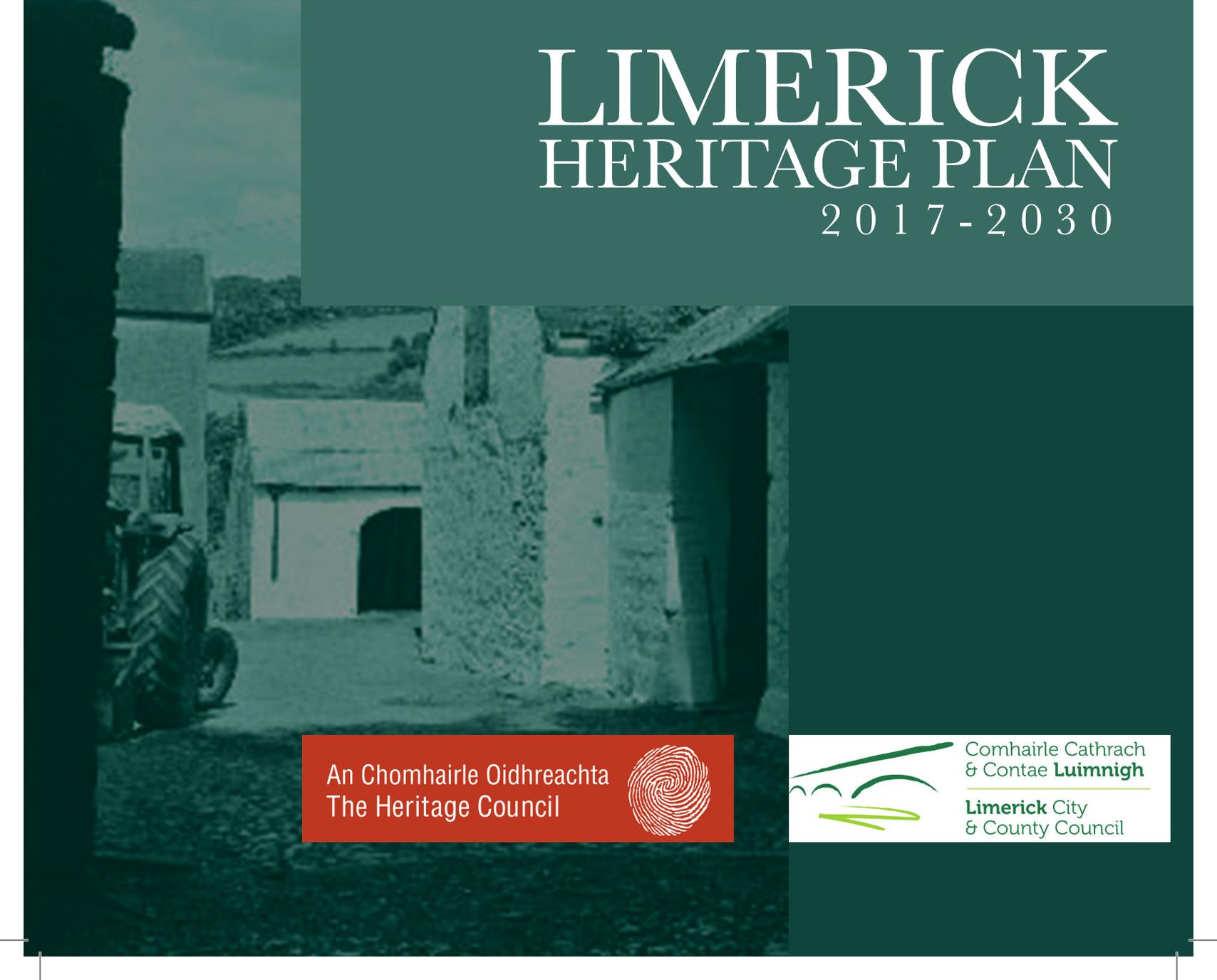




# LIMERICK HERITAGE PLAN

2017-2030



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta  
The Heritage Council



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick** City  
& County Council



# FOREWORD



As Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, I am delighted to be associated with the publication of the Limerick City and County Heritage Plan 2017 – 2030. Limerick City and County has a rich and varied wealth of heritage, of which we are proud, however, there is a need to promote a better understanding of heritage, to encourage its inclusion in strategic development and to acknowledge its pivotal role in place making and sustainable growth.

The Heritage Plan highlights Limerick's rich heritage and seeks to provide for practical action in its long term care, while also encouraging a better understanding, enjoyment, and management of the City and County's heritage in partnership with all the stakeholders. The Heritage Plan offers a partnership process within which communities and individuals can engage with the Council to assist in the delivery of our heritage objectives.

There are many diverse forms of heritage in Limerick, which have unquestionable social and educational value, underestimated economic potential and make an important contribution to community pride and sense of place. Limerick City and County Council and the wider community sees Limerick's heritage as more than a legacy of the past but an important resource for its future.

I wish to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all those involved in the production of this Plan and I look forward to working together in the future to bring about a greater understanding and appreciation of the wonderful built, natural and cultural heritage of our City and County. The collaborative approach taken to produce this Plan will, I believe, be crucial to its success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stephen Keary". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.



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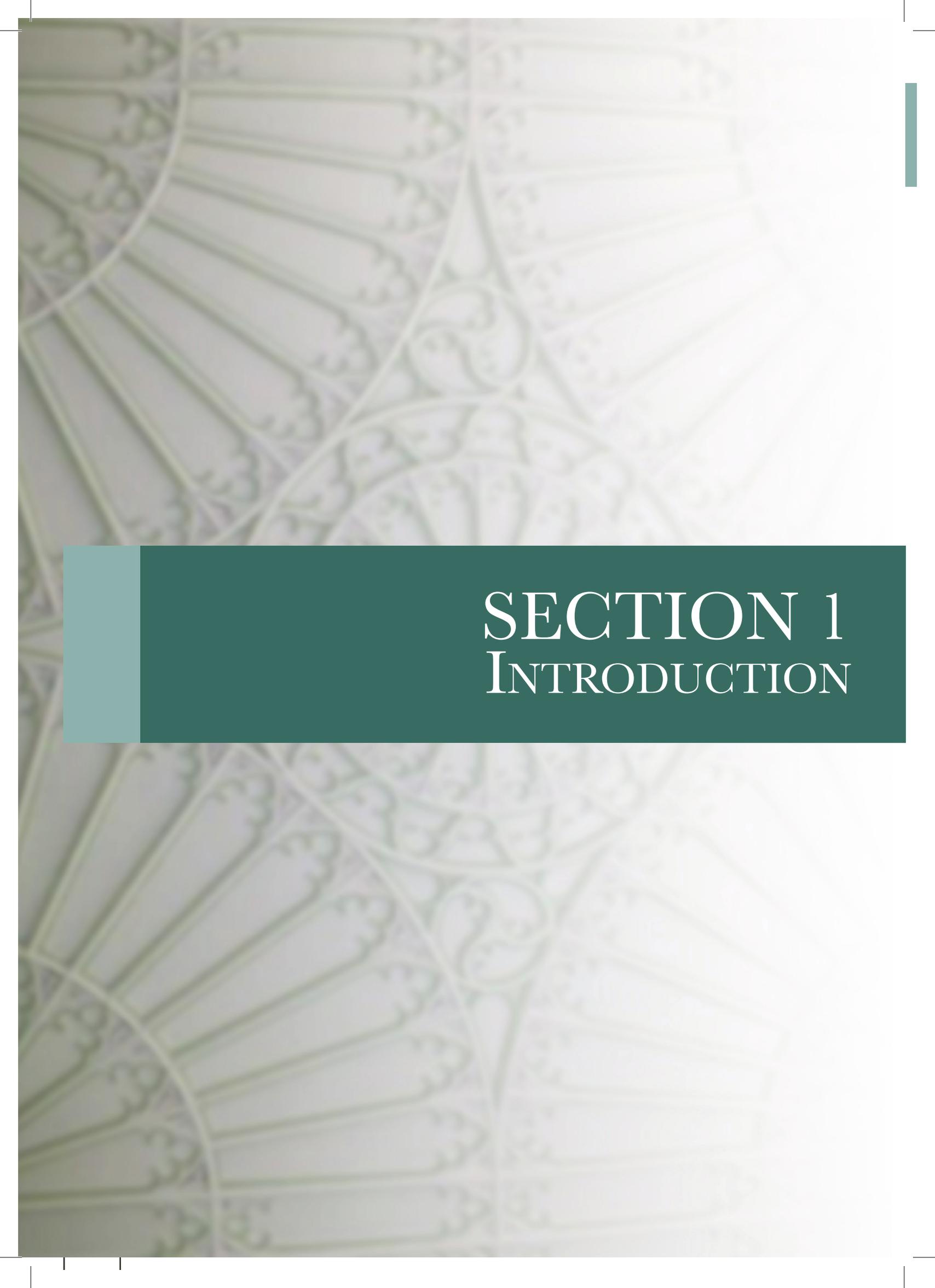
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SECTION 1  
INTRODUCTION

# 1.1

# Introduction

Heritage refers to inherited traditions, monuments, objects and culture. According to the Heritage Act 1995, the national heritage of Ireland includes monuments, archaeological objects, heritage objects, architectural heritage, flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, landscapes, seascapes, wrecks, geology, heritage gardens and parks and inland waterways. Heritage can also be less tangible, for example local history, folklore, place names, culture, collective memories, traditions, historic documents, language, rituals, symbolism, fashion, literature, song and music, spiritually and genealogy. It consists of objects, structures, and processes that are passed from generation to generation as they have a distinct historic, social, cultural or environmental value.

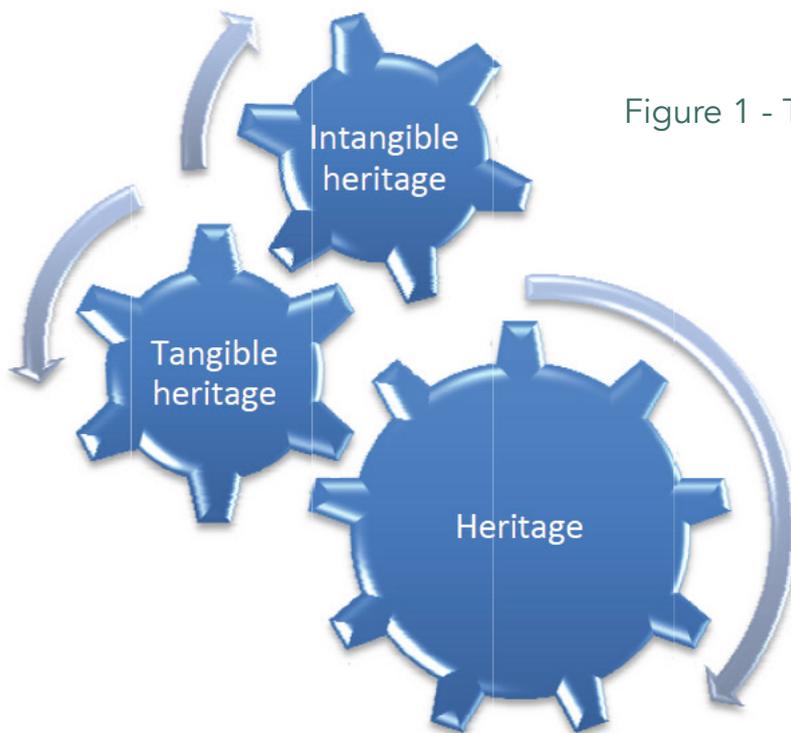


Figure 1 - The interface of heritage

Heritage is a very important facet of the community, contributing to a sense of identity and place and it is important that our rich heritage is available for future generations to appreciate. People have an idea of what heritage 'is' and perspectives of heritage are as wide and diverse as the individual people that constitute modern society. Research has found that it can be difficult for people to articulate a clear understanding of heritage. Built heritage can dominate responses to the question of what is heritage, while natural heritage and intangible heritage can be less visible in the context of people's perception of heritage.<sup>1</sup>

In recognition of the importance of heritage nationally, the Heritage Council was established as a statutory body under the Heritage Act 1995 to manage heritage projects and initiatives, and to promote and maintain heritage nationally. At a local level the Heritage Council works with Local Authorities and community groups to promote, protect and manage local heritage.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> An Awareness and Understanding of Irish Heritage' prepared by Elaine Sloan on behalf of the Heritage Council, April 2015

<sup>2</sup> [www.heritagecouncil.ie](http://www.heritagecouncil.ie)

The Limerick City and County Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019 aims to invest in Limerick’s infrastructure, protect its natural and built environment and unique heritage.<sup>3</sup> Two key objectives of the Limerick 2030 – an Economic and Spatial Plan for Limerick specifically refer to Limerick’s special heritage and its environmental characteristics having tourism opportunities, and the need to protect and enhance the historic character of the City.<sup>4</sup> Both the Limerick City and County Development Plans, both 2010 – 2016 (as extended) have a number of objectives in relation to built heritage and the natural environment.

# 1.2

## Limerick’s heritage and the need for a heritage plan

Limerick’s heritage is one of depth and complexity, consisting of many facets within the natural and built environment, and the cultural vibrancy of the City and County. There are many perspectives as to what people identify as their heritage and what Limerick’s heritage is. There is an abundance of local community work in Limerick preserving and promoting our natural, built and cultural heritage with many inventive initiatives taking place throughout the year with very scarce resources. Projects are largely dependent on volunteerism, altruism, passion and commitment on the part of the individual, and collectively as a community and society.

The heritage plan is a non-statutory document. It is a means to open the discussion on the significance of Limerick’s heritage. It prompts us to look at a range of heritage issues, its value to communities, people and society. It is not an operational plan: it is a document that facilitates a coordinated approach between the Council, the community and other agencies to determine the general principles for the protection and development of our heritage for future generations. This heritage plan is intended to outline broad aims and objectives for the future development, protection, promotion, and maintenance of a very unique and valuable resource, that is, Limerick’s heritage.



Figure 2 - The attributes of Limerick’s heritage

<sup>3</sup> Limerick City and County Council Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019

<sup>4</sup> Limerick 2030 – An Economic and Spatial Plan for Limerick, November 2014

A heritage plan is an essential mechanism to:

- pass on Limerick’s heritage to future generations in the interest of sustainable future development.
- contribute to a sense of community, sense of pride, sense of place, respecting the natural, cultural and built environments and Limerick’s unique biodiversity.
- to maximise the resources and expertise of the many agencies working in the heritage area, including state bodies, local government, the private and voluntary sectors.
- complement and maximise the potential of heritage for tourism development, local economic development, and supporting principles of sustainable planning and development.
- strengthen existing community development initiatives, assist local communities to secure funding for projects, e.g. Tidy Towns, etc.
- assist the implementation of national policy in relation to heritage at a local level.<sup>5</sup>

Limerick County Council prepared a Heritage Plan in 2005 and a biodiversity plan was prepared by Limerick City Council in 2012. Given the amalgamation of Limerick City and Limerick County Councils in 2014, Local Government reforms under Putting People First<sup>6</sup>, and the inter-relationships of the built, historical, cultural and natural environments, it is considered timely that a Heritage Plan for Limerick City and County be prepared. This plan has been prepared in accordance with the policies and objectives of the Limerick County Development Plan 2010 – 2016 (as extended) and the Limerick City Development Plan 2010 – 2016 (as extended) in terms of the built and natural environment. This document has also been informed by a number of national policy documents including: the National Biodiversity Plan 2011 – 2016, National Heritage Plan 2002 – 2007, Creative Ireland 2025, Action Plan for Rural Development, and Government Policy on Architecture 2009 – 2015. Many useful publications by the Heritage Council have also informed this process including, the Heritage Council Priorities 2016 and beyond, and reports such as the Economic Value of Ireland’s Historic Environment and the Heritage Awareness Survey undertaken by the Heritage Council.

In recent years there have been many changes in Irish society that impact on heritage. These include the economic decline, public expenditure cuts, and local government reform. These are experienced at a time when public expectations regarding digital access to information have risen, as have demands for social media and digitalisation, as a means to engage with heritage. On a global scale the built and natural heritage is impacted upon by climate change and the global economy. Heritage is an exceptional resource offering employment, recreation, health, learning and enjoyment. The development of this Heritage Plan for Limerick City and County presents an opportunity to renew our efforts to protect, manage, and promote Limerick’s heritage. It is intended that this plan is a step in creating momentum for supporting heritage in Limerick City and County in terms of physical and social infrastructure and securing funding for heritage initiatives.

<sup>5</sup> Department of Arts, Heritage, the Gaeltacht and the Islands , ‘National Heritage Plan 2002’

<sup>6</sup> Putting People First – Action Programme for Effective Local Government, 2011, Department of Environment, Community



## 1.3

# Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to Limerick's heritage

The following SWOT analysis is an important tool to assist in identifying the positive aspects of Limerick's heritage and the opportunities heritage presents, while being mindful of the weaknesses and threats. Using the analysis we can determine aims and objectives for heritage, bearing in mind a finite supply of resources including volunteers and funding. It identifies how competitive Limerick is in terms of promotion of its heritage in comparison with its neighbours, nationally and internationally. It helps determine Limerick's ambitions for its heritage. The analysis also identifies risks and critical areas that Limerick can capitalise on in terms of its vibrant heritage. It can also contribute to the impetus to collectively act for the betterment of local heritage in Limerick City and County. The following SWOT analysis is not exhaustive but does indicate the position of Limerick at this time with regard to heritage.

## STRENGTHS

- Distinctive built heritage
- Contemporary architecture
- A wide range of natural landscapes
- Strong historic, heritage and cultural assets including sport
- Wealth of expertise and knowledge in the heritage area
- Strong community engagement and community interest in heritage
- Rich archaeological heritage
- Pro-active in the Irish Walled Towns Network
- Local development companies
- A City museum, and a number of private collections
- A City Art Gallery with international recognition - EVA
- On-line archives, museum catalogue and local history resources available through [www.limerick.ie](http://www.limerick.ie)

## WEAKNESSES

- Natural heritage and biodiversity is under-surveyed
- Lack of funding for heritage projects nationally and locally
- Dependency on volunteerism
- Limerick is not perceived as a heritage or tourism destination
- People have very different perceptions of what 'heritage' is
- Damage to heritage not noticed until crisis
- Full potential of heritage not yet evident
- Lack of clear political commitment to heritage, national heritage policy fluctuating with changing political and economic climate
- Lack of skills for appropriate works to historical structures, buildings, bridges etc.

## OPPORTUNITIES

- Economic and employment potential of heritage in urban and rural areas
- Promotion of heritage through media and digitalisation
- Skills development and training potential
- Presence of third level institutions
- Potential to build on the cultural diversity of the new communities
- Potential to raise awareness of heritage and to engage with young people
- Potential to develop walled towns including Adare and Caherconlish
- Promote social integration and cohesion
- Creativity and innovation

## THREATS

- Modern materials used to repair/restore older structures causing extensive damage
- Traditional skills and knowledge dying with older generations
- Scarcity of skilled crafts people, cost of traditional materials, and difficulties in sourcing skills and material
- Availability of funding
- Political and economic climates
- Economic considerations taking precedence over long term impact on heritage value
- Fear of legal obligations when organising community events.
- Loss of natural habitat through eutrophication, invasive species, population growth and climate change.

# 1.4

## The aims and purpose of the Heritage Plan

“The purpose of the plan is to ensure that the Local Authority and the wider community focus on the need to ensure that Limerick’s heritage continues to be unique and diverse, while being accessible to all. Heritage should remain a strong contributory factor to Limerick being a special place to live, work, locate to and a worthwhile location to invest in.”

Heritage should not be seen merely as a ‘backdrop’ to everyday life. It needs to be participatory and integral to contemporary life. The heritage experience needs to be sufficiently engaging and imaginative to warrant the wider community’s interest, instilling a sense of pride and ownership and wanting to ‘keep it alive’. Ideally, heritage should be all inclusive and accessible to all to ensure its survival.

To achieve this purpose, the following are the aims of this plan:

### AIM 1

To raise the awareness of, appreciation for and enjoyment of Limerick City and County’s heritage

### AIM 2

To acquire knowledge through survey and research on heritage in Limerick City and County and to make it available to the wider public in a user-friendly manner

### AIM 3

To promote best practice and encourage heritage conservation and management

### AIM 4

To support the local economy and strengthen tourism

# 1.5 Rationale for the aims

## AIM 1

To raise the awareness of, appreciation for and enjoyment of Limerick City and County's heritage

Limerick City and County Council has the benefit of offering heritage education through a diversity of means including the bi-annual Built Heritage lecture series, Exhibitions through the Museums and Archives Service, the Library Service and the City and County Art Gallery. The online catalogue of over 55,000 items by the City and County Museum and other heritage initiatives under Limerick City of Culture 2014, the 1916 Commemorations, the Limerick Regeneration programme and the Limerick 2020 bid for European City of Culture are supported by the Local Authority.

The effective promotion of our heritage by encouraging residents and visitors alike to participate in and to enjoy the heritage experiences is central to raising awareness levels and appreciation of what Limerick City and County has to offer. This is also the route by which we develop a sense of shared ownership of our heritage. This could also play part in the development of small heritage related businesses such as guided tours, heritage trails in urban and rural areas and the promotion of heritage and tourist attractions throughout the city and county.



## AIM 2

To acquire knowledge through survey and research on heritage in Limerick City and County and to make it available to the wider public in a user-friendly manner

This plan seeks to improve baseline information in relation to heritage through research and survey. It is important to have robust, accurate evidence based data and information to assist in the management of heritage assets. These are important spring boards used to support funding applications, while also providing a platform for further research and analysis. While it is important to gather information accurately and appropriately, it is equally important to disseminate this information in a user friendly manner.

In addition to this, under various Council statutory responsibilities, particularly in relation to Protected Structures, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, National Monuments and environmental obligations the Local Authority has a role in managing, monitoring and protecting heritage, and therefore collecting and collating an array of information in relation to our local heritage. Harnessing this information and ensuring that it is readily available, provides for a valuable asset to those interested in heritage.

Limerick has three internationally recognised third level educational institutions with progressive reputations across a very wide range of disciplines. There have been many collaborative projects in the past on heritage subjects between these institutions, the Local Authority and local community groups. Through a heritage plan these invaluable resources should be further developed and opportunities seized to achieve maximum results.

## AIM 3

To promote best practice and encourage heritage conservation and management

It is vital that we conserve and enhance the rich quality of our natural, built and cultural heritage in a manner appropriate to their significance. From statutorily designated sites, to sites of local importance, including the conservation and management of landscape quality, these intrinsic qualities of our City and County should be enjoyed for their collective contribution to the quality of life for this generation and into the future as heritage for future generations.

We need to promote and support sound advice to the wider community as a means to care for our heritage. Both the natural and built heritage needs to be considered appropriately often requiring skilled craftsmanship and professional knowledge. Maintenance works or new build development should not damage the structure or natural habitat but should seek to maintain/improve with minimal intervention. It is prudent to support projects that contribute to the wider community appreciating traditional crafts and skills.



## AIM 4

To support the local economy and strengthen tourism

Our heritage plays a key role in making Limerick an attractive place to live in, to invest in and to visit. Limerick's City and County assets shall be embraced and celebrated; the City's built and archaeological heritage has a key role in terms of urban regeneration and economic growth.

Limerick needs to be more competitive promoting itself as an interesting tourism destination offering diverse heritage readily accessible to all. Attractions such as The Great Southern Greenway Limerick can play a part in encouraging access to the wider countryside and its natural history, while walking trails in the City and in other towns and villages throughout the county can draw attention to the unique built heritage of the county as a whole.

Ireland's national cultural institutions and heritage facilities offer social, economic and educational opportunities and can contribute positively to the lives of all citizens. A 2009 report by DKM Economic Consultants, 'The Economic impact of the Arts, Culture and Creative Sectors', found that the combined arts, culture and creative sectors is globally one of the fastest growing sectors, representing 7% of global GDP and growing at 10% per annum. Cultural tourism can contribute in a significant way to the restoration of the economy

and to the creation of jobs. Limerick needs to continue to develop the potential of its cultural and arts heritage without compromising its uniqueness.

At a local level, research by the Global Limerick Network (GLN)<sup>7</sup> involving a survey of Limerick's diaspora on how they view their connectivity with Limerick, highlighted there was need to promote Limerick with a greater intensity to improve its profile internationally. Limerick was perceived to underplay in terms of its history, heritage and tourism, and was also under performing in enticing people to visit and return to Limerick.<sup>8</sup>

# 1.6

## Steps involved in preparation of the Plan

The Heritage Plan is not a statutory plan, and consequently is not subject to any legal time-frame. An internal team consisting of fourteen Local Authority officials working in the heritage area overseen the preparation of the plan.

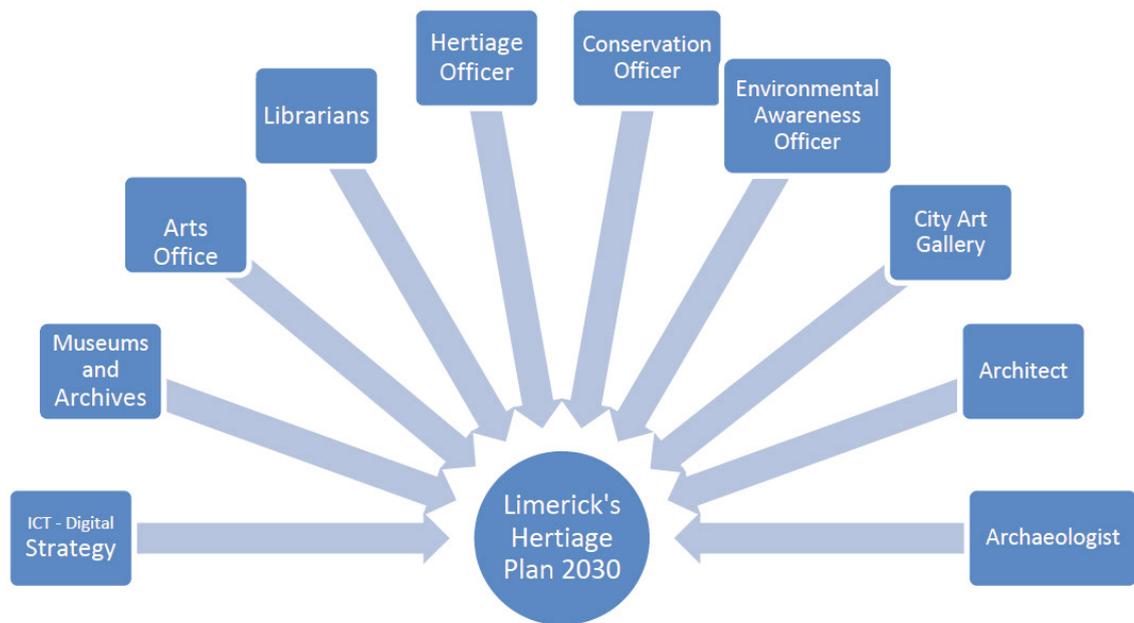


Figure 3 – Local Authority officials in various disciplines in the Local Authority overseen the preparation of the heritage plan<sup>9</sup>

The preparation of the heritage plan commenced on the 28th May 2016 with the publication of an issues paper entitled 'Proposed Limerick City and County Heritage Plan 2017 – 2030 – Issues Paper.' Its intention was to prompt discussion on local issues at pre-draft stage. Copies of the issues paper were made available on-line through the Limerick City and

<sup>7</sup> GLN – a working group with representatives of the Limerick City and County Council, Mary Immaculate College, and local development groups exploring the potential of Limerick's Diaspora for attracting development to Limerick

<sup>8</sup> Report of the Limerick Diaspora Scoping Study and Survey, 2015 prepared on behalf of the Global Limerick Network, page 15, refer to [limerick.ie](http://limerick.ie)

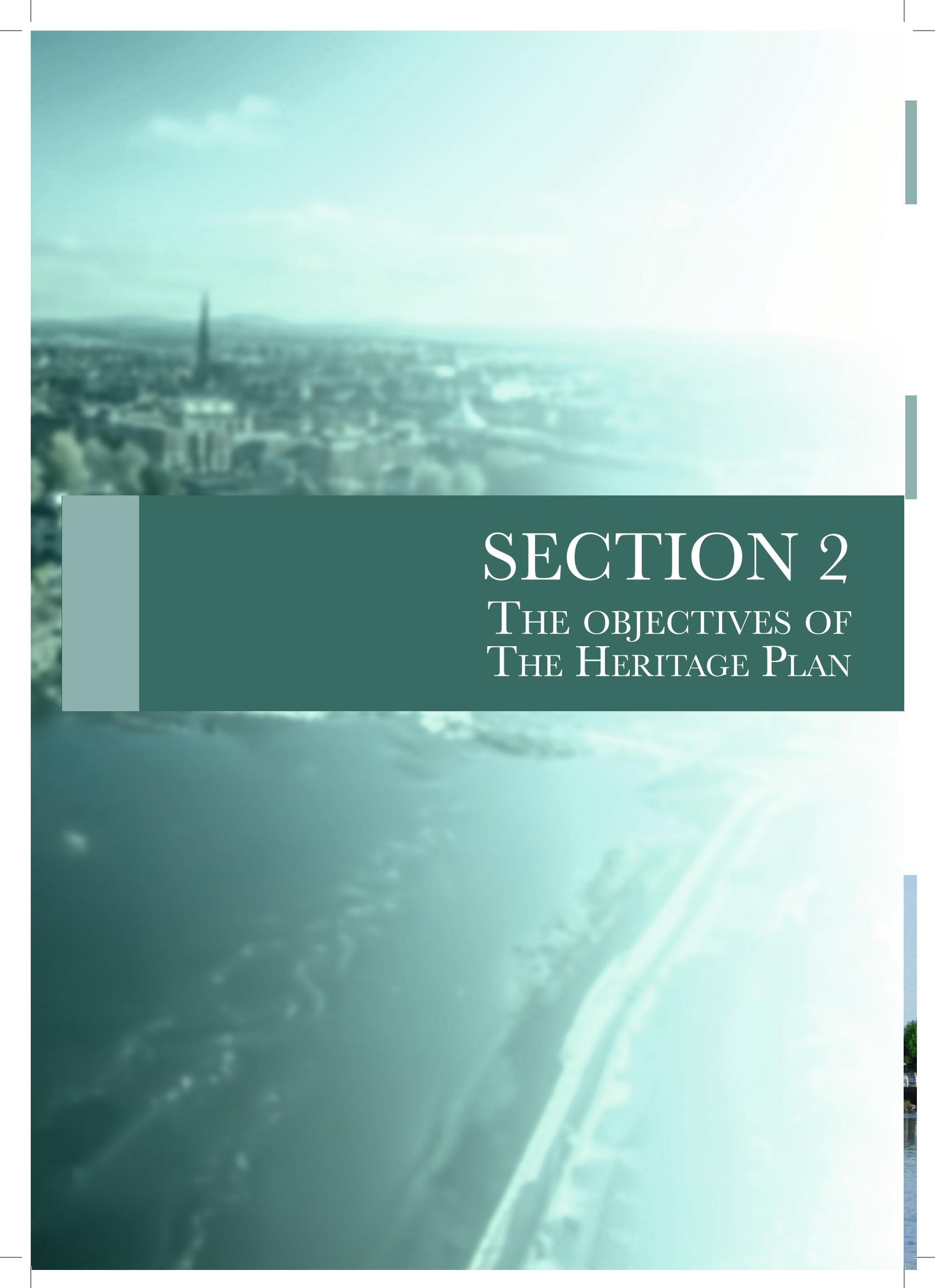
<sup>9</sup> Refer to Appendix 2 of the plan for details of the heritage contributors

County Council website [www.limerick.ie](http://www.limerick.ie), through local libraries, municipal district offices, and electronically through the various networks in the Local Authority. Notices were placed in local newspapers and press releases issued inviting written submissions. The first issues document was distributed through the Limerick Public Participatory Network (Limerick PPN)<sup>10</sup> with representatives from the Local Authority attending a PPN meeting in August 2016 to discuss the preparation of the heritage plan for the City and County. The Elected Members at the Municipal District Meetings and the relevant Strategic Policy Committees within the Council were also notified of the Local Authority's intention to prepare a heritage plan. Fourteen submissions were received during the public display period of the First Issues document and the proposed Heritage Plan was prepared taking into consideration the submissions received.

The proposed draft was placed on public display in City Hall, Merchants Quay, County Hall, Dooradoyle, area offices, public libraries and online at [www.limerick.ie](http://www.limerick.ie) for a period of seven weeks from 18th February 2017 to 10th April 2017. Again, written submissions were invited during this period, 7 written submissions were received from various individuals and these submissions were taken into consideration when publishing the final document.



<sup>10</sup> The PPN is the formal structure within the Council to conduct public engagement on local government policy. Refer to [ppn.limerick.ie](http://ppn.limerick.ie)



SECTION 2  
THE OBJECTIVES OF  
THE HERITAGE PLAN

# 2.1 Introduction

To achieve the aims of the Heritage Plan as set out in Section 1.4, the objectives and sectoral objectives of the plan are outlined below. As there is a wide and diverse range of heritage activity in Limerick City and County, objectives have been set for a number of heritage areas, individually accounting for the experiences of the heritage team working in the Local Authority, and the submissions received during the pre-draft and draft stage of the Plan. For the purposes of this plan, Limerick's heritage refers to natural heritage, built heritage and cultural heritage.

# 2.2 Sectoral objectives for Limerick's Heritage

## 2.2.1 Archaeology

There are over 7,000 known archaeological sites and monuments in Limerick. These sites vary from the glorious architectural masonry in our many medieval monasteries to a simple standing stone. Some are owned and cared for by the State and attract thousands of visitors a year. Others are seen only by the farmer bringing in the cows. But they are all part of a shared heritage. New sites are added to the list each year. The National Monuments Act (Amended) and the Planning and Development Act (Amended) serve to protect our archaeological heritage. Limerick City and County Council through the City and County Development Plans are committed to protecting archaeological sites and their settings. The best protection, however, is increased public awareness, understanding and appreciation of the archaeological heritage which increases their value and places them at the core of the community.



## The objectives for archaeology are:

1. To increase public awareness by:
  - a. Establishing a database of all historic graveyards sites in Local Authority ownership and make available on the Limerick City and County Council website to dovetail with the Historic Graves Project
  - b. Establishing a community project to record all killeens throughout Limerick City and County; piloting a study with a community group on landscape archaeology with a view to expanding a model throughout Limerick.
2. To build knowledge by:
  - a. On-going survey and study including engaging with the research agendas of the Conservation & Management Plans for Kilmallock's Town Walls, Limerick City's Wall and the Lough Gur Environmental Management Study in regard to a research agenda and to support and assist the Dark Sky project in Lough Gur
  - b. The promotion and encouragement of the production of Conservation & Management Plans for major sites such as the Mungret Monastic Complex and the Franciscan Friary, Adare.
3. To encourage best practice in conservation and management by:
  - a. Promoting the 'Adopt a Monument Scheme' on a pilot basis,
  - b. Establishing a steering group for the management and promotion of Limerick City's defences;
  - c. Continuing, in co-operation with the Irish Walled Towns Network, to consolidate the medieval defences of Kilmallock and Limerick City.
  - d. Meeting with the owners of tower houses and establishing a best practice guide for the maintenance of tower houses and as a flagship project, to continue works to preserve and maintain Bourchier's Castle, Lough Gur.
4. To support the local economy and strengthen tourism by:
  - a. Developing interpretative signage at publicly accessible sites,
  - b. Recording visitor numbers at major unmanned sites, establishing a trail of Limerick's Tower Houses and establishing a trail of early Christian sites in limerick.

## 2.2.2 Built heritage and conservation

Limerick, County and City, has a built environment legacy that stretches back over 5,000 years and more. Scattered throughout the landscape are the remains of deserted medieval settlements, as at Abington and Tomdeeley, near Askeaton. However, it is in towns such as Kilmallock and Newcastle West, Adare and Askeaton, as well as Limerick City itself that the richest physical remains of the medieval past can be found. These range from town walls through to religious foundations, to castles and more modest houses. Other features, such as the pigeon house at Adare, can be found in both urban and rural locations.

Our medieval urban foundations evolved over time. Such developments can be picked out relatively easily in places, such as at Kilmallock where provision was made for the town to extend northwards. More complex evolutions can be identified throughout the medieval core of Limerick City. While at Adare the original town of the Middle Ages was virtually abandoned in the 19th century as the Dunraven family sought to develop a model streetscape as an enhancement of their demesne.

Post-medieval developments in Limerick City were dramatic. While the Irishtown was recorded as a distinct location in the mid-17th century it was not until the 18th century that settlement extended beyond the island on which the original city was founded. While much of this expansion is attributable to the New Town devised by the Sexton Pery family, the hands of the state, our civic authorities, and others, were also at work. The limestone terraced dwellings of John's Square, designed by Francis Bindon, date to the 1750's. Facing eastwards onto Rutland Street the new Custom House, built in the 1760's, is a further manifestation of the city's growth. Located on Bank Place and along Rutland Street are terraced houses that date to the 1770's. Sequential building campaigns, undertaken by numerous speculative developers and builders, saw Limerick's main thoroughfare constructed from circa 1800 to the 1840's. The layout of Pery Square and the townhouses on the western side of the People's Park were built as part of the master plan believed to have been devised by Davis Duckart for the Sexton Pery family and drawn up by Christopher Colles in 1769.

One of the most significant heritage buildings, containing both Romanesque and Gothic elements, is the Church of Ireland St. Mary's Cathedral, which dates back to 1172. Limerick's need for a cathedral only arose with the decision of the Synod of Cashel twenty years previously that provided for a new bishop in Limerick. The 19th century saw the construction of St. John's Cathedral for the Roman Catholic diocese. It was constructed in phases over almost 40 years, with two different architects involved, today, at some 94 metres, it boasts the highest spire in Ireland.

The City and County contain excellent examples of physical infrastructure provided by the old Corporation and by the Grand Jury that pre-dated the establishment of the County Council. Examples in the City include a pier and quay known locally as 'Poorman's Kilkee'. The nearby masonry bridge and cast-iron structure which were erected in the 1820's to provide for an additional crossing over the Shannon and to enhance the provision of safe anchorages for both barges and ocean-going vessels. In the County we can look at masonry bridges, such as the elegant single arched Wellesley Bridge beyond Abbeyfeale that spans some 22 metres and the ferrous Barrington's Bridge in 1818. It is believed to be the oldest cast-iron road bridge designed to take vehicular traffic in Ireland.

One of our significant treasures is the thatched heritage that has survived, albeit, is very vulnerable to a number of threats. While most of this stock consists of a vernacular legacy and encompasses the two primary house types, the direct entry thatched house and the lobby entry style of house, the variety of surviving structure ranges from commercial buildings (public houses and shops) and stables. No mention of Limerick's thatched heritage would be complete without reference to the cottage ornee buildings erected and re-modeled over the years by the Dunraven family along Adare's Main Street.

In the interests of safeguarding the cultural and built heritage over 2000 structures have been identified for their contribution to the heritage in our City and County and have been designated 'Protected Structures' under section 51 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (Amended).

There are also a number of urban areas in the City and County afforded special protection given their contribution collectively to the historical streetscape in areas designated as Architectural Conservation Areas. Whether an individual building, or a constituent part in an assemblage, each element contributes enormously to our understanding of past society, our knowledge of past building practices, and is a valuable contributor to the character of the places where we live and work and providing areas of atmosphere and ambience for visitors to our City and County.

While the primary responsibility for caring for our historic building stock lies with owners and other stakeholders the Local Authority has a role in providing general advice on appropriate interventions, and providing information on funding mechanisms.



## The objectives for built heritage and conservation are:

1. Identify partners and promote programmes for training in traditional skills and crafts, such as building with lime mortar, thatching, iron - work, weaving, traditional stone wall building and repair.
2. Establish and promote best practice in care, conservation, maintenance and recording of traditional shops fronts in Limerick City and County.
3. Promote the conservation and reuse of publicly and privately owned historic properties in the interest of sustainable development with long term benefits to the community, the environment and regeneration in Limerick City and County.
4. Support the development of Architectural Conservation Areas in Limerick through the collection of data, promotion of community participation and collective responsibility, and raise the public's awareness of the value of Limericks historical built structures and streetscapes.
5. In co-operation with bodies such as School of Architecture University of Limerick (SAUL) and Limerick Institute of Technology (LIT) Department of the Built Environment, and other third level colleges to examine innovative means of promoting our built heritage through digitalisation projects and the use of Building Information Modelling (BIM).
6. To increase public awareness of the importance of historic structures including bridges, infrastructure associated with public services and industry including water pumps, gas infrastructure, railway infrastructure and milestones, and to assist where feasible refurbishment proposals.

### 2.2.3 Architecture, Urban Medieval Built Fabric and Public Realm

#### Medieval Fabric and Architecture

Limerick's Medieval Fabric is close to the surface. With little or no effort, we can see remnants of Limerick's rich and long history, connecting us very tangibly to our ancestors, their lives and our own past. To understand where we have come from helps us to recognise ancient ideas that are embedded into our contemporary culture, our built environment and our practices. This awareness shapes our identity, enriches the spaces we live in and creates a convivial sense of place and wellbeing.

## The objectives for heritage, architecture and urban medieval built fabric are:

1. To promote the experience of the Local Authority in terms of best practice dealing with the redevelopment of archaeological and historically sensitive sites.
2. To increase public awareness of the importance of the historic structures and the need for appropriate traditional skills in the interest of future development of sites and their return to use.

### 2.2.4 Contemporary Architecture and Public Realm

People value and are curious about Limerick's architecture as evidenced by the growing interest annually in the Open House Limerick festival. For future generations, it is important to openly acknowledge the contribution of good quality contemporary design to Limerick's future heritage, to ensure that new design of buildings, spaces and refurbishments work with their locational context, and with suitable and appropriate materials and construction techniques. This ethos requires investment and creativity. It is imperative that this generation raises awareness of the value of good design, its impact on public space, and its value for all citizens.

Globally, it is recognised that conservation-led regeneration in towns and villages can contribute to investment by retaining businesses and people in the area and by providing an incentive to relocate into it. This builds community and increases business confidence.

Investing in both contemporary and historic built heritage is a driver of physical, social and economic regeneration and requires the development of a culture of 'quality' to permeate all strands of civic society.

Limerick City & County Council has supported the Open House Limerick festival since its inception in 2012, and has included many of its buildings for public access, most recently the Thomond Weir building, a reinforced concrete modernist building that was designed by Dublin-based practice Robinson Keefe, later Robinson Keefe Devane, in 1939 as a salmon research and production building that served Thomond Weir.

Other instances of good modernist and contemporary architecture in the Limerick area; civic buildings such as the General Post Office; the Theatre Royal, and the Castletroy-based International style houses constructed in the 1930s and designed by Clifford and Newenham. There are many very fine examples of education buildings designed by Andy Devane, a Limerick-born architect who worked under Frank Lloyd Wright. Exemplar contemporary designs include many of the buildings, structures and spaces in the University of Limerick. Of particular note is the Graduate Medical School, designed by Grafton Architects, which was short-listed for the 2013 Stirling Prize.

Limerick City and County Council is guided by national policy as contained in the Government Policy on Architecture 2009 – 2015 – Towards a sustainable Future: Delivering quality within the built environment, and any subsequent document.

## The objectives for heritage, public realm and contemporary design:

1. To increase awareness of the importance of quality architectural design for buildings and spaces, complimenting and respecting the locational context, for example in a historical location in a settlement, or the rural and urban landscape.
2. To liaise with education providers and to promote knowledge of Limerick's architectural heritage.



## 2.2.5 Museum and Archives

Limerick Archives and Limerick Museum collections contain a rich resource of original material that forms the primary sources for the story of Limerick City and County. The Museum holds over 50,000 objects from archaeological finds, Limerick Lace, civic antiquities, military artifacts from the sieges of Limerick to the War of Independence, and thousands of postcards and bill heads for Limerick City and County. Limerick Archives holds records relating to Limerick's Local Authorities from the poor law unions onwards, the minutes of Limerick Chamber of Commerce, the estate papers for De Vere's of Curraghchase, the records of St Josephs Hospital and many other collections relating to Limerick's social, cultural and political life, the most recent collection being from Shannon Rowing Club.

Limerick Museum and Archives prioritise projects that link collections to people and communities to support a sense of place, belonging and shared cohesion. Linking collections to people has been a consistent approach which has led to a body of work on Limerick's Industrial history. In 2012 based on the recent acquisition of papers from the former Mill Superintendent of Ranks Flour Mills where generations of Limerick families worked a major exhibition, publication, oral history project and digital archive emerged. Similar projects on the lace industry, bacon industry and clothing industry are well advanced.





With our partners in Mary Immaculate College we have carried out a major project on Mount St Lawrence Cemetery. At its heart, the registers for Mount St Lawrence Cemetery record the burial locations of over 70,000 people. The partnership facilitated the mapping and digitalisation of the cemetery on a fully searchable website and a publication on the history of the cemetery.

The objectives are as follows in using our collections to develop projects that bring the museum and archive to people and connect heritage with communities:

1. To prioritise topics with a surviving archive or material culture whether already held in the collections, potentially acquired or created using digital archiving and oral histories.
2. To work with partners to maximise the heritage potential of our collections.

## 2.2.6 Biodiversity and Environmental Awareness

Limerick's natural environment is a wonderful resource for those living, visiting and working here. From the Ballyhouras to the Shannon Estuary, Limerick's scenic nature and wealth of wildlife habitats and its value to the local and wider economy should not be underestimated. Our natural heritage/biodiversity is constantly changing and evolving. The Council aims to work with relevant stakeholders to identify and understand local biodiversity and how we can best conserve it for future generations.

The natural environment of Limerick takes many forms ranging from the estuaries in the north of the county, through the hedgerows and pastoral landscape of much of the centre of Limerick. The urban environment itself should not be forgotten as this provides many species with a home. The variety of habitats within a relatively confined space means that they are readily accessible to those that wish to do so. The common habitats that we take for granted are the home to the plants and wildlife of the county. Through actions in the plan it is hoped that the people of Limerick learn more about their natural surroundings and that during the life time of the plan that some practical actions to address biodiversity issues are implemented. The objectives below have been informed by the national policy including the National Biodiversity Plan and the recent National Pollinator Plan.

In the past Ireland had a wide variety of different animal breeds and crop varieties grown locally over a number of generations and adapted to local soil and climate conditions. Thus, across a species (for example, fruit, vegetables, grains, livestock, and insects such as bees) could have many variations which are known as genetic diversity. This genetic diversity is threatened by modern mass food production processes and traditional livestock and crop breeds have declined or disappeared. This threatens future food supply and is not in the interest of sustainable agricultural production.

The issue of genetic resources is recognised as a fundamental part of biodiversity in the National Biodiversity Plan 2011 – 2016. Internationally, Ireland is a signatory to the Convention on Biodiversity established at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit which places obligations in relation to Ireland's genetic resources. Overall responsibility for implementation of the Convention in Ireland rests with the Department of the Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Marine, however, has direct responsibility for the coordination and promotion of measures for the conservation and utilisation of genetic resources for food and agriculture<sup>11</sup>. A number of non-governmental organisations also work towards conserving genetic resources for food and agriculture in Ireland.

Both biodiversity and environmental awareness of heritage are inter-related; hence the possible overlap of ideas and objectives within these sections. The guiding documents for this section include the following: the National Climate Change Adaption Framework, 2012 which sees to integrate adaption issues into decision-making at national and local levels: 'Actions for Biodiversity 2011 – 2016', Ireland's 2nd National Biodiversity Plan; and Climate Change, Heritage and Tourism – Implications for Ireland's Coast and Inland Waterways, published by the Heritage Council, 2009. It is acknowledged that changes in climate effect our heritage, in particular natural and built heritage.



Figure 4 - Patrick O'Dea, Cloverfield National School, one of the winners of an art competition organised by Limerick City and County Council in conjunction with the Heritage Council

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie>

## The objectives for biodiversity are:

1. To promote awareness of Limerick City and County's biodiversity within the Council and among the public including:
  - a. Awareness of the Lesser Horseshoe bat and other protected species; the value of native hedgerows as habitat corridors, and older buildings and structures for ecosystems; as well as the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015 - 2020 and its key objectives,
  - b. Supporting distribution of information through digital media, information sessions, talks, including established Council events such as the Tidy towns programme, community initiatives, and national programmes such as Heritage Week, Tree week, Water Day Biodiversity Week, and the heritage in schools programme,
  - c. To liaise with education providers to incorporate environmental heritage into their curriculum if feasible, and to promote the Heritage in Schools programme in the interest of local biodiversity,
  - d. To investigate the feasibility of developing digital technology with educational agencies (3rd level colleges, secondary school, transition year students, youth training scheme programmes) to increase awareness of Limerick's natural heritage and to consider where possible, innovative means of studying, promoting and recording natural heritage through digitalisation projects and modelling.
2.
  - a. Identify partners and promote programmes for informing, supporting and appropriately responding according to best practice to invasive species and to promote/develop digital means to record locations through the Council Application, and to the National Biodiversity Centre,
  - b. To explore and develop further digital accessibility of natural heritage information for the benefit of the community and the tourist.
3. To support the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) in protecting sites for biodiversity and ensuring adequate ecological surveys are undertaken for specific locations in Co. Limerick
4. To work with Non Government Organisations such as the Irish Peatland Conservation Council, Bat Conservation Ireland, Birdwatch Ireland, Vincent Wildlife Trust, to promote awareness and support collection of biodiversity data for Limerick
5. To assist in the compiling of an adequate policy response to invasive species and assist other branches of the Local Authority in dealing with the issue as guided by any forthcoming national guidance
6. Work with relevant agencies and individuals to promote opportunities for ecological rehabilitation of disturbed sites such as quarries, landfills, cutaway bogs, and forestry
7. To consider developing trial projects with other interested agencies to support various species through the provision of nest boxes or other suitable artificial habitat as many birds and animals are dependent on our built environment for various parts of their life cycles
8. To investigate the feasibility of developing digital technology with educational agencies (3rd level colleges, secondary school, transition year students, youth training scheme programmes) to increase the awareness of Limerick's natural heritage
9. To support and promote where feasible with other agencies the conservation of genetic resources in the interest of biodiversity



## 2.2.7 Cultural Heritage

Limerick is very much aware of its rich cultural heritage: Our City and County, with its music, art, theatre, literature, contemporary and visual arts, poetry, crafts and sport is recognised internationally. Limerick has a global reputation across the cultural spectrum having high quality contemporary facilities, many vibrant alternative cultural artists and organisations, independent music artists, orchestras, choirs, and visual artists. Limerick is very fortunate to have an outstanding third-level based arts and cultural presence in the City, at the Limerick School of Art and Design at LIT, the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, SAUL School of Architecture, Mary Immaculate College (University of Limerick), and the creative technology programmes at both University of Limerick and Limerick IT. Limerick is also home to a flourishing film and multi-media sector, and is the location for a film hub at Troy Studios. Throughout the year, there is a dynamic cultural and festival programme across the City and County. Limerick is the home of Ireland's only art biennial EVA International, the Hunt Museum houses one of Ireland's greatest private collections of art and antiquities, dating from the Neolithic to the 20th Century in addition to this Limerick is also Ireland's first ever National City of Culture producing a wealth of learning and experience.

Limerick's Arts Office in partnership with Kerry and Cork County Arts Office are working to develop the Sliabh Luachra Trail, to link the musical tradition of towns and villages in the Munster region to a wider audience to promote living musical heritage.

Nationally, it is recognised that heritage, the arts and culture are inherently interlinked. The Heritage Council state: "Heritage strongly shapes contemporary culture and informs the Irish imagination in terms of literature, music, design, language, folklore, oral heritage and the landscape."<sup>11</sup>

The objectives of the arts component of the Heritage Plan is guided by the proposed National Cultural Framework Policy, Culture 2025, published by the Department for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, July 2016. This government document establishes

<sup>12</sup> Heritage Council 'Strategic Plan – Heritage Supporting Jobs, Education and Tourism, 2012, page 15

priorities under seven themes:

- Put culture at the heart of our lives
- Foster Creativity
- Celebrate our cultural heritage
- Recognise the importance of culture to a vibrant society
- See collaboration as the new norm
- Emphasise the international dimension
- Respond to digital change

Limerick has a proud, rich history and heritage that has informed our culture. Limerick Arts Office published the Limerick Cultural Strategy - A Framework 2016 – 2030, following a public consultation process and this document was adopted by the Council in May 2016. The objectives of the strategy broadly concur with the themes of the draft government policy document. Ambition 5 of the Cultural Strategy states:

“To place culture at the heart of the economic growth and regeneration of Limerick” and outlines the following objective to achieve this ambition:

Recognise the unique qualities of Limerick’s Heritage – historic and contemporary – and incorporate these into Development Plans and creative place-making strategies as a force for revitalising urban space and communities.<sup>12</sup>

These are the following objectives for the Arts in terms of cultural heritage:

1. To increase the public’s awareness of the cultural resources that are available to the public and support the promotion of Limerick’s cultural heritage;
2. To explore and develop further digital accessibility to cultural experiences to the wider community, through the Council’s on-line presence or through other digital platforms for the benefit of the community, artists and practitioners, and tourism in Limerick;
3. Further develop the educational aspect of the Limerick’s cultural heritage to younger audiences;
4. To consider how cultural exchange across communities, nationally and internationally, including Limerick’s Diaspora can be supported for the sharing of experiences, creativity and best practice;

## 2.2.8 Limerick City Gallery of Art

Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA) is owned and operated by Limerick City and County Council. It is a major resource as part of the City and County’s cultural infrastructure. The Art Gallery is a very accessible art space available to the public 7 days a week (excluding bank holidays), and admission is free. It hosts approximately 16 exhibitions annually as well

<sup>12</sup> Limerick Cultural Strategy – A Framework 2016 – 2030, page 22

as lectures, music and literary events. It regularly organises weekend workshops with artists working with young people in the Art Space programme.

LCGA is the main exhibition venue for EVA International, Ireland's biennial of Contemporary Art. Since its inception in 1977 over 2,000 Irish and international artists and curator have presented work in LCGA, introducing the public to current issues in contemporary visual arts practice.

LCGA occupies the historic Neo-Hiberno-Romanesque Carnegie Building, 1906, adjacent to the People's Park on the 19th century, Georgian styled, Pery Square in Limerick City. The building, a Protected Structure, was funded by Andrew Carnegie (1835 – 1919) as the Carnegie Free Library and Museum. In 1936 a group of prominent Limerick artists, politicians and patrons established the first Limerick City Collection of Art from various donations and bequests. In 1948 an extension to the rear of Limerick Free Library and Museum became home to the City Collection as the Limerick Free Art Gallery. In 1985 the Library and Museum were transferred to larger buildings.

Limerick City Gallery of Art has occupied the entire Carnegie Building since 1985, undergoing two major renovations in 1999 and in 2010/11. In 2012, the Carnegie Building re-opened to house a new storage space for the permanent collection, a cafe, a workshop area and additional public facilities.

## Building on the success of facilitating accessibility of the public to the Arts the LCGA proposes the following broad objectives:

1. To continue to promote visual and contemporary arts in the wider community, and consider, if feasible, the use of online resources for the community to engage with the Gallery and become informed of the Gallery's work;
2. To further develop the educational aspect of the Gallery as a resource for the artist, the citizen, the community and the visitor. Investigate the feasibility of developing digital technology with educational agencies (3rd level colleges, secondary school, transition year students, youth training scheme programmes) to promote the visual arts;
3. To promote the built heritage of the Gallery and to ensure that the Gallery remains a high quality exhibition public space to acceptable international standards to protect the building's integrity to function as a public art gallery.





## 2.2.9 Local History and The Library Service

There is an unfathomable wealth of local heritage material available from Limerick City & County Council. There are many historical societies throughout the City and County, most of which produce high-quality journals, and community groups researching local history, place names, field names, folklore and genealogy. Our experience in dealing with queries from the public is that a large portion of the interested population is either not availing of or is ineffectively availing of these resources.

Limerick City and County Library has been working for the past ten years to make its local studies resources available to the world via its website. To date, hundreds of thousands of pages of local history data have been uploaded at [www.limerick.ie/library](http://www.limerick.ie/library) and this is an ongoing digitisation project. Limerick's library service remains committed to preserving and documenting the past, ensuring that the history of Limerick is accessible to all citizens and also to those who cannot visit the collection at the library.

The Local History section at Limerick City and County Library Service holds a number of collections available for public consultation. The main book collection comprises over 5,000 works on all aspects of Limerick including topics such as history, geography, culture, sport, literature, religion, art, and politics. There is also a local journals collection of more than 70 titles which has been indexed and is key-word searchable. OSI online maps are available while over 400 hard-copy maps of Limerick can be accessed.

Special Limerick collections include the Schools Folklore Collection 1937/38, The Irish Tourist Association Survey 1941, the Folliot index to biographical notices in Munster newspapers 1758-1821 and the Ó Ceallaigh GAA Collection. There is also a large collection of audio-

visual materials relating to Limerick history and heritage.

For many years the library service has organised very successful lunch-time and evening events, programmes and workshops on a wide range of topics in the cultural and heritage areas, including art programmes, recitals, and lectures on many heritage issues.

## The following are the objectives for the Library Service in terms of heritage and history:

1. To increase the public's awareness of the historical resources available to the public and the resources on-line at [limerick.ie](http://limerick.ie). This may include podcasts, on-line videos, other social media resources, booklets or brochures to advise the public on the most effective way to use the history resources of the library.
2. To continue to develop the lunch-time and evening history, cultural and heritage programme to raise public awareness and appreciation for the Limerick's heritage, and to consider digital means to make available these resources through [limerick.ie](http://limerick.ie)
3. To liaise with education providers and other agencies to promote knowledge of Limerick's history and heritage, including oral histories and folklore.



## 2.2.10 Diversity and Integration

Limerick City and County is becoming an increasingly ethnically, diversified and multicultural society, having potential to introduce different culture, traditions and creative experiences to Limerick. Heritage events can create positive interactions between people, including capacity building within the community through participation in events as representatives of the migrant community. Supporting the local community to learn about and experience the culture and heritage of these new communities contributes to a vibrant, inclusive and dynamic society where all residents are valued regardless of their ethnic background, and helps address isolation.

The Council is an active member on the Limerick Integration Working Group. This group which is co-ordinated by Doras Lumni and the Jesuit Refugee Service, supports the 'Toward Intercultural Limerick: Limerick City and County Integration Plan 2013 – 2016, and Limerick becoming an Intercultural City as part of the European programme known as Intercultural Cities. A key theme of the Integration Plan is cultural awareness, and support communities and active citizenship.

Limerick City & County Council is also the lead agency supporting the resettlement of the UNHCR Programme working with Refugees in Limerick. The main objective of this initiative is to support recently arrived refugees from Syria who have been resettled in various locations in Limerick city and county.

### The objectives for intercultural awareness follow:

1. To increase the public's awareness of the Limericks intercultural diversity and its heritage through supporting initiatives with ethnic communities to celebrate multiculturalism, heritage and traditions, including Africa Day, IWG Intercultural Week, One World Week, and other projects in support of 'Toward Intercultural Limerick: Limerick City and County Integration Plan', and Limerick as an 'Intercultural City' as part of the European Council and European Commission programme, subject to resources;
2. To liaise with education providers, and other agencies to promote knowledge of Limerick's migrant community's heritage and culture



## 2.2.11 The Irish language and heritage

The Irish language is a precious and intrinsic part of our cultural heritage. The Local Authority is bound by certain statutory requirements in relation to the Irish Language, for example in relation to signage and the implementation of an Irish Language Scheme in the Local Authority. The Local Authority is guided by national policy the Twenty Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010 – 2030 by Department of Arts Heritage, Regional, Rural and the Gaeltacht Affairs.

The Michael Hartnett Annual Poetry Award, part funded by the Arts Office in the Council, and the Arts Council celebrates poetry alternatively between English and Irish as part of the Éigse Michael Hartnett festival in Newcastle West. Éigse Michael Hartnett promotes the Irish language and Irish literature through their festival as the poet Michael Hartnett was a bilingual poet who wrote and published works in both Irish and English.

The Arts Office publishes the annual Stony Thursday Book of poetry is one of the longest-running literary journals in Ireland celebrating its 41st edition in 2016. This publication often includes poetry in the Irish language.

The objectives for Irish language and heritage are as follows:

1. To implement and support the relevant areas for actions identified by the Strategy for the Irish Language 2010 – 2030, subject to availability of resources without compromising standards;
2. To support and collaborate with other agencies in the raising the awareness of the Irish language as part of Limerick's heritage.

### Teanga Gaeilge agus An Oidhreacht

Tá Gaeilge mar cuid intreach luachmhar den ár n-oidhreacht cultúrtha. Ní mór don Chomhairle cloígh le ríachtanais reachtúla maidir leis an teanga Gaeilge, mar shampla, maidir le cómharthaí agus cur i bhfeidhm an Scéim Teanga Gaeilge sa Chomhairle. Tá an Chomhairle treoraithe ag polasai náisiúnta Stráitéis Fíche Bliain 2010-2030 leis an GRTG.

Céiliúránn an Gradam Bliaintiúil Filíochta i gcuimhne Micheál o hAirtnéide, atá maoinithe idir Oifig Ealaíon sa Chomhairle agus an Chomhairle Ealaíon, filíocht idir Béarla agus Gaeilge faoi seach mar chuid den Éigse Mícheál OhAirtnéide. Cothaíonn Éigse Micheál OhAirtnéide an teanga Gaeilge agus litríocht Éireannach le linn an féile mar file dá-theangach ab ea Micheál OhAirtnéide.

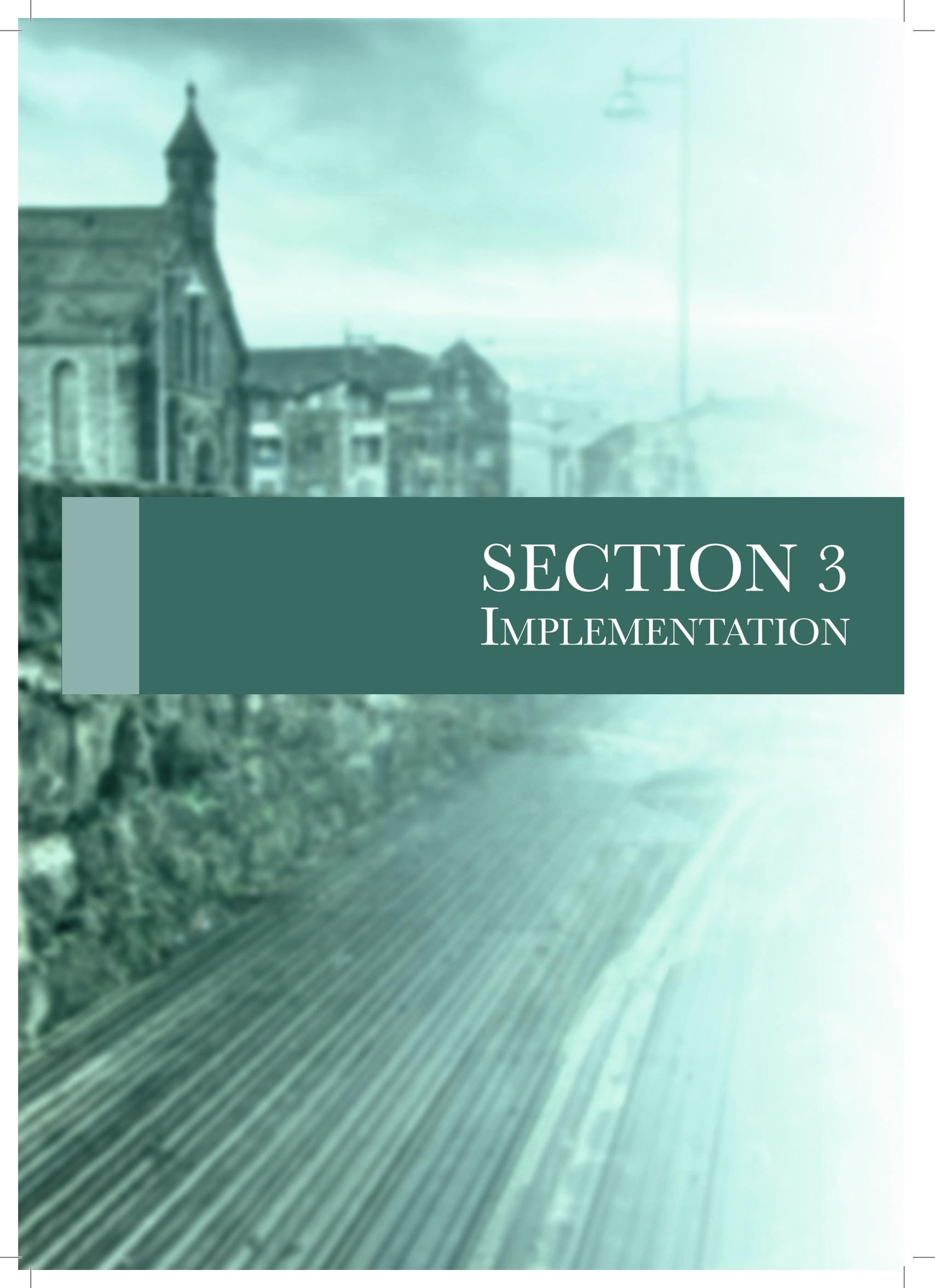
Foilsíonn Oifig Ealaíon an leabhar bliaintiúil filíochta Stony Thursday agus is cheann den tréimhseacháin litríochta is sine in Éireann atá ann, a mbeidh ag eisiúint a 41ú eagrúcháin i 2016. Tá filíocht Gaeilge go minic in áireamh sa foilseacháin seo. De réir Acht Teangacha Oifigiúla 2003 tá Scéim Teanga Gaeilge foilsithe ag Comhairle Cathrach Chontae Luimnigh.

## Cuspóir don teanga agus oidhreacht Gaeilge is e:

1. Na réimse ábharthach chuig gníomhartha, a cur i bhfeidhm agus tacaíocht a thabhairt dóibh, mar atá áitithe ag an Stráitéis don Teanga Gaeilge 2010-2030, de réir mar atá achmhainní ar fáil, gan cur as caighdeán;
2. Chun tacaíocht agus comhoibriú le h-áisíneachta eile le chur don feasacht ar an teanga Gaeilge mar chuid den oidhreacht Luimnigh.



Figure 5 - Lorna Donegan, Martinstown National School, winner of an art competition organised by Limerick City and County Council in conjunction with the Heritage Council

The background image is a teal-tinted photograph. The upper portion shows a street scene with a church on the left, featuring a prominent steeple. To the right, a tall utility pole stands against a cloudy sky. The lower portion of the image shows a road with a white center line, receding into the distance. A dark teal horizontal bar is positioned across the middle of the page, containing the section title. A vertical grey bar is located on the left side of this teal bar.

# SECTION 3 IMPLEMENTATION

The Limerick City and County Heritage Plan is a long term plan, setting out a general direction as to how heritage should be promoted, protected, and enhanced given the advances in technology and modern life. Prior to determining the direction, the Plan asks us to look at a range of issues for Limerick's heritage, do we value heritage, and if so what do we want for Limerick's heritage given limited resources including funding, and volunteerism, and the pressures of modern life and people's expectations. The Plan seeks to emphasise that heritage activities are not consumerist or merely entertaining, but participatory, educational and contributing to a sense of pride in what a local town, village or place is, including Limerick City. In section 1.2 questions are posed on heritage and social media, digitalisation, information distribution to a high quality standard, what should we prioritise given scarce resources, how can we encourage people to move beyond being a 'spectator' to becoming a heritage 'player'. Our consultation process has found that this is not an easy task. Nevertheless, this plan is a first step in a positive direction, at a time when the Council is in a transitional phase following the amalgamation of the City Council and the County Council in 2014, recent economic recessionary times, and new local governance structures including the Public Participatory Network (PPN).

With regard to implementation, this plan is not an operational plan. However, the heritage professionals will identify priorities annually from the objectives of this plan and look at seeking funding, and partnerships to achieve the objective within the following year. Criteria considered collectively by the team will include; priorities defined by heritage council in the year of application, sources of funding, priorities of agencies that may be interested in supporting projects, long-term impact of the project, opportunities to make the findings of projects available to the wider community, and contribution to principles of best practice. Of particular importance are the priorities identified by the Heritage Council: these are likely to change from year to year, and it is generally accepted that the applications that mirror the priorities of the Heritage Council would be most likely to attract funding from that source. It is envisaged that the projects chosen will rotate across the heritage disciplines that Council staff operate in.

Resourcing the heritage plan will be an on going challenge. Limerick City and County Council gratefully acknowledges the support of the Heritage Council who has supported both this and the previous plan with funding and timely advice. To overcome resource issues the Council will work with other bodies and other funding agencies in an effort to secure financial and other support for the actions in the plan. Alternative funding schemes such as those under the EUs structural funds, grants from other bodies and other sources as they become availability will all be explored. The delivery of this, the second Limerick Heritage Plan will be subject to the availability of resources both monetary and otherwise, to ensure its implementation.

The internal heritage team will monitor the progress of projects. Within three years of the completion of the plan, the progress of the plan will be reviewed, if deemed necessary; changes will be incorporated into the plan.

## Appendix 1

### Heritage resources in Limerick City and County Council 2017

LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY	CONTACT	CONTACT NUMBER	EMAIL
Museum and Archives	Jaqui Hayes - Archivist	061 557293	jaqui.hayes@limerick.ie
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Heritage Officer	Tom O'Neill	061 557229	thomas.oneill@limerick.ie
Environmental Education Officer	Sinead McDonnell	061 557108	sinead.mcdonnell@limerick.ie
Conservation officer - Built Heritage	Tom Cassidy	061 556367	tom.cassidy@limerick.ie
Library services - History and Local Studies	Mike Maguire	061 557514	mike.maguire@limerick.ie
	Tony Storan	061 556529	tony.storan@limerick.ie
LimerickCity Art Gallery	Una McCarthy	061 557991	una.mccarthy@limerick.ie
	Siobhan O'Reilly	061 557991	siobhan.oreilly@limerick.ie
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## Appendix 2

List of contributors, who made written submissions during the heritage plan process

- Cáit Ni Cheallacháin
- Michael Geraghty
- Anneke Vrieling, Feal Biodiversity
- Councillor John Gilligan, Limerick City and County Council
- Councillor Marion Hurley, Limerick City and County Council
- Kate Harold, Lough Gur Development Ltd
- Marian Hartnett, Abbeyfeale
- Jim McNamara, Dromcollogher
- John Elliot, Thomond Archaeological Society
- Amanda Slattery, Ballyhoura Development Ltd
- Roger Garland, OPEN Ireland
- Pat Fitzgerald
- Sally Walsh, Patrickswell
- Limerick PPN
- Tom Hourigan, Ballycahill, Knocklong
- Veronica Santorum



