**MINUTES OF STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING ON HOUSING COMMUNITY, SOCIAL & CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**JURY ROOM 1, COURTHOUSE, CAVAN**

**22nd November 2017**

**Present:-** Cllr Val Smith, Chairperson

Mr Eoin Doyle, Director of Services

Ms Orla Brady, Cavan County Council

Cllr Paddy O’Reilly

Cllr Noel Connell

Cllr Clifford Kelly

Cllr Madeline Argue

Mr John Donohoe, Cavan County Council

Mr Thomas Maughan, Cavan Traveller Men’s Shed

Mr Larry McCluskey, CPPN

Ms Madelieine Ui Mhealoid, Society of SVP

Mr Tom Sullivan, Cavan County Council

Ms Catriona O’Reilly, Cavan County Council

**Apologies:** Apologies for inability to attend were received from:

Mr Joe McLoughlin, Director of Services

Cllr Shane P. O’Reilly

Mr Seamus McLoughlin, Cavan County Council

Cllr Val Smith, Chairperson, commenced the meeting welcoming all present.

1. **MINUTES**

On the proposal of Ms Madelieine Ui Mhealoid, seconded by Mr Paddy O’Reilly, the minutes of the meeting held on 20th September, 2017 were confirmed and signed.

1. **EVOLVING LIBRARIES – CAVAN LIBRARY SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2017 – 2021**

Mr Tom Sullivan, A/County Librarian, gave an in-depth presentation on Evolving Libraries – The Cavan Library Service Development Plan 2017 – 2021. A copy of which had been circulated to all members prior to meeting.

He informed the meeting that this plan sets out a vision for the future of the Library Service after a comprehensive process of consultation and discussion, and links with the Cavan Local Economic and Community Plan 2016 – 2021 where culture and arts have been identified as key drivers for engaging with and building our community.

Key Facts in 2016

* 9,792 members
* 183,000 visitors
* 1,445 events in 2016
* 59,108 website visits
* Service delivered for 3.10% of Council expenditure

Vision

* Provide a service that is a cornerstone of the community
* Within easy reach of all
* Making a vital contribution – economic / social / cultural
* Develop partnerships

Mission

* to provide educational, informational, cultural and recreational library resources and services
* in a professional and inclusive way
* enabling people living in County Cavan and beyond to improve the quality of their lives.

What will service look like in 2021

* The service will be an integral part of everyday life
* Increased membership with membership given to all citizens at birth
* New Library in Virginia
* Improved facilities in Ballyjamesduff and Kingscourt
* Book Budget increased to €1.50 per head or €114,000 per annum
* A full complement of well resourced staff

Culture Team in place

* Library / Arts / Museum / Heritage / Ramor Theatre / Genealogy / C&E / Communications
* Delivers the Creative Cavan Programme
* Enables the delivery of events and activities in a co-ordinated manner which is efficient and cost effective

SWOT Analysis

Strengths

* Staff
* Customer Service
* Stock
* Supportive of Community
* Willing to embrace change

Weaknesses

* Over reliance on part time staff
* Promotion of Services
* Some Brach libraries require upgrading
* No Mobile

Opportunities

* New working partnerships e.g. ETB, HSE, Teagasc, Ballyhaise College, Monaghan CC
* Better integration CLS role – linkage with Local Economic and Community Plan
* Engagement with rural communities
* Diversity of CLS Role

Threats

* Decrease in membership
* Weak staff structure
* Public seeing libraries as irrevelent
* Competition from internet

Challenges

* Raise the profile of the library service
* Diversity (day of the traditional service is gone)
* Capital Development

Success Factors

* Continuing CCC commitment
* Staff numbers and development
* Innovative service delivery

Consequences of non delivery ?

* Key support for County development in all forms is undermined
* Establishing an inclusive society will be challenging (Right to Read Literacy 15,000 of Cavan’s population has literacy issues)
* Building community becomes more difficult
* Growth in disadvantage
* Quality of life will deteriorate, making county far less attractive

The Chairman thanked Mr Tom Sullivan on his presentation which was universally praised by all those present. A discussion on the presentation followed the main point of which were:-

* New Virginia Library – compliments to all those who were involved particularly former Cavan County Manager, Mr Jack Keyes
* Improved services in Ballyjamesduff and Kingscourt welcomed
* Need to improve public relations – not all happens in the Johnston Library !
* Communities to take ownership of projects and drive them
* Libraries should be more linked to schools
* Performance space to be built into any new developments
* Compliments to all library staff who are considered exceptional and hungry for success

The item was concluded by Mr Eoin Doyle, DOS, who advised that members must be vigilant at budget time as any cutbacks will impact on service and increases will maximise benefits.

1. **ARTS STRATEGY 2017 – 2022 TOWARDS A VISION OF INCLUSIVITY AND AMBITION**

Following invitation from the SPC Committee, Ms Catriona O’Reilly, Cavan County Council Arts Officer, gave a presentation on the Arts Strategy 2017 – 2021 – Towards a Vision of Inclusivity and Ambition. A copy of which was also circulated to all members at meeting.

Staff and Reporting Structure

* Director of Services, Eoin Doyle
* Santina Burns, Clerical Officer,
* Rhonda Tidy, Public Art Manager,
* Kim Doherty, Peace iv Youth Arts Lab Facilitator (app. 2 year contract Nov. 17)
* Catriona O Reilly, Arts Officer

Total Budget

* €269,148 Budget Expenditure Adopted Estimate in 2017
* Arts budget represents .47% of total local authority budget in 2017

Income

* €49,200 grant received from the Arts Council
* €8,000 grant received from Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
* €163,000 from Peace IV for 2 year youth arts lab project. (2017 to 2019)

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016 – 2021

Strategic Objective 6.3: Support artistic excellence and professional development in the arts

C. Consolidate and build on strategic relationships

* Results – Council Members agreed 27 arts awards total value €12,000
* Training to 24 artists and 5 one to one sessions / 5 professional development awards / 4 residency opportunities.
* IWC showcase on Thursday at IWC and 65 aspiring writers took part in courses in 2017
* Supported The Moth magazine with Young Artists Award in Visual and Literature week long residencies.

Goal 12 : We will protect our natural resources/heritage and promote culturally rich communities.

* Results - Support leadership and capacity building Result Ancient and Wild project with 12 artists and Scéalta dar dTalún with Jackie O Neill, lead artist and Ballyhaise Agricultural College, Teagasc
* 1,600 audience attended

Strategic Objective12.3: Community arts initiatives

B. Work in Arts in Education contexts to enhance the arts experience of young people in County Cavan

* Results - Successful bid led by Cavan Monaghan ETB and partner Monaghan County Council for Music Generation fund €450,000 over 3 years. Partnership on successful bid for music project at St Bricins and St Mogues with LAEP Officer.

C. Promote audience development and public engagement

* Result - 50 artists participated in Cois Tine music recordings.
* Culture Night – 2752 audience attended and 241 artists and community groups took part in 11 towns and villages in Cavan.
* €750,000 funding from Dept of Arts for Townhall and €247,000 from Peace IV for refurbishments
* 5,245 E Bulletins (2016)

The National Context informing this Strategy

Arts Council National Development Agency for the Arts

Making Great Art Work: Leading the Development of Arts in Ireland 2016 - 2025

* Five strategic goal priorities:
  + The Artist
  + Public Engagement
  + Investment Strategy
  + Spatial and Demographic Planning
  + Developing Capacity.

The City and County Managers Association and the Arts Council brokered

*A Framework for Collaboration*. Agreement sets out a vision and broad goals for Local Authorities and the Arts Council working together over the next ten years

The Five Pillars of Creative Ireland

* Enabling the Creative Potential of Every Child.
* Enabling Creativity in Every Community.
* Investing in our Creative and Cultural Infrastructure.
* Ireland as a Centre of Excellence in Media Production.
* Global Reputation.

The National Planning Framework (NPF) 2040

A national plan to guide and shape the spatial development in Ireland and successor to the National Spatial Strategy 2002. It will be a long-term, 20 year National Plan setting out high level aims taking account of projected population growth from 4.7 mn to 5.5 mn people.

Mission

Cavan County Council will nurture and create the conditions in which great art can happen, while at the same time ensuring that as many people as possible can engage with and participate in high quality arts experiences so that the distinctive contribution of the arts to people’s lives is fostered.

Vision

Cavan people thrive from public belief in, and support for creativity and the arts

CAVAN 2021

* Cavan people are enriched by access to and participation in a diverse spectrum of arts and cultural experiences;
* the arts are woven into the fabric of daily life—promoting civic engagement, encouraging collective problem solving and building bridges across cultures;
* the arts enjoy strong, sustained public support;
* the arts ecosystem reflects contributions from all of Cavan’s diverse populations;
* that the arts of the county are important to lifelong learning and are made accessible to the wider public across demographic, economic and cultural lines;
* children and young people enjoy meaningful arts experiences as audience and makers;
* streets, neighbourhoods, and communities are enriched and enlivened by art and culture;
* creative industries are recognised as crucial to the economy and to sustained arts development;
* public and private resources for the arts are increased and sustained to more effectively serve the culture of creativity and innovation in the county;
* Artistic contributions mark the long-term legacy of both county and nation;
* Our arts culture continues to be recognised as innovative and cutting-edge and known for its unique and exemplary work on behalf of Cavan people; and
* Cavan County Council Arts Office is an enabler and vital support for the arts, including policy development, promotion and advocacy for the arts, as well as building and sustaining a strong foundation for the arts on behalf of our artists and citizens

Artistic Priorities 2017 – 2022

To Action

* Recognise the professional artist creator as central to the ongoing development of the arts.
* Expanding grant opportunities for artists introducing touring funding.
* Increase opportunities for emerging artists to work with established artists.
* Champion artistic innovation and award-winning artists with local and national publics.

Actors

* Individual artists; arts and cultural providers, Arts Office
* Cavan County Council Members and Executive
* The Arts Council, national agencies and promoters, training and development agencies
* EU funded programs, public-private partnership and media partners.

Diversification

* Work with artists, arts administrators, curators and experts to increase opportunities for connection, access to resources and professional development, and reduce barriers.
* A culture of experimentation and learning.
* Place the arts at the centre of conversations about the county’s future.
* Equipment for artists and participants for art-making opportunities, access to the new digital hub, etc.
* Leadership development opportunities for arts and cultural providers e.g. events management, programming and PR skills.
* Arts Office, Individual artists and arts specialists, Cultural Team
* The Arts Council, arts and cultural organisations, national agencies, audiences and participants.
* Senior Management Team, Local Enterprise Office (LEO), Community and Enterprise (CandE), local business, creative industries, and arts groups.
* Breifne Integrated

Cultural providers, community leaders and local communities

Audience Development

* Continue to gather people in structured, informal dialogue, and/or participatory experiences over the duration of the Strategy to maintain relationships and understand community dynamics.
* Develop Cultural Strategy - Culture Team
* Increase visibility and flow of information around the annual arts programme and events ‘one stop shop’ calendar Culture Team.
* Improve and expand arts uses in non-arts spaces
* Arts Office, Culture Team
* Individual artists, community groups, arts specialists, community leaders and other target groups
* Senior Management ,The Dept. of Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht, Planning, Heritage, Tourism, local business, artists and arts organisations, publics
* The Arts Council

The Arts Infrastructure

* Advocate for an arts venues policy for publicly owned buildings currently utilised as arts spaces.
* Improve and expand arts uses in non-arts spaces across the county.
* Encourage and support the development of a structure of governance and a strategic development plan for Townhall Cavan.
* Select festivals to champion over a three-year period where groups and individuals can create, present, and engage in arts.
* Work with the Culture Team to deliver a large scale County wide Festival on an annual basis.
* Senior Management Team, The Members of Cavan County Council, The Arts Office, Culture Team specifically Ramor Theatre, Cavan County Museum, Marble Arch Caves Global GeoPark, Libraries, Housing Department
* The Arts Council, The Dept. of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
* Community and Enterprise (C and E), Tourism
* Local cultural providers, creative industry, Individual artists and arts groups, sponsors and patrons
* Creative Ireland

Implementation And Evaluation

Implementation

* Annual Business plans
* Annual review will be part of the planning process.
* Evaluation will be in line with LECP reporting structures and Arts Council.
* Monitoring and evaluation in the arts is not highly evolved and we rely on levels of expenditure, audience’s members, surveys, feedback and case studies.

Case studies included in the plan

* Case Study I: The NYAH and the wider Traditional Arts
* Case Study II: The Gonzo Theatre and Trans Art
* Case Study III: The Souvenir Shop by Rita Duffy
* Case Study IV: In the Current by Yvonne Cullivan
* Case Study V: Cois Tine Soundscapes
* Case Study VI: Windows “The Business of Encouragement”

*“Failure to deliver an arts service will ensure Cavan becomes a cultural wasteland and an economic backwater for many generations to come.” Catriona O Reilly*

The Chairman and Committee thanked and congratulated Ms Catriona O’Reilly on her presentation all agreeing that Cavan will not become a cultural wasteland under her watch. A short discussion followed wherein the Arts Officer addressed any comments, advising the committee that arts in Cavan compares very favourably nationally and stressed she is always mindful of neglected and underfunded areas of the arts thus striking a balance is always kept in mind.

The item was concluded by Mr Eoin Doyle, DOS, who once more advised that members must be vigilant at budget time as any cutbacks will impact on service and increases will maximise benefits.

1. **HOUSING PROGRAMME**

This item was postponed for next meeting week due to overrun on presentations.

1. **A.O.B**
2. Cllr Paddy Smith proposed a changed to SPC meeting times to commence at 2pm (historically 2.30pm). This was agreed.
3. Ms Emer Coveney to be invited to discuss Deprivation in the County. Mr Larry McCluskey requested information on same prior to next meeting.
4. The Chairman wishes all a Merry Christmas and New Year.
5. **DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING:**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on 13th February 2018 at 2.00pm.

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Chairperson**