policing project. These cars are all equipped with a tracking device which allows the station to manage these vehicles on a real time basis.

CBD Security Forum: The CCID has established a security forum aimed at doubling the amount of “ears and eyes” on the street. The inaugural meeting was held last month, with the member interest growing.

Community Policing Forum: the CCID Security Manager, Muneeb Hendricks, chairs the CBD Community Policing Forum, which has initiated five fully functional watches in different parts of the Central City.

Inter Agencies relationship management: The CCID was instrumental in bringing all the agencies around one table and regularly assists all security agencies with special operations.

Cyclops (CCTV Unit): Weekly meetings are held to ensure that areas of concerns are identified and that proper response mechanisms are in place. Partners include Metro Specialized unit, Law Enforcement, SAPS and CCID.

Company’s Gardens security: A partnership exists between City Parks and Forests, Law Enforcement and CCID to ensure safety of all visitors to the Gardens.

Cape Town Tourism: A partnership exists between Cape Town Routes Unlimited, CT Tourism, Tour operators, SAPS and CIDs aimed at providing security measures for tourists.

Informal Trading: A good partnership between the City’s Business Areas Management and Traffic Hawker Unit and the CCID exists to ensure proper regulation of informal trading businesses.

SAPS: The CCID sponsors a member to sit in the SAPS operations room to alleviate the pressure on the current deployment. This officer assists with the answering of telephones and radios.

SAPS – Fraud and Commercial crimes unit: The CCID has formed a unique partnership with this unit by providing information, arresting ATM fraudsters and recovering illegal swipe card machines.

Cape Town Station Deck Management

This time last year, it was acknowledged that the Station Deck was a virtual free-for-all, where 60 000 commuters were forced to run a gauntlet of crime, drug dealing, child prostitution – as well as a rat plague, caused by food waste dumping by some traders. Following a visit by a city delegation, the Station Deck Action Task Team led by the City of Cape Town was initiated in June 2006. Since then, much has been accomplished.

The success is due to an integrated approach by the responsible agencies i.e. Metro police and SAPS, who are now both stationed on the deck. The CCID assists with special operations on the deck. Results have been encouraging with SAPS statistics revealing a decrease in crime. Informal trading areas and taxi ranks are now better managed.

Blanket drive

In June this year, Nigel Pierce from Good Hope FM went on a drive to collect blankets from the people of Cape Town. The CCID came on board and decided to mobilise businesses in the city to get involved.

The initial target of 20 000 blankets was reached very quickly and continued to rise to over 80 000. CCID staff showed their commitment by collecting blankets at traffic lights coming into the city in the early hours of the morning. Distribution of the blankets went smoothly thanks to partnerships that exist between the CCID Social Development division and other NGO's in the City.

Straatwerk (cleansing and social development)

An innovative partnership, achieving both urban management and social development aims, continued in the period under review. The CCID and an NGO called Straatwerk, continued to achieve both social and cleansing goals in the City by rehabilitating homeless and unemployed people, and at the same time, providing badly needed street sweeping services.

Altogether 40 fulltime employees and 200 casuals are added to the Central city cleansing force through this initiative. During the period under review, Straatwerk collected an average of 200 tons of rubbish, kept the Central City graffiti free and removed illegal stickers and posters. They were also responsible for removing 24 tons of waste from the City's storm water drains systems and for keeping the Central City weed-free.

The CCID also pays for the cleaning of the Grand Parade on weekends and approximately 48 tons of waste has been collected during these shifts over the past year.