

## LEADER BRIEFS

## Money talks in the city

A NEW initiative where people can "sell" their language will be held on Bedford Row on January 24 between 11am and 4pm. People are invited to teach someone their language and earn extra cash. The minimum price is €1 for a five minute lesson.

## Pottery courses

ADULT and kids pottery courses at Limerick Ceramic Works off Henry Street will run from this Wednesday, January 14. The classes run for six weeks and participants get an introduction to ceramics through various hand-building and decorating techniques. The cost varies from €130 to €150. Call Tania on 061 408714 for more details.

## Poetry revival

NEXT week's guest poet at the White House poetry revival night on O'Connell Street is Gene Barry, who will read a selection of his work on Wednesday, January 21 from 9pm. He is presently putting the finishing touches to his first collection of poetry, which will be published later this year.

## Delohery art heads north

LOCAL artist Thomas Delohery is to have his first solo exhibition in Northern Ireland since 2004 at the end of this month. Over 20 mixed media pieces on display in the Alley Arts & Conference Centre in from January 27. The exhibition, titled When God and the World Slept, will be on display until February 13.

## Dolan's gig

COMEDIAN David O'Doherty will be in Dolan's Warehouse on January 22. He won a comedy award for best show at the Edinburgh Fringe festival last year. Doors open at 8pm and tickets are priced at €15.

## Exhibition at the Hunt Museum

THE first exhibition to grace the gallery at The Hunt Museum for 2009 is an iconic photographic exhibition by the late Dublin photographer Hugh Doran. His photographs were presented to the Irish Architectural Archive in 2005 in accordance with his wishes. The exhibition will run from January 19 to February 22.

# Focused response urged on Dell jobs

■ Fine Gael leader calls for training and tax breaks to tackle jobs crisis

By JOHN HOGAN

A TASKFORCE and serious government investment in training and upskilling as well as tax breaks for employers are required to tackle the fall out of major job losses at Dell, Fine Gael leader Enda Kenny said yesterday while on a trip to Limerick.

Deputy Kenny was in the city to hear proposals from local Fine Gael TDs and party members on how to create new opportunities for the 1,900 workers that will be laid off over the next year at the Raheen plant.

"This part of Ireland has clearly slipped in the last ten to 15 years and we need to restore confidence, build on Government-led action and give people the opportunity to get jobs and create jobs," the Fine Gael leader said at the Clarion Hotel, where he met his local party colleagues.

"I've heard a variety of assessments from Government Ministers, some to the effect that a whole range of jobs would be created further by Dell. It's fair to say that the plant will continue for the moment but there now needs to be serious Government action and that involves the setting up of a properly structured and resourced task force," he continued.

"The situation also requires serious investment in terms of training



Fine Gael Leader Enda Kenny meeting with his local party representatives at the Clarion Hotel, from left: Deputy Noel Coonan, Cllr Cormac Hurley, Deputy Kieran O'Donnell, Deputy Michael Noonan, Cllr Mary Jackman and Deputy Dan Neville (LL)

ing and upskilling. You need to look at taxation systems in terms of small indigenous employers to allow them to take on extra employees."

He added that the Dell decision was evidence of the country slipping in terms of competitiveness, a loss of export share, the Government failing to keep down their own costs and insufficient emphasis

being put on development in the Mid-West.

"There's a need to look at all the opportunities that exist within the region and this meeting with the Limerick deputies and deputies from Kerry North is to take all ideas into account."

The Fine Gael leader concluded by saying that not setting up a jobs taskforce any earlier, despite widespread speculation

about job losses at Dell for several months, was "typical of this Government."

"They do a lot of talking but focused and concentrated action has never been evident from them. The prime example of this is the massive financial miscalculation this year, where they have already been €2bn off with their own estimates for this year's budget."



Going up....Deputy Kenny talks to the media the top of the Clarion, with a view of the city in the background



LEAVYS SHOES

113 O'Connell St

15 William St