

Cultural Development, Irish Language & Sport Strategic Policy Committee

Date: Monday 30th June 2025
Time: 11.30am
Location: Library Events Space, Johnston Central Library

Present: Cllr. C. Kelly; Cllr. N. Brady; Cllr. C. Brady; Cllr. N. Smith; Cllr. Á. Smith; Cllr. S. Conaty; Dr. F. O'Hanlon; M. Goldrick; E. Wilson Higgins; L. Teevan; L. McGavigan, Director of Services; S. Howe, K. Charles Lynch; A. Maguire; E. Clancy, Meetings Administrator

Apologies: None recorded

1. Role of the SPC:

Director of Services, Lynda McGavigan, provided an overview of the role of this SPC, referring to training attended by SPC members earlier in the year.

Ms. McGavigan also noted that the appointment of a new Irish Officer was imminent, and a presentation on Irish will be included at the next meeting.

2. Declaration of Interests:

Chairperson outlined the responsibility of Committee members to declare any beneficial interest in matters being discussed by the SPC.

3. Cavan Arts Office - 2025:

Ms. Karina Charles Lynch, newly appointed Arts Officer, delivered a presentation on the structure of Cavan Arts Office, and its aims and objectives. She advised that a new Arts Strategy is being developed, with public consultation planned for November 2025. Cllr. Kelly welcomed Ms. Charles Lynch, and paid tribute to the former Arts Officer, Ms. Catriona O'Reilly.

4. Cavan County Museum – 2025:

Ms. Catherine McGuinness, Education Officer and Acting Curator, presented a video explaining the role of Cavan County Museum, and highlighted the fact that the award-winning WW1 Trench Experience, which is undergoing redevelopment, will re-open in September. Cllr Kelly suggested that formal recognition should be made of former County Manager, Brian Johnston's foresight in enabling the purchase of the building and the development of the County Museum.

Ms. McGavigan acknowledged the work being carried out by the acting curators and advised that a new curator had been appointed, awaiting start date.

5. Cavan Sports Partnership - 2025:

Ms. Aisling Maguire from Cavan Sports Partnership provided an overview of the role of Cavan Sports Partnership, outlined the structure of the CSP, its aims and objectives, and the various funding and grants it administers. She provided a snapshot of programmes running in 2025.

6. Creative Ireland 2025:

Ms. Sharon Howe from Creative Cavan reported on the 2025 programme, with a range of projects being delivered by Cavan County Council's Culture and Creativity Team alongside several Strategic Partners, including Music Generation Cavan/Monaghan and Cavan Arts Festival. An Open Call scheme is funding a broad

range of community-based initiatives. Ms. Howe also highlighted the Art of Life project, which aims to normalise conversations around planning for end of life, death and dying using creative approaches for a soft engagement approach over 2024-2025. This project is a Shared Island initiative.

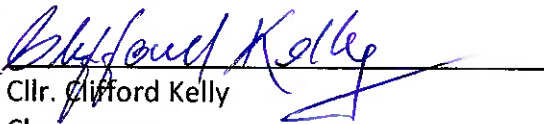
7. A.O.B.

Cllr. Conaty proposed that training in the Irish Language is a priority for this SPC. This will be taken up following the appointment of the Irish Officer.

Emma Clancy proposed that meetings of this SPC will be held in different cultural venues, to allow committee to visit all.

It was noted and agreed that the committee will comply with the Transparency code of the Public Lobbying Act 2015. This will be done by regular circulation of minutes and the agenda of committee working groups / task force meetings on the Council website. The website will also detail membership and terms of reference of the committee.

Next meeting: 15 September 2025



Cllr. Clifford Kelly
Chairperson,

Cultural Development, Irish Language & Sport SPC