

To the Chair and each member of the Cultural SPC

Report on Cultural Policies at National and Local Level

The Cultural Strategic Policy Committee is in a position to advise Limerick City and County Council on the practical application of local Cultural Policy as well as National Cultural policy. National Strategies include Creative Ireland, the Government's 5 year culture programme 2017-2022, Public Libraries Strategy (2018-2022), The Arts Council Strategy (Making Great Art Work, 2015- 2025), The Heritage Council Strategic Plan 2018-2022

A short synopsis of each of the relevant national and local strategies is outlined below and it is proposed that a presentation on each of these policies will be presented at future Cultural SPC meetings.

National Cultural Policies

1. Culture 2025 *Éire Ildánach* – Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Culture 2025 is the first Framework Policy to embrace the whole cultural sector. It is the beginning of a journey rather than a destination – a journey that will bring together all those involved in the arts, film, broadcasting, visual arts, cultural heritage, the Irish language and Gaeltacht with Government departments and State agencies. The implementation of the priorities in this Framework Policy will be guided by continued engagement with all the sectoral groups to inform future action. Through this Framework Policy, the Government seeks to nurture creativity, boost citizen participation, help more people to follow a sustainable career in the cultural sector, promote Ireland's cultural wealth and ensure a cultural contribution to wider social and economic goals. The aim is to put culture at the heart of our lives and develop a more collaborative approach across all sectors. The Framework Policy sets out values and high-level principles to inform public policy and planning in the decade ahead. It recognises that everyone has the right to enjoy, create and participate in the culture of their country. It is underpinned by a commitment to increase resources for arts and heritage, to support Irish culture on the world stage, and to improve funding structures for investment in national and local services. All relevant public bodies will be required to respond to the challenges and opportunities of greater cultural engagement and collaboration.

http://www.chg.gov.ie/app/uploads/2016/07/culture_2025_framework_policy_document.pdf

2. Creative Ireland - Clár Éire Ildánach

The Creative Ireland Programme is the Government's Legacy Programme for Ireland 2016 – a five-year initiative, from 2017 to 2022, which places creativity at the centre of public policy. It is a high-level, high-ambition, all-of-government initiative to mainstream creativity in the life of the nation so that individually and collectively, in our personal lives and in our institutions, we can realise our full creative potential. Creative Ireland will bring an enhanced level of coordination, focus and leadership to existing policies and initiatives across national and local government, State agencies, the arts and culture sector, Gaeltacht and Irish language organisations, and will provide linkages to the private business and NGO sectors.

The Creative Ireland Programme is a culture-based programme designed to promote individual, community and national wellbeing. The core proposition is that participation in cultural activity drives personal and collective creativity, with significant implications for individual and societal wellbeing and achievement.

The Creative Ireland Programme is also the main implementation vehicle for the priorities identified in the Government's policy document, Culture 2025 - Éire Ildánach which states that arts and culture are intrinsic to the Irish State, acknowledges the need to increase access to, and participation in the arts, boost our creative industries, and preserve our heritage with a particular focus on language, landscape and the environment.

The programme is built around the themes of identity, culture and citizenship. The core operating principles are Collaboration and Communication, Community Empowerment, and Internationalisation.

Local authorities have a crucial role in the overall local delivery of the entire Creative Ireland Programme and are exclusively mandated, through their culture teams, to deliver Pillar 2 of the programme – Enabling Creativity in Every Community. This devolution of responsibility for Creative Ireland to local authorities is inspired by the extraordinary impact of collaborative local authority co-ordinated projects for the centenary of 1916.

<https://creative.ireland.ie/en>

3. Public Libraries Strategy - The Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government

The Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, in conjunction with the LGMA and the Libraries Development Committee, has commenced the development of a new 5 year strategy for the public library service in Ireland. The strategy is underpinned by 3 Thematic Programmes:

- Community Development
- Literacy and Learning
- Books / Reading and the Life of the Imagination

With over 17 million visits annually, libraries play an important community role as centres of knowledge, information and culture. As a result of ongoing investment in the public library service, quality of life is being improved and new opportunities for education, life-long learning, leisure and personal development have been developed through enhanced multimedia and ICT services.

- Online Services
- Learning at the Library
- Local Studies

There are 336 branch libraries and 29.5 mobile libraries in Ireland, including a shared cross-border service.

- Your local public library is the place to get information and learn new skills in a relaxed and comfortable environment. It is your community and cultural hub with exciting events throughout the year.
- Your library membership enables you to use all 333 public libraries, read, browse, study, borrow items such as books, DVDs, games or other formats, use Wi-Fi, PCs and printing services.
- You can also reserve up to 12 items at a time from the 15 million titles available in the libraries.
- You can do this when you visit a library or you can request online from home.
- Your selected titles will be delivered quickly to your local branch, generally within the week.
- The Libraries Ireland service also provides free access to library members to a huge range of online resources, e-books, e-audiobooks, e-newspapers, e-magazines, e-courses and e-languages.
- All of these services are available free of charge provided by the local authorities through your public libraries

<http://drcd.gov.ie/community/public-libraries/>

4. The Arts Council - Making Great Art Work - Straitéis na Comhairle Ealaíon (2016–2025)

Making Great Art Work establishes the coordinates by which the Arts Council will lead the development of the arts in the decade 2016–2025. As expert body, strategic partner, statutory adviser and advocate for the arts, we are clear about the need for change and renewal, realistic about the many challenges we face, and confident about the strengths of the arts. That confidence is founded on three things:

1. the quality and power of work made by artists and arts organisations in Ireland
2. the high levels of engagement in the arts by the Irish public
3. the commitment and investment of many partners and stakeholders who share the conviction that the arts enrich the lives of individuals, of communities and of society.

Our strategy distinguishes between immediate difficulties arising from the recent financial and economic crisis and more enduring challenges that require patient developmental action over a decade. We see in those challenges exciting possibilities for the arts.

Our commitment to renewal is not about a restoration of previous models, but about selective and well-planned resourcing of excellent practice, inclusive of fresh and dynamic approaches to public engagement.

Our strategy identifies the artist and public engagement as its two governing and inter-dependent priorities and further selects particular agendas within those domains. For us, being strategic involves being selective. Our new investment framework will require change by all involved in the funding relationships that we broker on behalf of the public.

Our investment, advocacy and other actions will be informed by spatial planning and by demographic information. This is because people and places are central to policy and provision in the arts. For that reason too we will strengthen our partnership with local government via formal agreements.

We will also seek new partnerships to harness the connections between the arts and some key areas of our wider society and economy. Change and renewal are the focus of this strategy. We will work with our partners to achieve change in the arts sector but we know that the change must begin with ourselves: with what we choose to do and how we choose to do it. While Making Great Art Work plots the coordinates for the development of the arts in the decade 2016–2025, more detailed plans will be required every three years to guide that development. Three-year planning cycles within a decade long strategic framework will enable the achievement of medium-term objectives and long-term goals.

http://www.artscouncil.ie/uploadedFiles/Making_Great_Art_Work.pdf

5. The Heritage Council 2018 – 2022

Mission of the Heritage Council: The Heritage Council aims to ensure that our heritage is nurtured, managed and conserved to enrich the lives of people for now and the future.

Vision 2017-2022 Our vision is for an enhanced identification of individuals and communities with their locality. To achieve this vision the Heritage Council will:

- Insist upon the highest standards of heritage care
- Remain committed to values of collaboration, accessibility and honesty
- Deliver quality programmes that are cost effective, positive in their social and economic impact, and regularly reviewed to ensure they remain relevant to changing national circumstances
- Commit to collaborative ventures with national and local government, voluntary, educational and other organisations
- Support heritage initiatives that ensure a lasting legacy
- Encourage heritage ventures that celebrate the diaspora and those new to the local area.

http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/Strategic_Plan_Consultation_2017.pdf

Limerick City and County Council Strategies

1. Straitéis Chultúrtha Luimnigh : Creat 2016-2030 : Limerick Cultural Strategy : A Framework : 2016-2030

Limerick has a proud and rich history and heritage that has informed our culture. Our cultural life helps us to shape our understandings of the world and our identities. This is the first Cultural Strategy Framework 2016- 2030 for Limerick City and County Council. It was adopted by the Elected Members on 23/05/2016. It sets out a clear vision and ambitions and is an integrated set of choices that will pave the way for effective planning to achieve change through cultural engagement. Limerick City and County Council has a statutory duty to make adequate local provision for cultural activities, to stimulate public interest in and promote knowledge of the appreciation and practice of cultural activities. The delivery of the 2030 Cultural Strategy will require a combined effort by the public, private and voluntary sectors.

Ambitions and Objectives the Limerick Cultural Strategy are designed to effect change in the way things are done in relation to culture in Limerick through the following 8 ambitions and objectives;

1. To grow Limerick's cultural capacity by retaining and attracting creative practitioners to live and work in Limerick
2. To grow the physical and human resources, infrastructure and support for staging large scale interventions, performances, festivals and productions
3. To support and grow innovative and creative collectives in Limerick
4. To foster multiple examples of imagination, innovation and integration in Limerick and to use creative approaches to help citizens and visitors re-imagine Limerick
5. To place culture at the heart of the economic growth and regeneration of Limerick
6. To engage citizens through involvement in culture
7. To become a centre for active research and problem-solving in culture that will have local, national and European significance
8. To increase and support the role of the creative industries in Limerick

<https://www.limerick.ie/council/services/community-and-leisure/arts/limerick-cultural-strategy>

2. Limerick Culture and Creativity Plan – Creative Ireland

In the first year of the Creative Ireland Programme, LCCC Culture and Creativity Plan is driven by the Creative Ireland Programme Pillar 2 - Enabling Creativity in every Community and supports relevant objectives of Limerick Cultural Strategy 2016-2030. It aims to set the grounds for a successful implementation of the Creative Ireland Programme over the next five years. As such it works towards achieving the following, interrelated objectives:

- Connecting citizens to existing creative opportunities and services;
- Building capacity of relevant organisations, creative individuals and groups that work on development and/or delivery of cultural projects driven by citizen engagement;

- Building capacity of relevant Local Authority bodies to foster and encourage creative activity in our city and county and to deliver creative programmes, particularly in underserved communities and areas of the city and county;
- Identifying gaps in existing opportunities and services focused on citizen engagement through culture and creativity, and supporting development of projects that address these gaps.

In year one, The Limerick Culture and Creativity Plan was designed to build and strengthen the cultural work already underway across a number of departments in Limerick City and County Council. The projects identified for support are culture based projects that recognise the strength and interests that are unique to Limerick, including Limerick Pop Up Museum, Shannon Fisherman Archive Film, Artist in Schools, public celebration of 20 years of cultural services at Dooradoyle Library.

In all 29 projects were supported across each of the districts;

- 14 – Metropolitan Area
- 5 – Adare Rathkeale
- 6 - Cappamore – Kilmallock
- 4 - Newcastle West

The next step in the process of Creative Ireland is the drafting up the long-term plan setting out a five year focus. The 2018-2022 plans will shift towards collaborative projects between arts, heritage, history, libraries, the natural and built environment. This five year plan aims at bringing coherence to individual culture-based strategies and to align the work of different members of culture teams over the coming years. The Culture team will identify key tasks to be completed in 2018 to support delivery of this Strategy.

<https://www.limerick.ie/council/services/community-and-leisure/arts/creative-ireland-limerick-luimneach-eire-ildnach>

3. Limerick Heritage Plan 2017-2030

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. 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.

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. 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. 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.

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

1. To raise the awareness of, appreciation for and enjoyment of Limerick City and County’s Heritage
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
3. To promote best practice and encourage heritage conservation and management
4. To support the local economy and strengthen tourism

https://www.limerick.ie/sites/default/files/media/documents/2017-10/Heritage%20Plan%202017%20-2030_0.pdf

Caroline Curley

Director of Service