

# Community, Culture & Enterprise Directorate

The Community, Culture and Enterprise Directorate is made up of two Divisions - the Community and Enterprise Division and the Cultural Services Division.



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1. The DG Fishing Conference in Bundoran, hosted by Donegal County Council
2. Commandant Tony Kiely and Eugene McCosker, Rockhill presenting the Letterkenny Battalion Local Defence Force Register 1940 - 1947 to Niamh Brennan, County Archivist in July 2004
3. Catkins Broom Puppet Show during Wainfest October 2004
4. Launch of the Taobh Tíre project
5. Setting up the Taobh Tíre project on Tory Island

The Community, Culture and Enterprise Directorate is made up of two Divisions - the Community and Enterprise (C&E) Division and the Cultural Services Division.

### Donegal County Development Board (CDB)

The C&E Division continued in its role of co-ordinating and providing support to the County Development Board. The CDB has established a range of sub-groups through which it works and is responsible for a range of initiatives throughout the County. These subgroups include the Community fora. During 2004, a review of CDB activity was initiated.

### An Straiteis - Donegal County Strategy (2002 - 2012)

The Strategy provides a blue print for the development of public service delivery in the County and a range of priorities are being advanced. In 2003, a monitoring and evaluation system, Project Vision was introduced allowing the members of the County Development Board to monitor and evaluate the implementation of An Straiteis.

### Community Development

The Council supported the establishment of Tuath, the Donegal Community & Local Development Centre which is based in Letterkenny Institute of Technology. The Council also provided financial support to communities through the

Community Development Fund, the Members Development Fund and the Peace II Task Force.

### Social Inclusion/ Anti-Poverty

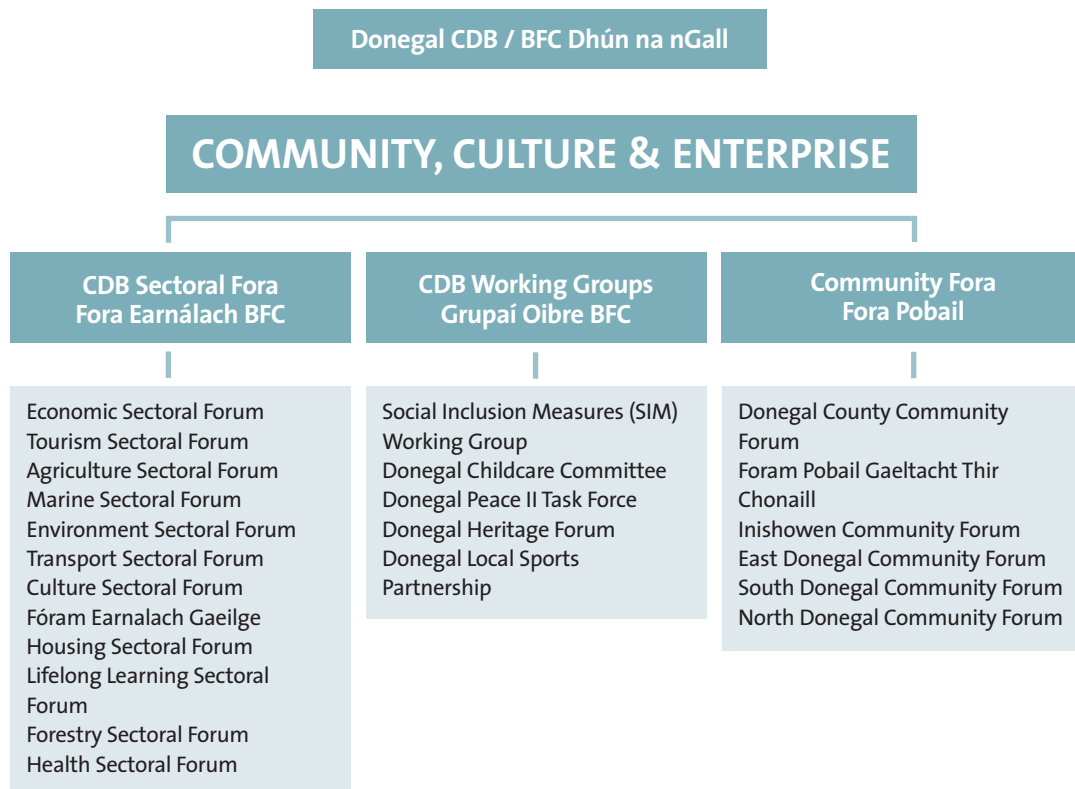
The C&E Division facilitated the preparation of the Councils Local Anti Poverty Strategy. This Strategy will help to ensure that Social Inclusion will be central to all Council activities.

The C&E Division continued its work of co-ordinating and providing support for the Donegal Social Inclusion Measures (SIM) co-ordination group, which brings all relevant stakeholders in the County together to ensure best use of Social Inclusion related resources and the co-ordinated approach to addressing social exclusion needs in the County.

### Integration of Local Government & Local Development

The C&E Division continued in its role of assisting in the co-ordination of local development activity in the County with the following programmes being endorsed in accordance with An Straiteis i.e. Leader +, National Rural Development Programme, Local Development Partnership Companies, Community Development Support Projects and the Donegal Childcare Committee. In 2004, the Division also had an input into the preparation of proposals for better cohesion in this sector and for an Integrated and Targeted Plan to meet the needs of older people in the County.

## Structure of Donegal CDB and the Community, Culture and Enterprise Directorate



## The Research & Policy Unit

The Research & Policy Unit was established in September 2001, in recognition of the need to build up a core research, evaluation and policy development competency within County Donegal. During 2003, the Unit initiated a number of strategic research projects for member agencies of the County Development Board and for a number of different directorates in Donegal County Council. These included:

- Donegal Community Infrastructure Audit
- Glenveagh Tourism Research Project
- South West Donegal & Tory Island Tourism Research Project
- Recycling Feasibility Study
- Donegal Youth Audit

The Unit also monitors and evaluates the progress of Lead Agencies in implementing the 55 active projects under the County Development Boards 10 year Economic, Social and Cultural Strategy - An Straitéis

## Lough Foyle Ferry Service

Donegal County Council, in conjunction with Limavady Borough Council, contracted, effective from June 2002 and for an initial 3 year period, to support a year round ferry service serving Greencastle and Magilligan, Co. Derry. The contract anticipated specific activity levels and an operating shortfall of €216,000 per annum that would have to be met by the two Councils on a 50:50 basis. A total number of 294,415 passengers used the Lough Foyle Ferry Service from June 2002 to June 2003 and this increased to 330,126 passengers to the year end June 2004.

## Lough Swilly Ferry Service

A pilot Ferry service on Lough Swilly commenced on Friday 28 May 2004, and ran for a period of 17 weeks ending on 24 September 2004. This service received a subvention of €147,667 from Donegal County Council. The following table shows the traffic usage of the Lough Swilly Ferry Service in 2004:

	Cars	Passengers*	Other**
Number	15,606	8,725	344

\* Foot passengers only  
\*\* Others include all other vehicle types

## Marine Leisure Programme

Work continued on the development of a range of marine and water based leisure projects through the Community & Enterprise Marine Leisure Unit. Among the projects being initiated were:

- Pilot Beach Management Projects, Rosstownlough
- Sealife Centre, Bundoran
- Donegal Angling Development Strategy
- Marina Development Strategy
- Erne Canal Extension Study
- Coastal walks
- Coastal Zone Management Centre, Buncrana

## Donegal Seafish Industry

A strategy for the integrated development of the Seafish industry in Donegal was completed in 2004. The Division also co-ordinated the launch of a major DG Fishing Conference in Bundoran in June 2004 which drew some 300 delegates from all parts of the EU.

## Donegal Equality Project

The Donegal Equality Project carried out a range of equality related initiatives over the last two years e.g. Disability Audit. This project worked with various CDB Stakeholders to advance this sector in the County.

## Donegal Film Office

The Donegal Film Office, established in 2003 and managed by the Division, works with the local Film Board to promote Donegal as a location for film production.

## Donegal Energy Action

The Donegal Energy Action Team provided advice to a range of groups in the County. An Energy card was launched in 2003 with the objective of promoting energy efficiency and low cost energy saving measures.

## Agriculture

During 2004, work was initiated on a pilot non food crops initiative to investigate the potential of non-food uses of land in Donegal and the North West. As a part of this project, an examination of the crops that could be produced was undertaken e.g. biomass, biodiesel and electricity.

## Forest Link

The Forest Link Project was initiated in 2003 with an office located in the Community & Enterprise Section in the Dungloe Public Services Centre. This project is examining the potential for forestry development in County Donegal. During 2004 a forest product directory was launched, as was a website: [www.forest-link.com](http://www.forest-link.com). The project is raising awareness of this sector and initiating research over a range of relevant areas of interest.

## E-Forum

A pilot E-Forum project to facilitate consultation with communities was undertaken in the Donegal Gaeltacht. The roll out of this project on a countywide basis was initiated in 2004.

## Pobail le Gaeilge

Pobail le Gaeilge continued its work with the establishment of the Placenames Committees in County Donegal and Letterkenny. A number of Irish profile festivals including Oireachtas na Gaeilge 2004 was brought to the County and supported by the project. The Division also supported the successful Letterkenny bid to host Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann in August 2005.

## Tourism

The C&E Division continued to co-ordinate the County Development Board Tourism Sectoral Forum. The Division participated in Donegal Tourism Ltd and engaged with

various tourism related local development interests, and with relevant agencies to develop products and to market the County. Financial support was provided from a range of interests and projects throughout Donegal e.g. Lough Foyle Ferry, Lough Swilly Ferry, community based facilities, air-access as well as organisations such as North West Regional Tourism and Donegal Tourism Ltd. The various financial supports provided for such projects during 2003/2004 amounted to a figure in excess of €1 million.

### Air Access

The importance of low cost air access into the North West Region was evidenced by the Council's commitment to the provision of support to the North West Air Access Consortium in 2003 in the amount of €100,000. This facilitated ongoing marketing support for route development into the City of Derry Airport, in particular. In addition, the Council has an annual commitment to Donegal International Airport in the amount of €40,000 to facilitate ongoing capital development and to take into account the importance of access into West Donegal.

### Donegal Employment Task Force

The County Development Board (CDB) is responsible for the implementation of recommendations of the Donegal Employment Initiative Task Force which concluded its report in 1999. This is done through the CDB Economic Forum and other relevant Fora. During 2004, presentations were made to An Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern and the Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment, Mr Michael Martin TD.

### CLÁR

The CLÁR programme (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais), provides funding/ co-funding to accelerate investment in selected priority developments. These investments support physical, community and social infrastructure across a variety of measures. Donegal County Council continued to have responsibility for the co-ordination of a number of measures under the CLÁR programme at County and local level.

### Donegal Diaspora Initiative

This project was initiated during 2004. The main aim of the project is to create a virtual community of Donegal natives both nationally and internationally by utilising the Information Technology available.

### Donegal County Council / Rehab People of the Year Awards 2004

The Council continued to act as main sponsor to the Rehab People of the year Awards. This project recognized the achievements of individuals engaged in community and voluntary work from all parts of Donegal.

### Playgrounds

The Council supports the development of playgrounds throughout the county. An additional 7 playgrounds were established supported by the Council led Peace II Task Force and the National Childrens Office.

### Junior Achievement Donegal

The Council supported Junior Achievement Ireland, the twin aims of which are to teach enterprise skills to young people and to target those at risk of early school leaving.

### Donegal Youth Council

2004 saw the second set of elections for the Donegal Youth Council. The Youth Council continued to operate in all six Electoral Areas working on various issues of relevance to the youth of the County. The Youth Council now includes representatives of youth who have left school prior to the normal completion period. The Youth Council has also initiated a cross border project in conjunction with Fermanagh District Council.

### Fund Management

The Council operates a range of funds to support community, social, economic and cultural development in the County, including:

- The Member's Development Fund
- The Community Development Fund
- The Tourism Development Fund
- The Donegal County Council led Peace II Taskforce Funds.
- The Bursary Funds

These funds form an essential component in the Council's response to local community needs and have seen substantial monies allocated during the period of this report, as follows

- €7,090,330 million allocated through the County Council led Peace II Taskforce
- €413,000 allocated through the Members Development Fund
- €800,000 approximately allocated through the Community Development Funds
- €170,000 approximately allocated through the Tourism Development Funds and,
- in excess of €30,000 allocated through the Bursary & Award Funds.

## CULTURAL SERVICES

The Cultural Services Division promotes and supports a range of cultural activities throughout the county.

### Donegal County Library

The online library catalogue Web OPAC was formally launched by Minister for State at the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government Pat 'The Cope' Gallagher in July 2003. Available through the website, citizens are able to check and reserve books and materials from the county's library network. The full catalogue can be viewed at [www.donegallibrary.ie](http://www.donegallibrary.ie). Library members can choose from over 170,000 items, and have books/CDs delivered to their local library.

Bundoran Community Library was officially opened in February 2004. The Library incorporates a statue of Michael

O’Cleary, one of the Four Masters, carved from 3 types of stone, including Donegal granite.

### Cross-Border Mobile Library Service

The first ever Cross-Border Mobile Library Service commenced in October 2004 in conjunction with the Western Education & Library Board.

### Taobh Tíre National Research Project

The Taobh Tíre research project into services to rural and isolated communities commenced in 2003 with research into national and international models of good practice. In 2004, the project launched partnership models in Baile na Finne, Mevagh, Kilcar, St Johnston and Arranmore Island. Access points are also available in Meenaneary, Killybegs, Ionad Lae Trialough, Fanavolty and Tory Island.

## ARTS

### Donegal Bay and Bluestacks Festival

The Donegal Bay and Bluestacks Festival, with An Grianán Theatre, hosted a week-long residency with the RTE National Symphony Orchestra in 2003.

### Earagail Arts Festival

The Earagail Arts Festival hosted sold-out performances with Circus Ronaldo, the Saigon Water Puppet Theatre and Donegal Fiddlers Night in 2003. The 2004 Earagail Arts Festival was run by the new Earagail Arts Festival Management Company Ltd. It continues to be assisted by the Council.

### Letterkenny Arts Centre

The 2003 programme highlights included the specially commissioned Local Life - Representing Donegal series of exhibitions - shown simultaneously in 4 venues. 2004 highlights included the Letterkenny-Poland Day of Welcomes programme and the Teenage Kicks alcohol awareness project.

### Public Art

In 2004 the Council employed its first Public Art Manager, Terre Duffy. The Public Art Manager will co-ordinate the Public Art programme, manage Public Art schemes and create awareness of the overall programme and individual schemes.

### Strategic Partnerships

The Council initiated a Strategic Partnership Programme in 2004 to assist a number of key independent arts organizations.

### An Grianán Theatre

The Council also continues to support An Grianán Theatre, providing an annual revenue grant and additional support under the Cultural Use Agreement. Nominees of Donegal County Council, Letterkenny Town Council and nominees of the County Manager are represented amongst the Directors of the Board of Management.

### Regional Cultural Centre

Planning Permission was granted and substantial additional funding secured towards the new Regional Cultural Centre which is to be located at the Port Road, close to An Grianán Theatre. The Centre will house art galleries, digital media studios and music rehearsal rooms and become a major cultural and tourism resource for the North West.

### Donegal County Museum

Donegal County Museum was involved in an active programme of events and exhibitions both within the museum and throughout the County in 2003. These included the exhibition “Wild Flowers and Wee Beasties”, the Northwest Film Archive Cross Border Project and Gaels and Gauls - Language in Conflict play and workshop for school children.

In 2004, the Museum was involved in a number of new initiatives with groups throughout the County and nationally. These included Tógra Fiontar agus Cultúr Uladh a cross border folklore project co-ordinated by Dail Uladh, Cloughaneely, Cabinet of Curiosities, a schools outreach project and Peace in the Border Counties, a cross border museums and arts project with Strabane District Council.

### County Archives

School rollbooks and other archives were collected and listed in 2003. Workhouse registers were microfilmed. A Heritage Council grant of €7,000 was received for purchase of display cases for the Archives exhibition in Lifford. Events included reminiscences for the Bealtaine festival, and a joint exhibition with Derry City Archives called Poverty and charity in the North West c.1845 - 1870.

In 2004, archives, including material from the local elections, were acquired. Exhibitions included Schools of Donegal held in Lifford, and joint exhibitions with the County Museum, in Milford, Carndonagh and Letterkenny PSCs. An open day was held during Heritage Week. The Archivist worked with teachers in developing education packs for primary schools, and visited libraries with a display of archives from the locality.

### County Donegal Heritage Office

The County Donegal Heritage Office began operation in July 2003 with the appointment of County Donegal’s first Heritage Officer. The role of the Heritage Office is to raise awareness, provide advice, promote best practice and propose policy in relation to County Donegal’s natural, built and cultural heritage. Donegal County Council approved County Donegal Heritage Plan methodology.

In 2004, the Heritage Office established the Donegal Heritage Network, published a brochure of ‘Heritage Week’ events in County Donegal, and hosted the launches of ‘The Disappearing Irish Cottage’ book and ‘Donegal Moths’ website. The Heritage Office was awarded €17,000 from Peace II to market the five heritage towns of Ardara, Ballyshannon, Ramelton, Raphoe and Moville.