SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL



**REPORT OF THE ARTS, CULTURE, GAEILGE, HERITAGE & LIBRARIES STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

**MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1st November 2023**

**Venue: South Dublin County Council IT Conference Room & Microsoft Teams**

**Attended:**

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| **Members** | **Sectoral Members** |
| Cllr Guss O’Connell (Chair) | Ms. Elaine Vince-O’Hara |
| Cllr. Alan Hayes | Ms. Freda Manweiler |
| Cllr. Mark Lynch |  |
| Cllr. Mick Duff |  |
| Cllr. Teresa Costello |  |

**Apologies:** Cllr. Kenneth Egan, Mr. Paul Fusco, Ms. Rosaleen Dwyer

**Officials present:**

Mr. Jason Frehill, Director of Services, EETD

Ms. Eithne Swaine, Creative Communities Engagement Officer

Ms. Laura Joyce, Snr Executive librarian

Ms. Geraldine O’Meara, Snr Executive librarian

**Minute-taker:**

Ms Geraldine O’Meara

**The meeting was Chaired by Cllr. Guss O’Connell.**

After some technical difficulties Chair Cllr. Guss O’Connell opened the meeting at 5.37pm and welcomed everyone.

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| **Headed Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes**  The [minutes](http://intranet/cmas/documentsbyitem.aspx?itemid=80058) of Arts, Culture, Gaeilge, Heritage & Libraries SPC meeting held on 6th September 2023 were proposed by Cllr. Guss O’Connell and seconded by Cllr Mick Duff.  **Agreed.**  Chair Cllr. Guss O’Connell enquired and confirmed there were no matters arising. |

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| **Headed Item 2: Our Library, Our Future – SDL Champion. Literacy**  Ms. Laura Joyce presented a report titled “<Literacy.pptx>” . The report explained what we mean by literacy and outlined the importance of literacy work in libraries. The report contained details of a literacy audit that was carried out by Ms. Joyce. It focused on all areas of literacy including health, digital and media literacy. Examples of reading programmes and literacy initiatives were given. Ms Joyce stressed that literacy and reading underpins everything that Libraries do on a daily basis.  Chair Cllr. Guss O’Connell commended the work to date. Cllr. Mick Duff, Cllr. Teresa Costello and Cllr. Alan Hayes and Cllr. Mark Lynch agreed that the libraries are doing great work around literacy.  Ms. Elaine Vince-O’Hara complimented this work and mentioned how the ETBs work well with libraries. Ms. Elaine Vince-O’Hara reported that 1 in 5 people have literacy difficulties and that she looks forward to working with libraries more in the future.    The report was **Noted**. |

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| **Headed Item 3: Creative Ireland Programme Update**  Ms. Eithne Swaine, Creative Communities Engagement Officer, gave a presentation titled [Creative Ireland Programme.pptx](Creative%20Ireland%20Programme.pptx) The presentation highlighted how the Creative Ireland South Dublin programme focused on using inspiring spaces across the county, optimizing public venues and communities for access and participation to cultural and creative initiatives. South Dublin Libraries, The Round Tower Visitor Centre in Clondalkin and Adamstown were some of the places which received funding for Creative Programming. Ms. Swaine announced that the Threading The Tower project received a County Award for South Dublin County from the Heritage Council for Heritage Week 2023. Other points of note were the Mother Tongues Festival, Equal Voices and Leaving it better projects all of which promote inclusivity, celebrate diversity, and give local communities a voice. Ms. Eithne Swaine detailed overall Creative Ireland investment of €116,000 for creative initiatives across South Dublin County.    Following the presentation, Chair Cllr. Guss O’Connell and Cllr. Mick Duff thanked Eithne and all the team in the arts office for the creative programming work being done for the County. The possibility of a Cultural Celebration Day was suggested by the Cllrs. for the future programming. Ms. Eithne Swaine responded to comments and questions and will report back suggestions to the Arts Officer.  The report was **Noted**. |

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| **Headed Item 4: Libraries Capital Programme City West Library**  Mr Jason Frehill, Director of Services EETD, presented an update on Libraries Capital Programme [Citywest Library Presentation.pptx](Citywest%20Library%20Presentation.pptx) This included a project update and timeline for delivery. The presentation mentioned that the County Development Plan as well as the two most recent library development plans have identified Citywest as a priority. The minimum size for a new branch serving a population of 3,000 within the catchment area should be 500m². New branches serving populations more than 3,000 within the catchment area should be scaled to be appropriate to the needs of the community and the services required. Catchment for Citywest is currently over 35,000. The presentation used North Clondalkin & Castletymon as traditional delivery models for libraries. It utilised Adamstown as a delivery model as inspiration for an innovative approach to how we could procure the external resources required to deliver a library of this scale in the most cost effective and efficient manner.  The presentation identified the aim for the new City West Library to be a space that is clearly visible, attractive and welcoming, centrally and prominently located and provides a multifunctional meeting, event and study space.  Cllrs. Mick Duff and Cllr. Gus O’Connell thanked Mr. Jason Frehill for his update and work on the new library. Mr. Frehill responded to comments and said further details would be announced in the upcoming Council Meeting.  The reports were **Noted**. |
| **Headed Item 5: Any Other Business**  Chair Cllr. Guss O Connell invited contributions for Any Other Business.  No action items were raised.  Chair Cllr. Guss O Connell thanked members for their attendance.  **The meeting concluded at 6.42pm.** |