



*Annual  
Report*

*and*

*Financial  
Statements*

*2006*



## VANTASTIC IS SUPPORT BY



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND LAW REFORM  
AN ROIINN DLÍ AGUS CIRT, COMHIONANNAS AGUS ATHCHÓIRITHE DLÍ



**VANTASTIC**

**MEMBERS**

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# **Chairpersons address to Vantastic AGM**

## **31st March 2007**

Dear Members and Guests,

2006 saw the publication of many plans that should have impacted on our members and the door to door transport sector, which Vantastic is part of. To name but a few: The Disability Strategy, The Disability Act, Transport 21, 6 Sectoral Plans (including the Sectoral plan of the Minister for Transport). In five of the Sectoral Plans, the Door to Door Transport Services were not even given a mention. In the Transport Sectoral Plan this sector was specifically excluded and with no inclusion in any other plan **the door to door transport sector is the forgotten service.**

Almost all these plans were conceived with the main objectives of inclusion and mainstreaming of services for people with disabilities. The main objectives of mainstreaming and inclusion will be compromised by the exclusion of this sector from the plan. **How can transport plans and services succeed without the proper resourcing, planning and coordination by the Government and the disability stakeholders?** The Disability Sector, the State and the politicians have seriously compromised an invaluable opportunity to progress their main objectives. **Recognising our failure** we must create an awareness of these issues in the forthcoming election in order to affect the review of the Sectoral Plans in early 2008. Vantastic is committed to continue raising awareness of this issue.

Vantastic welcomes all the initiatives of the Commission for Taxi Regulation to find an appropriate disability proofed vehicle to enable the disability sector to avail of both taxi and hackney services. I am concerned that the proportion of wheelchair accessible taxis in the overall taxi fleet has declined from 21 per cent prior to liberalisation in 2000 to 8 per cent of the overall taxi fleet in December 2006. There are currently (January 2007) 1,320 wheelchair accessible taxis licensed for the country. Door to Door Transport Services are subsidised from the public purse in many cities throughout Europe. Ireland should be no different. Such a service, whether operated by the commercial or voluntary sector, will require a subsidy similar to all other existing public transport services.

## **Chairpersons address to Vantastic AGM 31st March 2007**

Vantastic welcomes the proposed value for money audit and the cash flow planning promised by the Department of Equality, Justice and Law Reform. The unlimited demand for our service has brought about many economies of scale and greater efficiencies within the company. We know that the proposed audit will highlight our success and bring about even greater efficiencies while demonstrating the clear need of a more strategic response from the State Sector to encompass the complete door to door transport disability sector. This **sector needs to be resourced using a formula based on the required need of the disabled population.**

To end, may I personally thank all management and staff, funders and my fellow directors for their help in bringing about what has been a very successful year for Vantastic. While our service has grown by an unbelievable 95% year on year, we can not afford to become complacent because unfortunately the demand for our service is unrelenting and we need to secure population based funding and a recognised position within the public transport sector.

Finally, may I also thank our members for their support during the last year and implore them to bring the issues of Vantastic (which are also your issues) to all the visiting Doorstoppers that may visit your home during the coming months.



Mr Don Bailey  
Chairperson Vantastic Dial A Ride Limited  
31st March 2007

# Directors Report 2006

The directors present their annual report together with the audited financial statement for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006.

## Principal Activities and Financial Review

The principal activities of the company were the provision of accessible Door-to-Door Transport for people with disabilities living in the city of Dublin and its hinterland.

The company has tax exempt charitable status, reference CHY 13777.

The Vantastic service operated from 07.00 - 22.00 (Monday to Sunday). We were able to offer a service outside of our standard operating hours subject to availability. We currently have a fleet of 16 fully accessible vehicles. Fifteen vehicles are registered and insured to carry up to 8 passengers at a time. One vehicle is registered and insured to carry up to 4 passengers at a time.

Vantastic recorded a **95% growth** year on year of trips completed. This equated to a total of 18,124 member trips completed. During a challenging year this growth was achieved through the provision of good customer service and continuing development of both the fleet and operations. It is the director's intention that Vantastic will continue to grow in 2007 and we hope to see an additional 15% growth year on year in 2007.

Vantastic Dial A Ride Limited directors would like to thank our Funders The Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform and The Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (under the Community Service Programme managed on their behalf by Pobal) for their continued support. We look forward to a continuing productive relationship for 2007.

## Board Activity

As a Board we have overall responsibility for all aspects of the management of Vantastic and we have a legal responsibility to ensure that the funding we receive is spent properly and that good financial systems are in place. We also must ensure that the accounts are audited and all annual returns are sent to the Companies Registration office every year. We are the legal employers of all the staff and must ensure that we are compliant with employment legislation and that there are proper staff management systems in place. We have a role in planning for the future and deciding on the overall direction of Vantastic Dial A Ride Limited and we are responsible for maintaining good working relationships with our stakeholders (all those who have an interest in Vantastic Dial A Ride Limited). Throughout 2006 we met on a monthly basis as a board. The Management Board Committee met regularly with the general manager to discuss and address specific management issues.

# Directors Report 2006

## Capital Investment

Vantastic continues to invest in improving the fleet and passenger services. During 2006 capital investment included:

- 4 new fully adapted accessible vehicles purchased via funds obtained under the Dormant Accounts Fund.
- 1 new fully accessible vehicle purchased using member contributions as a replacement to an existing vehicle.
- 1 new fully accessible vehicle purchased using member contributions.

## Staff

One of Vantastic's key assets is its staff. All our staff play an important part of our operations and are key to the service's development. To aid in this we are committed to developing a progressive and participative culture in the organisation. During 2006 we worked hard and invested in our staff to improve staff skills and knowledge and thus gained the rewards for both the organisation and the staff.

Currently Vantastic has 34 staff positions.

## New Premises 2006

In September 2006 Vantastic moved to new offices at Unit 2a, Howth Junction Business Park, Kilbarrack, Dublin 5. These offices provide the much needed space to allow for the further growth of Vantastic. The ground floor of the building is fully accessible and we welcome all members to view the new premises. The sourcing of the new premises, the internal building layout design, the project management of all building works, the office outfit and the move process was fully managed in house by Vantastic. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Cormac Moloney (General Manager), Pat Kavanagh (Operations Manager) and all the staff for their hard work in ensuring the effective move to the new premises with minimum disruption to the service. I would further like to thank Clann Credo who provided us with a loan without which we would have been unable to complete the internal building works.

# Directors Report 2006

## Business Strategy

In 2006 the board, along with the General Manager, set itself the task of looking at the strategic positioning and development of Vantastic into the future. As part of this process Vantastic has maintained its position on the Public Transport Accessible Committee and was represented by our General Manager on the Community Transport Association of Irelands executive committee in 2006. It is intended to maintain these positions in 2007.

Throughout the year we met with various stakeholders involved in the transport of people with disabilities and started the process of informing them about the lack of any programme for the sustaining and/or development of Door to Door transport for people with disabilities. It is our intention to address this issue at a political level further in 2007

Vantastic made a submission to the Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform in September 2006 for the consolidation and development of Vantastic in 2007. This was rejected due to financial constraints within the Department. We have however received an additional €25k for 2007 which maintains the funding at the 2003 level once inflation is taken account of. In meetings early in 2007 we were informed of the Departments intention to undertake a Value for Money Audit of Vantastic in 2007. The unlimited demand for our service has brought about many economies of scale and greater efficiencies within the company. We know that the proposed audit will highlight our success and bring about even greater efficiencies while demonstrating the clear need of a more strategic response from the State Sector to encompass the complete door to door transport disability sector.

In December 2006 Vantastic completed a three year business Plan for Pobal under the Community Services Programme. Within this programme we sought an additional 6 Full Time Equivalent employees over the life time of the plan. Unfortunately due to difficulties within Pobal we only received notification on the 5th of April 2007 that a 3 year contract 2007-2009 under the Community Services Programme had been approved with an increase of 6 staff (2 per annum for 3 years) to enable the project (Vantastic) to expand its disability transport service. This extra staffing will only be granted if service targets as outlined in the plan are actually being achieved.

In light of the recent success in securing three year grant funding we have instructed the General Manager to complete a three year strategic business plan for Vantastic for the period January 2007 through to December 2009. This plan will be based predominately on current, future agreed funding levels and assumptions of funding based on past experiences.

# Directors Report 2006

## Results and Reserves

The financial statements for the year ended 31st December, 2006 show a retained surplus for the year of €187,379.00

This Surplus is comprised of:

1. €134,987.00 - Independent Living Support Grant funds received in December for the purchase of 3 replacement vehicles and 10 CCTV systems. These monies will be spent in the first half of 2007.
2. € 52,392.00 - Surplus carried in cash reserves on the advice of Management at year end as a precaution to cover any unforeseen circumstance that could have resulted in the delay of the grant payments from either Pobal under the Community Services Programme or the Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform.

## Health and Safety

The company is committed to complying with the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 1989 and all other national and EU regulations.

## Books of Account

The measures taken by the directors to secure compliance with the company's obligation to keep proper books of account are the use of appropriate systems and procedures and employment of competent persons. The books of account are kept at Vantastic Dial A Ride Limited, Unit 2A, Howth Junction Business Park, Kilbarrack, Dublin 5

## Directors

There were no contracts or arrangements entered into during the year in which a director was materially interested in relation to the Group's business.

## Auditors

The auditors, Mullen Scully & Company, have expressed their willingness to continue in office in accordance with Section 160(2) of the Companies Act, 1963.

*On behalf of the board*

*Mr Don Bailey, Chairman*

*Mr Hugh Harkin, Director*

# General Managers Report 2006

Vantastic transport service was formed in 1995 as part of Dublin CIL in response to the State's failure to provide accessible transport for people with disabilities. In 2000 Vantastic Dial A Ride Limited (Vantastic) was set up as an independent limited company with charitable status (CHY 13777). The central thread running through the company in 2006 was the continuing commitment to offer our members an accessible, affordable, accountable and demand responsive door-to-door transport service.

In a time when public transport continues to be unable to meet the transport needs of the majority of the people with disabilities Vantastic in 2006 provided a service to approximately 1020 persons with a disability. This service was provided with the intention of addressing to the best of our capabilities the issue that due to a lack of accessible, available and affordable transport people with disabilities continue to face significant challenges in accessing employment, education and training opportunities, social activities and essential appointments. The increasing Vantastic service levels provided increased opportunities for people with disabilities to reach their fullest potential, engage in active citizenship, removed social exclusion and ensured that the talents and contributions of no one individual was ignored or overlooked.

In addition to the transport service we actively engaged in the ancillary activities of advocacy, campaigning and lobbying on issues relating to people with disabilities in the furtherance of the charitable purposes of Vantastic.

## Service Provided 2006

Vantastic had a **95% growth** year on year of member trips completed against 2005. In 2006 we completed a total of 18,124 member trips for approximately 1020 members.

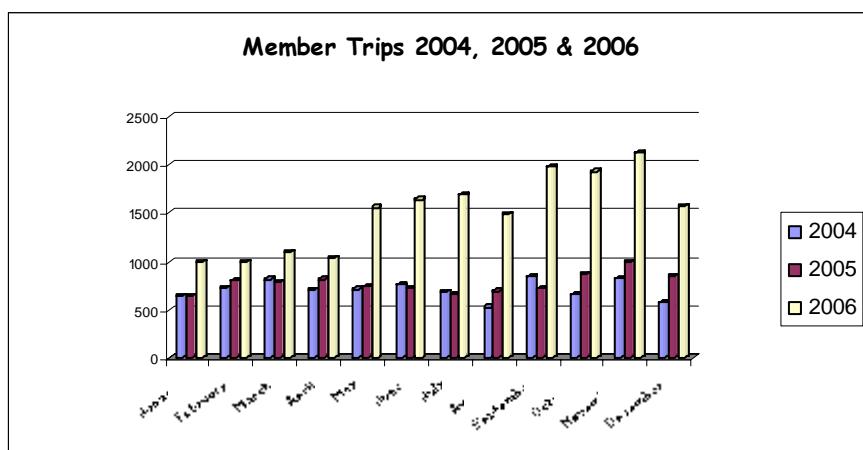
Throughout 2006 we operate a 7 day a week service with standard operating hours being from 7am to 10pm. As well as this we were able to provide on request a service to many member outside of our standard operating hours. We primarily provide transport in the greater Dublin Area. However we did cater for some travel to destinations outside Dublin and completed some day trips.

One aspect of the Vantastic service which I feel once again deserves special mention and thanks is the Vantastic Christmas day service. On a day when other transport providers do not provide a service, Vantastic ran a service coordinated by Pat Kavanagh of 7 vehicles driven by John Brennan, John Britton, Paul Carey, John Devoy, Brendan Dunne, Mike Flanagan and Dick Marsden. This service provided for 89 member trips on the day. All those involved in the Christmas day service were not required to work but made themselves available to allow members to travel on the day.

# General Managers Report 2006

## Member Trips

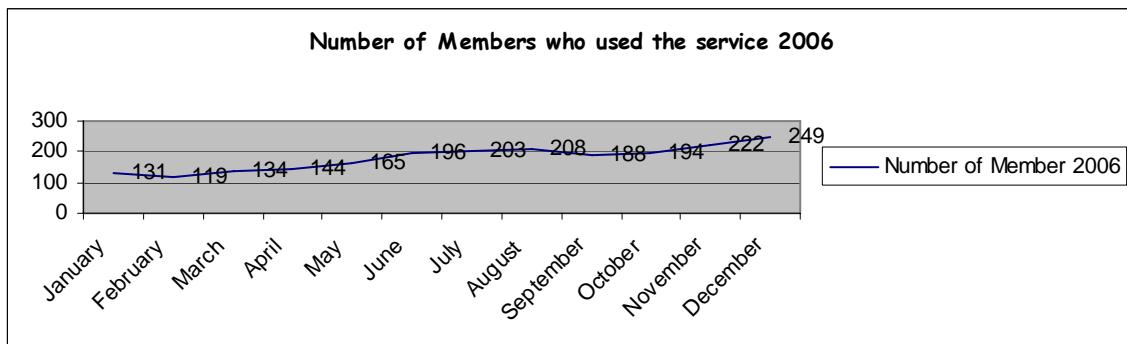
| <u>Year</u> | <u>Member Trips</u> |
|-------------|---------------------|
| 2004        | 8,480               |
| 2005        | 9,294               |
| 2006        | 18,124              |



## Member Use of the Vantastic Service 2006

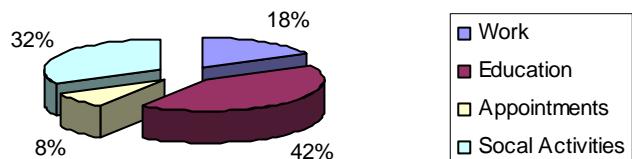
Vantastic as at the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2006 had 1020 active members

An average of 179 members used the service each month in 2006. With each completing an average of 8 trips a month.



Members use of the Vantastic service is broken down into four categories, travel to and from work, travel to and from education facilities, travel to and from appointments and travel for social reasons.

## **Nature of Vantastic Trips Completed 2006**

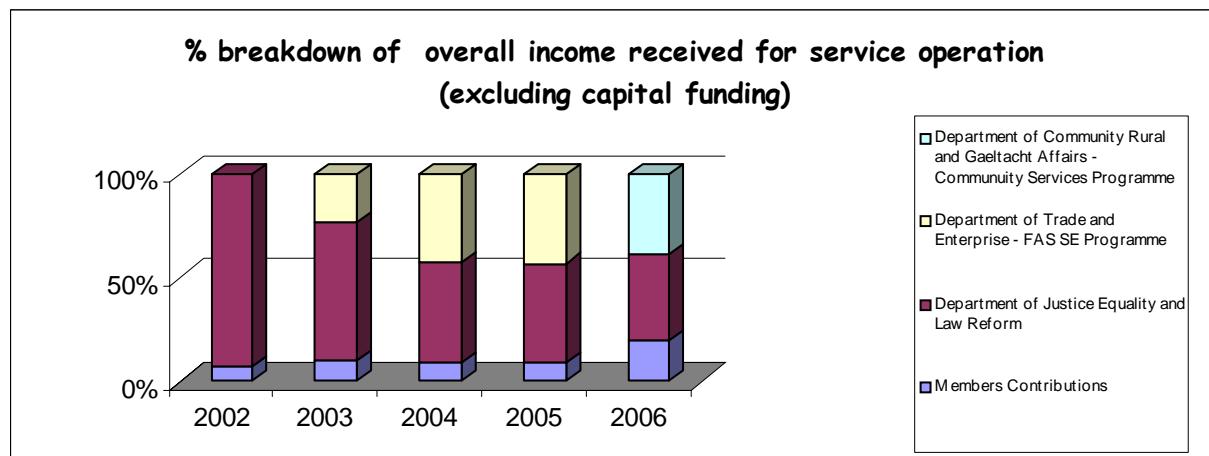


# General Managers Report 2006

## Income and Administrative Expenditure 2006

The total income received by Vantastic in 2006 was €1,221,155.00. Of this total income €280,408.00 (23%) was capital specific grant funding.

The primary sources of Income received in 2006 came from The Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform pilot project grant (32%), The Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs administrated by POBAL under the Community Services Programme (30%), Member contributions raised through fares (15%).

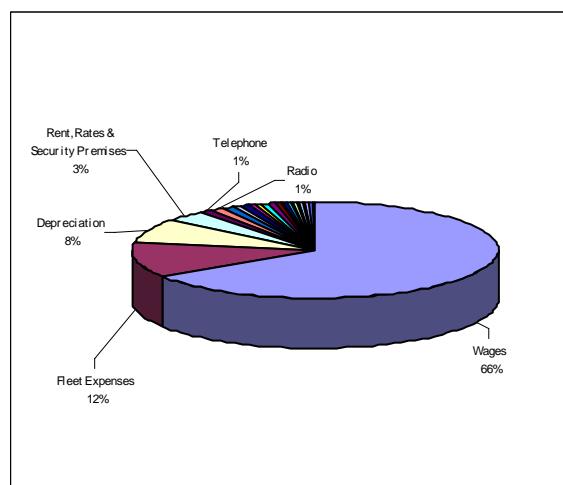


## Administrative Expenses

The total administrative expenses for Vantastic in 2006 was €1,030,154.00 . Of this the top three expenses were wages (63%), Fleet Maintenance (11%) and Depreciation (8%).

## The Top Five (excluding office relocation costs)

|                        | €          |
|------------------------|------------|
| Wages                  | 647,461.00 |
| Fleet Expenses         | 113,895.00 |
| Depreciation           | 82,462.00  |
| Rent, Rates & Security | 30,842.00  |
| Telephone              | 12,495.00  |



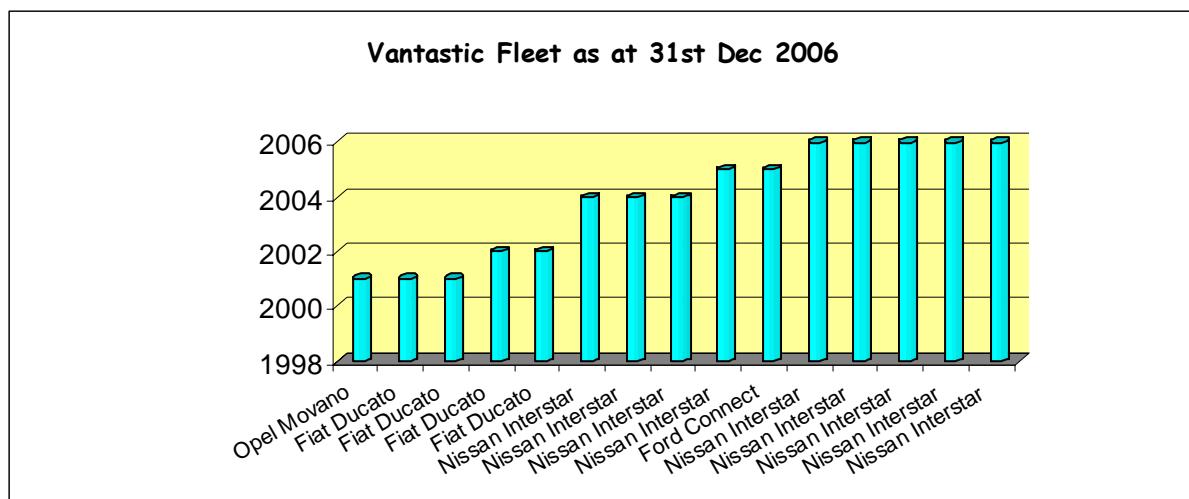
# General Managers Report 2006

## Capital Investments

In 2006 we received a total of €280,408.00 for the purchase of capital equipment. This was broken down into €145,421.00 from Dormant Accounts which was used to purchase four new additional vehicles in 2006. We received €134,987.00 in late December 2006 under the Independent living Support Grant. These funds were kept on account at year end and will see Vantastic purchase three replacement vehicles and a vehicle CCTV system in 2007.

In addition to the 4 vehicles purchased using the Dormant Accounts funding we purchased one new vehicle and one replacement vehicle in 2006 through self generated funds from members contributions via fares previously earned.

At the 31st of December 2006 we had a fleet of 15 vehicles.



## Retained Surplus for 2006

The audited accounts for Vantastic for the year ending the 31st of December 2006 shows a retained surplus of €187,379.00

This Surplus is comprised of:

1. €134,987.00 - Independent Living Support Grant funds
2. €52,392.00 - This surplus was carried in cash reserves at bank on the advice of Management at year end as a precaution to cover any unforeseen circumstance that could have resulted in the delay of the grant payments from either Pobal under the Social Service Programme or the Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform.

The ongoing carrying of cash reserves is required due to the difficulties Vantastic has and continues to experience in receiving grant funding in a timely manner from our funders.

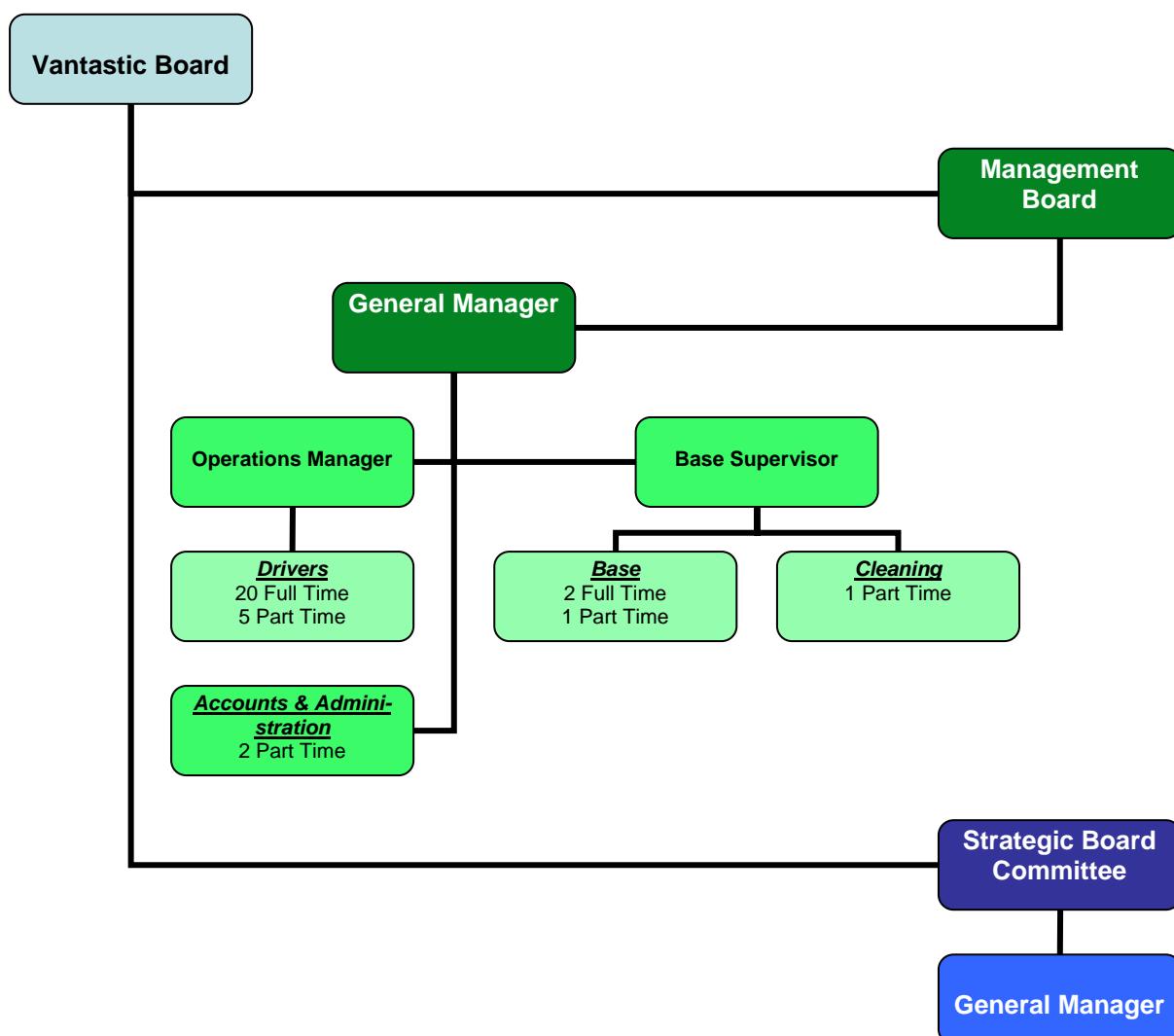
# General Managers Report 2006

## Vantastic Staff and Training 2006

Vantastic employed a total of 27 staff as of the 31st of December 2006. We at year end had a further 4 persons recruited to start in early 2007.

We spent a total of €8,642.00 on recruitment and training in 2006. The success of the Vantastic training programme is evident by 14 drivers and the Operations manager completing MIDAS and Unwin Harnessing. A number of the office staff successfully completed one day specific training courses.

It is only through the ongoing dedicated staff who work in Vantastic that the important service which Vantastic provides for people with disabilities exists. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all the staff of Vantastic for the great effort and professionalism which they put into their work in 2006.



# General Managers Report 2006

## Office Relocation 2006

In September 2006 Vantastic moved to new offices at :

*Unit 2a,  
Howth Junction Business Park,  
Kilbarrack,  
Dublin 5.*



These offices provide the much needed space to allow for the further growth of Vantastic. The ground floor of the building is fully accessible and we welcome all members to view the new premises.



When Vantastic initially rented the new premises it was in an open plan two story layout. With the assistance of a loan from Clann Credo we were able to undertake internal building works to meet Vantastic requirements. Currently the offices are laid out as follows. Ground floor - Base room, Operations office, Meeting/Board room, kitchenette and accessible toilet. First floor—Office space, IT room, storage, kitchen and toilet.



The sourcing of the new premises, the internal building layout design, the project management of all building works, the office fitout and the move process was fully managed in house by Vantastic.

# General Managers Report 2006

## Dormant Accounts 2004–2006



The Dormant Accounts Disbursements Board has allocated funds to Vantastic, a registered charity which provides transport services to people with disabilities in the Greater Dublin Area. Four vans were bought costing €145,000, bringing the total fleet owned by Vantastic to 12. At the ceremony were Michael Morley, chairman, Dormant Accounts Disbursements Board, and Cormac Moloney, general manager, Vantastic.

*Irish Independent New Paper 12th July 2007*

In March 2004 Vantastic applied for funding under the Dormant Accounts Fund. The project which we applied for funding for was to receive capital funding of €200,000.00 for the purchase of four wheelchair adapted vehicles for the transport of people with disabilities.

In March 2005 Vantastic received confirmation that we had been successful in obtaining grant funding of €145,421.40

In November 2005 the final documentation to ensure compliance with conditions for the drawdown of funding were completed. Vantastic received the Dormant account funding in February (90% of funding) and June 2006 (10% of funding).

Vantastic completed the purchase of the four accessible vehicles in July 2006 and a formal launch was held in Dublin Castle on the 12th of July 2006. In response to the formal launch of the four additional vehicles the Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs Eamon O'Civ said "*The expansion of the Vantastic fleet is a fine example of how this Government is continually upgrading, expanding and creating services and facilities for the benefit of as many people as possible in these target groups*".

In response to the receipt of funding at the launch Mr Cormac Moloney the General Manager of Vantastic said "*We are delighted that these funds have helped us acquire several new vehicles which in turn will help us step up capacity and frequency of our service to members*".

# General Managers Report 2006

## Members Day Out 2006

On the 15th of July 2006 Vantastic organised a day out for some our members. This day was made available to all members to attend. The day out was run completely by Vantastic staff and was **FREE OF CHARGE** for all those members who joined us on the day.

This event included collection from each persons home, a trip to Dublin Zoo, then transfer to another venue in Hill Street where a buffet style dinner and entertainment were provided and finally return transport to home.



The costs for the day were covered by Vantastic (using fare income earned) with the assistance of our suppliers who responded generously to our fundraising requests. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our kind sponsors for the day O2, Reidy Insurance, Statoil, Dublin Automotive Services, Reads, ParFit, Poole Industrial Supplies and PromotAbility.



DUBLIN AUTOMOTIVE  
SERVICES



POOLE INDUSTRIAL  
SUPPLIES



## Vantastic Funders



Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform (Pilot Project)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND LAW REFORM  
AN ROI NN DLÍ AGUS CIRT, COMHIONANNAS AGUS ATHCHÓIRITHE DLÍ

Since June 2000 Vantastic Dial A Ride Limited has been in receipt of funding from the Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform. Without this funding Vantastic would not have survived the past 5 years and be in its current position of providing an accessible, affordable and accountable transport service to people with disabilities in the greater Dublin area.

The department funded Vantastic to the amount of €390,000.00 (excluding capital funding) in 2006. This amount accounted for 41% of the overall income (excluding capital funding) for Vantastic in 2006.

Vantastic receives funding on a monthly basis from the department. This funding is based on a financial agreement signed between the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform and Vantastic Dial A Ride Limited. Under this agreement, the department undertakes to provide funding to Vantastic Dial A Ride Limited to provide a door to door transport services for people with disabilities. Vantastic Dial A Ride Limited undertakes to use the funding solely for activities set out in its Memorandum and Articles of Association. All monies paid to Vantastic Dial A Ride Limited, on foot of the agreement with the Department are lodged to a nominated account. The grant is paid monthly on submission by Vantastic Dial A Ride Limited of monthly financial accounts (included bank statements, Expenditure statements, Profit and Loss, Balance Sheet and additional supporting documentation), Annual & Monthly projections and Annual audited accounts of Vantastic Dial A Ride Limited.

As well as the activities associated with fulfilling our funding requirements we were actively engaged throughout 2006 with the Department on the question of additional resources to expand and develop the Vantastic Service. Following meetings in August 2006 with the Department we completed and lodged a funding proposal with the Department of Justice Equality and Law reform for 2007 in September 2006. In brief this proposal highlighted the then Vantastic service and presented the case for increased funding for consolidation of the existing Vantastic service and development into 2007. Unfortunately we were informed that our funding proposal was unsuccessful in early 2007.

## Vantastic Funders



Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform (Pilot Project)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND LAW REFORM  
AN ROI NN DLÍ AGUS CIRT, COMHIONANNAS AGUS ATHCHÓIRITHE DLÍ

Vantastic is pleased to announce that the Department has approved a €25,000.00 increase in funding for 2007. This increase will ensure that funding level received from the Department is maintained at levels similar to 2004, 2005 and 2006 once inflation has been taken account of.

In early 2007, we were informed that the Department intends to undertake a Value for Money Audit of Vantastic in 2007. We welcome this Value for Money Audit of Vantastic. The unlimited demand for our service has brought about many economies of scale and greater efficiencies within the company. We know that the proposed audit will highlight our success and bring about even greater efficiencies while demonstrating the clear need for a more strategic response from the State Sector to encompass the complete door to door transport disability sector. In undertaking the Value for Money Audit we hope that the social impact of the service we provide will be given the appropriate weighting on any Value for money result. Following our recent meetings with the Department where the Value for money audit was discussed we would further hope that following the completion of the audit that a structured planned programme of core funding can be introduced for Vantastic.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff at the Department. We would particularly like to thank Mr Roger Harrington who until February 2007 had been our direct contact within the Disability Equality Unit. The input, support and assistance from Mr Harrington over the past three years has allowed and provided Vantastic with the opportunity to grow our service level by **114%**.

In 2007 we look forward to continuing and maintaining the strong relationship with the Disability Equality Unit and Mr Matt McGann who has replaced Mr Harrington.

## Vantastic Funders



*An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe  
agus Gaeltachta*  
Department of Community, Rural  
and Gaeltacht Affairs



### Community Services Programme

In December 2005 Vantastic was informed that FAS had been notified by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment that the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, in consultation with the Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs had decided that responsibility for the Social Economy programme for Vantastic which had been operated by FAS was to transfer to the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. Effective on the 1st of January 2006 the funding responsibility was formally transferred to the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs with POBAL (Pobal is a not-for-profit company with charitable status that manages programmes on behalf of the Irish Government and the EU) being awarded the contract to manage the newly named "Community Services Programme".

Vantastic received €367,572.00 in 2006 this represented an increase of 4% increase in funding from the final year of the previous FAS administrated Social Economy Programme.

Vantastic receives funding on a quarterly basis administrated by POBAL under the Community Services Programme. This funding was based on a financial agreement signed between the POBAL and Vantastic Dial A Ride Limited. Under this agreement, POBAL undertakes to provide funding to Vantastic Dial A Ride Limited to provide a door to door transport services for people with disabilities. Vantastic Dial A Ride Limited undertakes to use the funding solely for activities set out in its Memorandum and Articles of Association. All moneys paid to Vantastic Dial A Ride Limited, on foot of the agreement with POBAL are lodged to a nominated account. The grant is paid quarterly on submission by Vantastic Dial A Ride Limited of quarterly report (included Expenditure reports, Bank Reconciliations and Payments Journal).

In 2006 the grant funding received under the Community Services Programme was provided to cover the employment of 16 full time equivalent staff and 1 manager.

## Vantastic Funders



*An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta*  
Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs



### Community Services Programme

In line with Pobal's strategic approach to the Community Services Programme as managed on behalf of the Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs Vantastic completed and submitted in December 2006 a three year business plan to cover the years 2007–2009.

This business plan involved the setting of performance indicators and annual targets for the Vantastic Community Services Programme. We are pleased to be able to announce that in March 2007 we were informed that our business plan was received favourably and has been fully accepted.

The 2007–2009 Vantastic Community services programme will see Vantastic continue to provide a transport service for people with disabilities at 2006 levels and to increase the level of service by 8,820 trips and active membership base by 429 associated with the programme over the years 2007, 2008 and 2009. In order to increase the number of trips and the active membership base we presented a plan that would require an increase of 6 staff (2 per annum for 3 years). The funding for extra staff has been agreed but will only be granted if service targets are actually being achieved.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff at Pobal and in particular Mr Kevin Leake and Ms Ingrid Colvin. We had no major difficulties with the transfer of all rights and responsibilities and the issuing of the 2006 contract and the activities associated with this contract and we look forward to continuing and maintaining the strong relationship with Pobal in 2007.

# Vantastic Funders

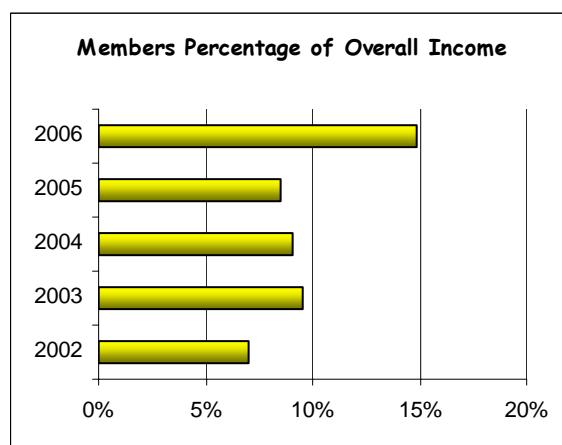
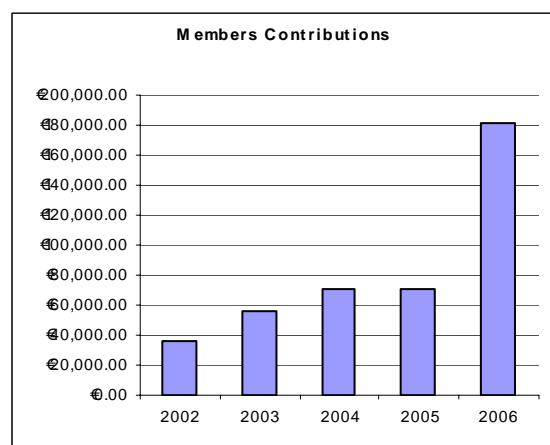
## Members Contributions 2006



Member contributions are made up of three key elements:

- Members Invoiced for trips completed
- Membership fees
- Donations received from members

Membership Contributions accounted for €181,175.00 in 2006. This amount accounted for 15% of the overall income for Vantastic Dial A Ride Limited in 2006. Membership contributions are an essential source of income required to operate the Vantastic service. Over the past five years income generated from member contributions has grown 80%.



The income generated from members contributions in 2006 accounted for full payment towards a New replacement vehicle 2006 registration, covered the depreciation cost on the existing fleet and assisted with covering the cost of relocating to our new offices.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members for their continued support through the use of the service. It is only through the growth of members and increased use of the service by members that Vantastic will grow to meet the demand which we know from experience exists for a *quality door to door transport service for people with disabilities that is demand responsive, accessible, affordable, accountable, customer focused and fully integrated with other mainstream transport services where possible*.

## Vantastic Funders

### Independent Living Support Programme



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND LAW REFORM  
AN ROIÑN DLÍ AGUS CIRT, COMHIONANNAIS AGUS ATHCHÓIRITHE DLÍ

In November 2006 The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform announced it's intention to provide €5m in 2006 for a once off grant programme entitled the Independent Living Support Programme. The National Disability Authority worked with the Department to appraise and evaluate the applications received under the programme.

The purpose of the Independent Living Support Programme was to assist voluntary, not-for-profit organisations and service providers, who work with or provide services to people with disabilities, to purchase supports which would enable independent living for people with disabilities.

Vantastic put an application in under the programme for €227,250.00. This funding was to replace three existing Vantastic Vehicles, purchase two additional vehicles and to input a CCTV system. The CCTV system was to provide for the security and protection of both Vantastic members who use the service and Vantastic employees who operate the vehicles.

In December 2006 we were informed that our application had been successful to the level of €149,985.00. This grant was to replace three existing vehicles and to input the CCTV system. On the 21st of December 2006 Vantastic received €134,986.50 (90% of the funding).

The purchase and the input of the CCTV system is scheduled to be completed by the end of July 2007.

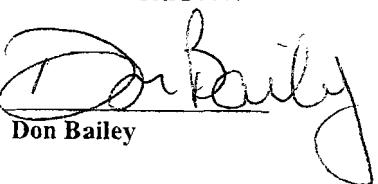
**Vantastic Dial-A-Ride Limited**  
**(A company limited by guarantee not having a share capital)**

**Directors' Report and Financial Statements**

**for the year ended 31st December 2006**

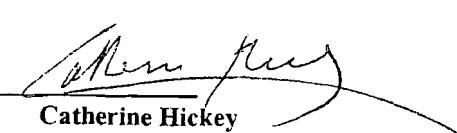
We certify this to be a true copy of the original Financial Statements as laid before the members at the Annual General Meeting held on 31 March 2007.

Director:



Don Bailey

Secretary:



Catherine Hickey

## **Vantastic Dial-A-Ride Limited**

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**Vantastic Dial-A-Ride Limited**

## **Directors and other information**

**Directors** Sheila Whelan  
Don Bailey  
Edward Dempsey  
Joan Cullen  
Lisa Howard  
Patrick Evers  
Barry Mooney  
Hugh Harkin

Secretary Catherine Hickey

Company number 323056

Auditors Mullen Scully & Company  
Shanowen Business Centre  
Shanowen Road  
Santry  
Dublin 9

**Business address** Unit 2A  
Howth Junction Business Park  
Kilbarrack  
Dublin 5

**Bankers** Ulster Bank Limited  
33 College Green  
Dublin 2.

## Vantastic Dial-A-Ride Limited

### Directors' report for the year ended 31st December 2006

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2006.

#### **Principal activity and business review**

The company provides a specialist demand responsive transport service to meet the mobility needs of people with disabilities.

#### **Results and dividends**

The results for the year are set out on page 6.

The company is limited by guarantee, does not have shares and cannot distribute dividends to its members.

#### **Directors and their interests**

The directors who served during the year and their interests in the company are as stated below:

Sheila Whelan  
Don Bailey  
Edward Dempsey  
Joan Cullen  
Lisa Howard  
Patrick Evers  
Barry Mooney  
Hugh Harkin      Appointed 19th January 2006

#### **Books of Account**

The measures taken by the directors to ensure compliance with the requirements of Section 202, Companies Act, 1990, regarding proper books of account are the implementation of necessary policies and procedures for recording transactions, the employment of competent accounting personnel with appropriate expertise and the provision of adequate resources to the financial function. The books of account of the company are maintained at the Registered Office.

#### **Auditors**

The auditors, Mullen Scully & Company, have indicated their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of Section 160(2) of the Companies Act, 1963.

This report was approved by the Board on 31 March 2007 and signed on its behalf by

*Hugh Harkin*  
Hugh Harkin

Director

Don Bailey  
Director

*Don Bailey*

## Vantastic Dial-A-Ride Limited

### Statement of Directors' responsibilities for the members' financial statements

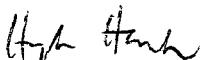
The directors are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland including the accounting standards issued by the Accounting Standards Board.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the surplus or deficit of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements the directors are required to:

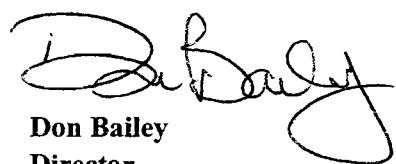
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper books of account that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure the financial statements comply with the Companies Acts 1963 to 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the board



Hugh Harkin  
Director



Don Bailey  
Director

Date: 31st March 2007

**Independent auditors' report to the members of  
Vantastic Dial-A-Ride Limited**

We have audited the financial statements of Vantastic Dial-A-Ride Limited for the year ended 31st December 2006 which comprise the income and expenditure account, the balance sheet and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 193 of the Companies Act, 1990. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors**

As described in the statement of directors' responsibilities the company's directors are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland including the accounting standards issued by the Accounting Standards Board.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Acts 1963 to 2006. We also report to you whether in our opinion: proper books of account have been kept by the company; and whether the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements. In addition, we state whether we have obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit, and whether the financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.

We also report to you if, in our opinion, any information specified by law regarding directors' remuneration and directors' transactions is not disclosed and, where practicable, include such information in our report.

We read the directors' report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

## **Independent auditors' report to the members of Vantastic Dial-A-Ride Limited (continued)**

### **Basis of audit opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

### **Opinion**

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, of the state of the company's affairs as at 31st December 2006 and of its surplus for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Acts 1963 to 2006.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit. In our opinion proper books of account have been kept by the company. The financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.

In our opinion the information given in the directors' report is consistent with the financial statements.

**Mullen Scully & Company  
Registered Auditors**

**Date: 31st March 2007**

**Shanowen Business Centre  
Shanowen Road  
Santry  
Dublin 9**

**Vantastic Dial-A-Ride Limited**

**Income and expenditure account  
for the year ended 31st December 2006**

|                                       | <b>Notes</b> | <b>Continuing operations</b> |                |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|----------------|
|                                       |              | <b>2006</b>                  | <b>2005</b>    |
| <b>Income</b>                         | <b>2</b>     | 1,221,155                    | 828,038        |
| Administrative expenses               |              | (1,030,154)                  | (761,306)      |
| <b>Operating surplus</b>              | <b>3</b>     | 191,001                      | 66,732         |
| Interest payable and similar charges  | <b>4</b>     | (3,622)                      | (4,286)        |
| <b>Retained surplus for the year</b>  |              | 187,379                      | 62,446         |
| Retained funds brought forward        |              | 186,737                      | 124,291        |
| <b>Retained funds carried forward</b> |              | <u>374,116</u>               | <u>186,737</u> |

There are no recognised gains or losses other than the surplus for the above two financial years.

Approved by the Board on 31 March 2007 and signed on its behalf by

**Hugh Harkin**  
**Director**

**Don Bailey**  
**Director**

**The notes on pages 8 to 12 form an integral part of these financial statements.**

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**Vantastic Dial-A-Ride Limited**

**Balance sheet  
as at 31st December 2006**

|  | Notes | 2006     | 2005     |
|--|-------|----------|----------|
|  |       | €        | €        |
| <b>Fixed assets</b>  |       |          |          |
| Tangible assets  | 7     | 228,757  | 120,833  |
| <b>Current assets</b>  |       |          |          |
| Debtors  | 8     | 82,063   | 43,446   |
| Cash at bank and in hand                                       |       | 155,528  | 105,125  |
|  |       | 237,591  | 148,571  |
| <b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>          | 9     | (69,314) | (68,316) |
| <b>Net current assets</b>                                      |       | 168,277  | 80,255   |
| <b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>                   |       | 397,034  | 201,088  |
| <b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b> | 10    | (22,918) | (14,351) |
| <b>Net assets</b>  |       | 374,116  | 186,737  |
| <b>Represented by</b>  |       |          |          |
| Retained funds   |       | 374,116  | 186,737  |
| <b>Accumulated Funds</b>                                       |       | 374,116  | 186,737  |

Approved by the Board on 31 March 2007 and signed on its behalf by

Hugh Harkin  
Director

Don Bailey  
Director

**The notes on pages 8 to 12 form an integral part of these financial statements.**

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**Vantastic Dial-A-Ride Limited**

**Notes to the financial statements  
for the year ended 31st December 2006**

**1. Statement of accounting policies**

**1.1. Basis of preparation**

The audited financial statements are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles under the historical cost convention, and comply with financial reporting standards of the Accounting Standards Board.

**1.2. Cash flow statement**

The company meets the size criteria for a small company set by the Companies (Amendment) Act, 1986 and therefore, in accordance with FRS1: Cash flow statements, it has not prepared a cash flow statement.

**1.3. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

**Depreciation**

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value, of each asset systematically over its expected useful life, as follows:

|                                     |                     |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Fixtures, fittings<br>and equipment | - 20% Straight Line |
| Motor vehicles                      | - 20% Straight Line |

**1.4. Leasing and hire purchase commitments**

Assets obtained under hire purchase contracts and finance leases are capitalised as tangible assets and depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and their useful lives. Obligations under such agreements are included in creditors net of the finance charge allocated to future periods. The finance element of the rental payment is charged to the profit and loss account so as to produce constant periodic rates of charge on the net obligations outstanding in each period.

**1.5. Deferred taxation**

The company has tax exempt charitable status.

**1.6. Pensions**

The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contribution payable by the company during the year.

**1.7. Turnover Policy**

Turnover represents total grant income and other income received during the year.

**Vantastic Dial-A-Ride Limited**

**Notes to the financial statements  
for the year ended 31st December 2006**

..... continued

**2. Income**

The total income of the company for the year has been derived from its principal activity wholly undertaken in Ireland.

|   | <b>2006</b>            | <b>2005</b>          |
|---|------------------------|----------------------|
|   | €                      | €                    |
| <b>Class of business</b>                              |                        |                      |
| Grants: Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform | 390,000                | 390,000              |
| Grants: FAS Social Economy                            | -                      | 353,277              |
| Members Contributions                                 | 181,175                | 71,261               |
| Comhairle   | -                      | 6,500                |
| National Lottery                                      | -                      | 7,000                |
| *Independent Living Support Grant                     | 134,987                | -                    |
| C.S.P. 275 Grants                                     | 367,572                | -                    |
| Fundraising   | 2,000                  | -                    |
| Dormant Accounts Grant                                | 145,421                | -                    |
|   | <hr/> <u>1,221,155</u> | <hr/> <u>828,038</u> |

\*The Independent Living Support Grant of €134,987 which was received in December 2006 is to fund the purchase of three replacement vehicles and a CCTV system. This expenditure will be incurred in the first half of 2007.

**3. Operating surplus**

|  | <b>2006</b>        | <b>2005</b>        |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
|  | €                  | €                  |
| <b>Operating surplus is stated after charging:</b>         |                    |                    |
| Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible assets | 82,462             | 77,962             |
| Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets                  | 4,606              | -                  |
| Auditors' remuneration                                     | <hr/> <u>4,577</u> | <hr/> <u>4,685</u> |

**4. Interest payable and similar charges**

|  | <b>2006</b>        | <b>2005</b>        |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
|  | €                  | €                  |
| <b>Included in this category is the following:</b> |                    |                    |
| On bank loans and overdrafts                       | 2,205              | 3,525              |
| Lease finance charges and hire purchase interest   | <hr/> <u>1,417</u> | <hr/> <u>761</u>   |
|  | <hr/> <u>3,622</u> | <hr/> <u>4,286</u> |

# Vantastic Dial-A-Ride Limited

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2006

..... continued

### 5. Employees

#### Number of employees

|   | 2006      | 2005      |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| The average monthly numbers of employees<br>(including the directors) during the year were: |           |           |
| Management and Administration   | 3         | 3         |
| Radio base controller and operators   | 3         | 3         |
| Drivers   | 21        | 17        |
|   | <u>27</u> | <u>23</u> |

| Employment costs    | 2006           | 2005           |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                     | €              | €              |
| Wages and salaries  | 647,461        | 472,289        |
| Other pension costs | 7,696          | 5,697          |
|                     | <u>655,157</u> | <u>477,986</u> |

### 6. Pension costs

Pension costs amounted to €7,696 (2005 - €5,697)

**Vantastic Dial-A-Ride Limited**

**Notes to the financial statements  
for the year ended 31st December 2006**

..... continued

| 7. Tangible fixed assets  | Fixtures,<br>fittings and<br>equipment | Motor<br>vehicles | Total          |
|---------------------------|--|-------------------|----------------|
|                           | €                                      | €                 | €              |
| <b>Cost</b>               |  |                   |                |
| At 1st January 2006       | 37,499                                 | 226,246           | 263,745        |
| Motor vehicle VAT refunds | -                                      | (7,696)           | (7,696)        |
| Additions                 | 5,487                                  | 204,764           | 210,251        |
| Disposals                 | -                                      | (32,821)          | (32,821)       |
| At 31st December 2006     | <u>42,986</u>                          | <u>390,493</u>    | <u>433,479</u> |
| <b>Depreciation</b>       |  |                   |                |
| At 1st January 2006       | 29,740                                 | 113,171           | 142,911        |
| On disposals              | -                                      | (20,651)          | (20,651)       |
| Charge for the year       | 4,667                                  | 77,795            | 82,462         |
| At 31st December 2006     | <u>34,407</u>                          | <u>170,315</u>    | <u>204,722</u> |
| <b>Net book values</b>    |  |                   |                |
| At 31st December 2006     | <u>8,579</u>                           | <u>220,178</u>    | <u>228,757</u> |
| At 31st December 2005     | <u>7,759</u>                           | <u>113,075</u>    | <u>120,834</u> |

| 8. Debtors                     | 2006          | 2005          |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                                | €             | €             |
| Trade debtors                  | 73,401        | 38,446        |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 8,662         | 5,000         |
|                                | <u>82,063</u> | <u>43,446</u> |

**Vantastic Dial-A-Ride Limited**

**Notes to the financial statements  
for the year ended 31st December 2006**

..... continued

|  | <b>2006</b> | <b>2005</b> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
|  | €           | €           |
| <b>9. Creditors: amounts falling due<br/>within one year</b>           |             |             |
| Bank overdraft   | 807         | -           |
| Loan   | 20,137      | 27,443      |
| Trade creditors  | 10,528      | 13,065      |
| PAYE and social welfare  | 23,705      | 7,542       |
| Other creditors  | 3,364       | 5,089       |
| Accruals and deferred income   | 10,773      | 15,177      |
|  | <hr/>       | <hr/>       |
|  | 69,314      | 68,316      |
|  | <hr/>       | <hr/>       |
| <b>10. Creditors: amounts falling due<br/>after more than one year</b> | <b>2006</b> | <b>2005</b> |
|  | €           | €           |
| Loan from Clann Credo Limited  | -           | 14,351      |
| Clann Credo Premises loan  | 22,918      | -           |
|  | <hr/>       | <hr/>       |
|  | 22,918      | 14,351      |
|  | <hr/>       | <hr/>       |
| Loans  |             |             |
| Repayable in one year or less, or on demand (Note 9)                   | 20,137      | 27,443      |
| Repayable between two and five years                                   | 22,918      | 14,351      |
|  | <hr/>       | <hr/>       |
|  | 43,055      | 41,794      |
|  | <hr/>       | <hr/>       |

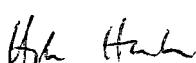
The loan from Clann Credo Limited is secured by way of a first fixed charge over the assets of the company

**11. Accounting Periods**

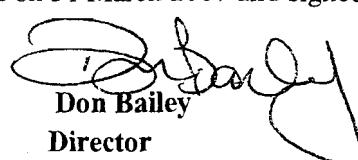
The current accounts are for a full year. The comparative accounts are for a full year.

**12. Approval of financial statements**

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 31 March 2007 and signed on its behalf by

  
Hugh Harkin

Director

  
Don Bailey  
Director