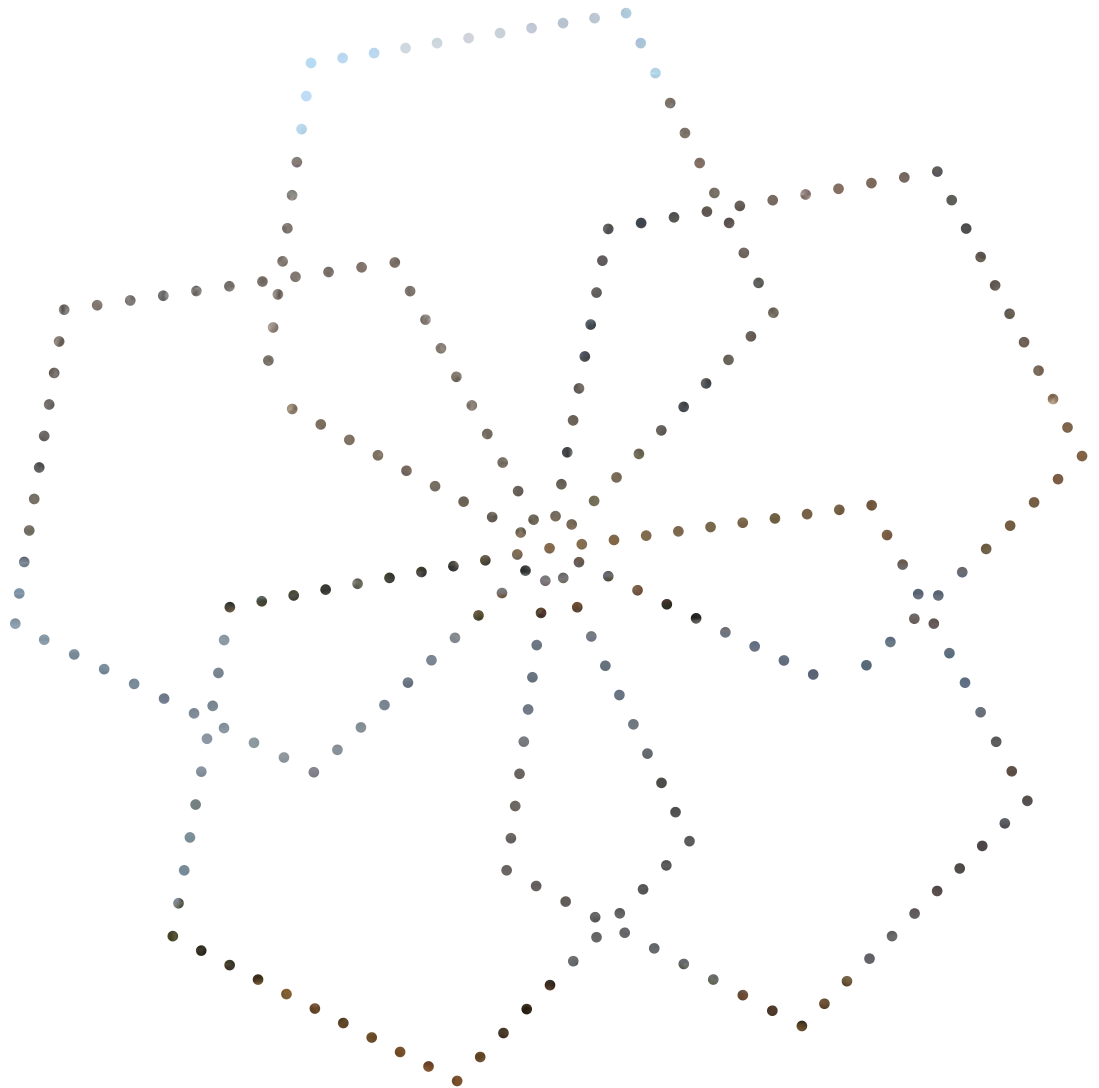


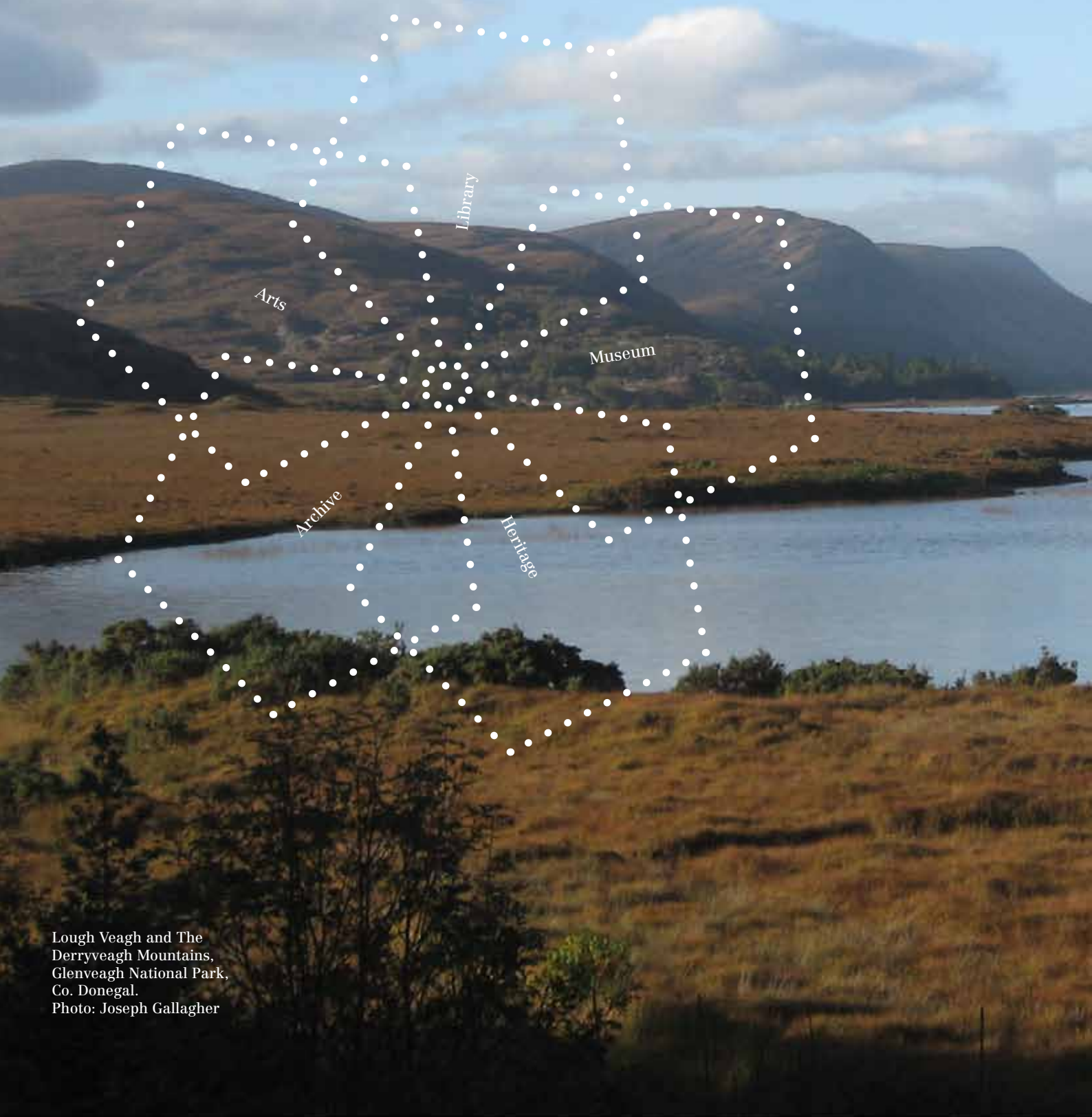
Cultural Connections

Strategic Plan For Cultural Services Division
Donegal County Council
2009 – 2014



comhairle chontae dhún na ngall
donegal county council

The mission of the Cultural Services Division of Donegal County Council is to enrich life, enhance sense of identity, increase cultural and social opportunities and conserve cultural inheritance for present and future generations by maintaining and developing Library, Arts, Museum, Archive and Heritage Services.



Lough Veagh and The
Derryveagh Mountains,
Glenveagh National Park,
Co. Donegal.
Photo: Joseph Gallagher



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Foreword

This is the first cultural strategy for the Cultural Services Division of Donegal County Council in which the related though distinct areas of Libraries, Arts and Heritage work together to 5 common goals.

Donegal County Council takes a proactive approach to the provision of cultural services in the county, continuously evolving to strengthen services, set up new initiatives, create and take up diverse opportunities to meet emerging needs. Donegal gains widespread recognition for this approach and the Council intends to continue to lead and support developments in this core area.

This strategy will build on work to date to strengthen the partnership approach to delivering services. That is the partnership between areas of the Cultural Services Division itself and the partnerships across the wider Donegal Local Authorities, as well as those with other organisations throughout the county, with government departments and, of course, with communities themselves.

Donegal County Council's track record in the area of culture is exceptional and one to be proud of. Our past, present and future culture is a valuable resource for the Donegal community.

The Library Service has been in operation since 1922. Donegal was one of the first local authorities to appoint an Arts Officer. The County Museum opened in 1988. The Earagail Arts Festival was initiated in 1989 and An Grianán Theatre opened to the public in 1999. In the last 15 years, the Library Service has been expanded, the Archives Service, Heritage Office and Public Art Office have been established, and most recently the new Regional Cultural Centre has been built.

The Council is equally as committed in this current time of economic challenge, to delivering high quality public services across the local authority and to the importance of continuously developing the Cultural Services Division, as it has been in the recent times of unprecedented growth.

We welcome the *Cultural Connections* strategic plan for the Cultural Services Division and look forward to working together on its successful implementation.



Michael McLoone
Donegal County Manager



Councillor Brendan Byrne
Mayor, Donegal County Council

Preface

The provision of cultural services is a core function of Donegal County Council and the Council's Cultural Services Division provides a range of such services throughout the county. These services relate to libraries, museum, archives, arts promotion, public art and heritage. The Council provides services through flagship projects such as the Regional Cultural Centre, through its library network and through innovative initiatives such as the Taobh Tíre outreach programme.

Culture in all of its aspects is of key importance to the community of Donegal, adding to quality of life and presenting us with a valuable resource. This plan provides us with a blueprint to guide our actions over the coming years with a view towards consolidating and further developing this resource.

The plan has been developed following extensive consultation with the public, stakeholders in other agencies, elected representatives, and Cultural Services Division staff. I would like to thank everyone who participated in this process, which ensures relevance and value.

We look forward to working with all sections of the Council, with our County Development Board partners and with the community as a whole in advancing this work.



Mícheál Ó hÉanaigh

Director of Community, Culture and Enterprise
Donegal County Council

Introduction

***Cultural Connections* details the approach to be taken by the Cultural Services Division of Donegal County Council to maintain and enhance its ongoing service provision within the county and sets out the intentions of the Division regarding delivery of a range of services and projects to be undertaken in the period 2009 to 2014.**

The provision of Cultural Services is a key area of activity for Donegal County Council towards ensuring the best possible quality of life for the community of Donegal.

The period of operation of the last strategic plan for Cultural Services (*Saol agus Saoithiúlacht* 2001 - 2004) has been marked by significant changes in terms of new ways of learning and accessing information, a burgeoning of arts activities in the county, and a growing interest in heritage and curiosity about our past. There has also been a developing awareness of the economic importance and opportunity inherent in our culture, with culture providing direct economic benefit through employment provided in the sector, through cultural tourism, and through its role as a positive determinant in discussions relating to inward investment or decisions to live and work in an area. There is also a growing appreciation of the contribution that participation in cultural activity can make to a community's quality of life.

In responding to these changes, the Cultural Services Division will build on its record of service provision by enhancing and modifying its core services in response to developments in the sector, new opportunities, and changes in demand. New programmes and services will also be developed. This strategy will provide a basis for all work plans within Cultural Services in Donegal County Council.

This document is arranged in six sections as follows:

Section 1 provides a description of the Cultural Services Division and its place in the organizational structures of Donegal County Council;

Section 2 provides a review of the key achievements of the Division from 2001-2008;

Section 3 examines the policy context within which the Division operates and in which the plan is set;

Section 4 provides an account of the process followed in preparing the plan;

Section 5 sets out the strategic goals, objectives and actions for the Division and the measures to be used in monitoring progress;

Section 6 sets out a selected number of case studies to illustrate the activities of the Division;

The proposed capital programme, and a map showing the distribution of the Division's activities around the county, are contained in appendices.

Section 1

Description of the Cultural Services Division

Section 1

Description of the Cultural Services Division



Breezy Willow's Baking and Storytelling workshop at Wainfest 2005.
Photo: Library Staff

The Cultural Services Division of Donegal County Council provides services to the public across three broad areas:

- Libraries
- Arts
- Heritage

The Division operates within seven specialised sections of service provision as follows:

- Public Libraries
- County Arts Service
- Regional Cultural Centre
- Public Art
- County Museum
- County Archives
- County Donegal Heritage Office

The Donegal County Council Adopted Budget for 2009 included a provision of €6,968,542 for Cultural Services (€5,732,601 revenue expenditure and €1,235,941 service support).

Libraries

By providing a modern library and information service the Council seeks to meet the need for general education, information and recreation, to support the quest for knowledge, and to meet the public's interest in reading and the arts.

It is a resource for Information and Learning, for Culture and the Imagination, and for Children and Young People. Through the public library service, Donegal County Council aims to enrich the lives and increase social and cultural opportunities for every member of society.

The Council has established a countywide library network, with the Central Library at the core, 5 community libraries (Buncrana, Bundoran, Carndonagh, Milford, and Na Rosa) and 11 branch libraries (Ballybofey, Ballyshannon, Clonmany, Donegal Town, Gaoth Dobhair, Glenties, Killybegs, Lifford, Moville, Ramelton and Raphoe) throughout the county. There are Taobh Tíre outreach points in Baile na Finne, An Fhalcarrach, Oileán Thoraigh, Oileán Árainn Mhóir, Mín an Aoire, Cill Chartha, Pettigo, Mevagh, Ionad Lae Tri a'Locha, Fan a'Bhualtaigh, St. Johnston, and Letterkenny (2 sites). A cross-border mobile library serves the east of the county (Manorcunningham, Drumoghill, Carrigans, Killea, Newtowncunningham, Burt, Burnfoot, Bridgend, Porthall, St. Johnston and Muff). This service is delivered in partnership with Libraries NI.

In addition to lending services, a range of other services is provided through the library system, including:

- Childrens' services
- Internet/E-library services
- Reference and Information services
- Audio-visual resources
- An annual programme of events across the county
- Donegal Studies, including family history.



County Arts Service

The Arts Service works in partnership with a broad range of arts groups, educational interests, community groups and networks, and development agencies to strengthen the local arts sector and to further and enrich the community's engagement with the arts. The Service also operates a successful new work and commissions programme, focusing, in the main, on the advancement of locally based professional artists.

Earagail Arts Festival was initiated in 1989 by Donegal County Council and is now administered independently by Earagail Arts Festival Management Company Ltd. Taking place throughout North and West Donegal in mid July, the Festival is the North West's premier multi-disciplinary, annual celebration of the arts. Its core funders include Donegal County Council, The Arts Council, Údarás na Gaeltachta and Fáilte Ireland.

An Grianán Theatre opened to the public in October 1999. The facility is owned and part-funded by Donegal County Council and is managed on behalf of the Council by Letterkenny Theatre Management Co. Ltd. To date, the theatre has played host to audiences of over 400,000 people drawn from throughout County Donegal and beyond. Many thousands more have enjoyed the theatre's own in-house productions which tour regularly throughout the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny

Opened in 2007, the new Regional Cultural Centre incorporates a gallery, a studio cinema/theatre, three multi-purpose workshop spaces, two digital media spaces and two music rehearsal rooms. The Centre commissions and programmes arts activities of a national and international standard and is a continuation and expansion of the original Letterkenny Arts Centre. As such, it builds on the successful countywide and cross-border approach that Letterkenny Arts Centre consistently adopted since its inception in 1995.

The Regional Cultural Centre project is led by Donegal County Council and works in partnership with relevant stakeholders, e.g. An Grianán Theatre, Earagail Arts Festival, Letterkenny Institute of Technology and the Nerve Centre (Derry). It specialises particularly in visual arts and also in music, film, digital media and creative writing. There is an emphasis on engagement, education and participation and on programmes for children and young people across the county.

Public Art Office

The commissioning of Public Art gives the public the opportunity to experience a vast range of contemporary art in their everyday life and also provides the artist with the challenge and opportunity to create work for public engagement and response. In recent years, Donegal County Council has acquired a significant budget under the Per Cent for Art Scheme, by virtue of its considerable infrastructural development programme. This



A scene from Farber Foundry Production's *AMAJUBA - Like Doves We Rise*, presented by Earagail Arts Festival at An Grianán Theatre, July 2005.
Photo: Farber Foundry

Memory Boxes exhibition in Donegal County Museum as part of the Bealtaine Festival, 2006. © Donegal County Museum



scheme allows a small percentage of the overall cost of all of the Council's road building, housing construction and water services construction programmes to be set aside to commission public art. In its five year Public Art Plan *Making Shapes' Public Art in Donegal 2006 – 2010*, the Council has put in place a co-ordinated and ambitious programme of work, utilising this budget. A three strand approach has been adopted which provides for Artists' Residencies, Context Specific Work and Research and Development.

The Public Art website, www.donegalpublicart.ie is a comprehensive documentation of all the Council's commissions to date and has details of all work in progress.

Donegal County Museum

Donegal County Museum was opened to the public in 1987. The Museum is partly housed in what was once the Warden's house of the Letterkenny Workhouse, built in 1843. An extension was completed in 1991.

The Museum develops and cares for a comprehensive collection of original artefacts relating to the history of County Donegal. There are two exhibition galleries. A series of temporary exhibitions and associated events are held each year in the ground floor gallery. The first floor gallery highlights aspects of the story of Donegal from the Stone Age to the Twentieth Century. The Museum maintains a workshop and storage facility where artefacts are preserved and stored under appropriate environmental conditions. The Museum also undertakes an annual programme of in-house and outreach events and activities.

Donegal County Archives

Donegal County Archives seeks to preserve, acquire and make accessible the archival heritage of the county for present and future generations. The Archives Service manages and preserves the archives of the county's local authorities and their predecessor bodies and also archives acquired through private purchase or donation which relate to the history, heritage and/or culture of the county. The Archives Service is also responsible for the management of the county's local authorities' non-current records.

Services to the public include facilitating and assisting researchers at the Archives, regular exhibitions of its collections, both at the Archives and in locations around the county, education programmes and other outreach events, and publications.

The Archives Service also undertakes a range of projects, e.g. *Schools Resource Pack*, *Flight of the Earls Resource Pack*. The Archives Service is based in Lifford.

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 Heritage Act (1995) defines heritage as constituting archaeological objects, architectural heritage, fauna, flora, geology, heritage gardens and parks, heritage objects, inland waterways, landscapes, monuments, seascapes, wildlife habitats and wrecks. Donegal County Council is committed to "placing heritage at the heart of public life" in County Donegal as set out in the National Heritage Plan (2002). The role of the County Donegal Heritage Office is to raise awareness, provide advice, propose policy and promote best practice in relation to County Donegal's natural, built and cultural heritage. The County Donegal Heritage Office also takes the lead role in preparing and implementing the County Donegal Heritage Plan in conjunction with the County Donegal Heritage Forum.

In the corporate structure of Donegal County Council, the Cultural Services Division is placed within the Community, Culture and Enterprise Directorate. This is illustrated in figure 1 below.

Figure 1

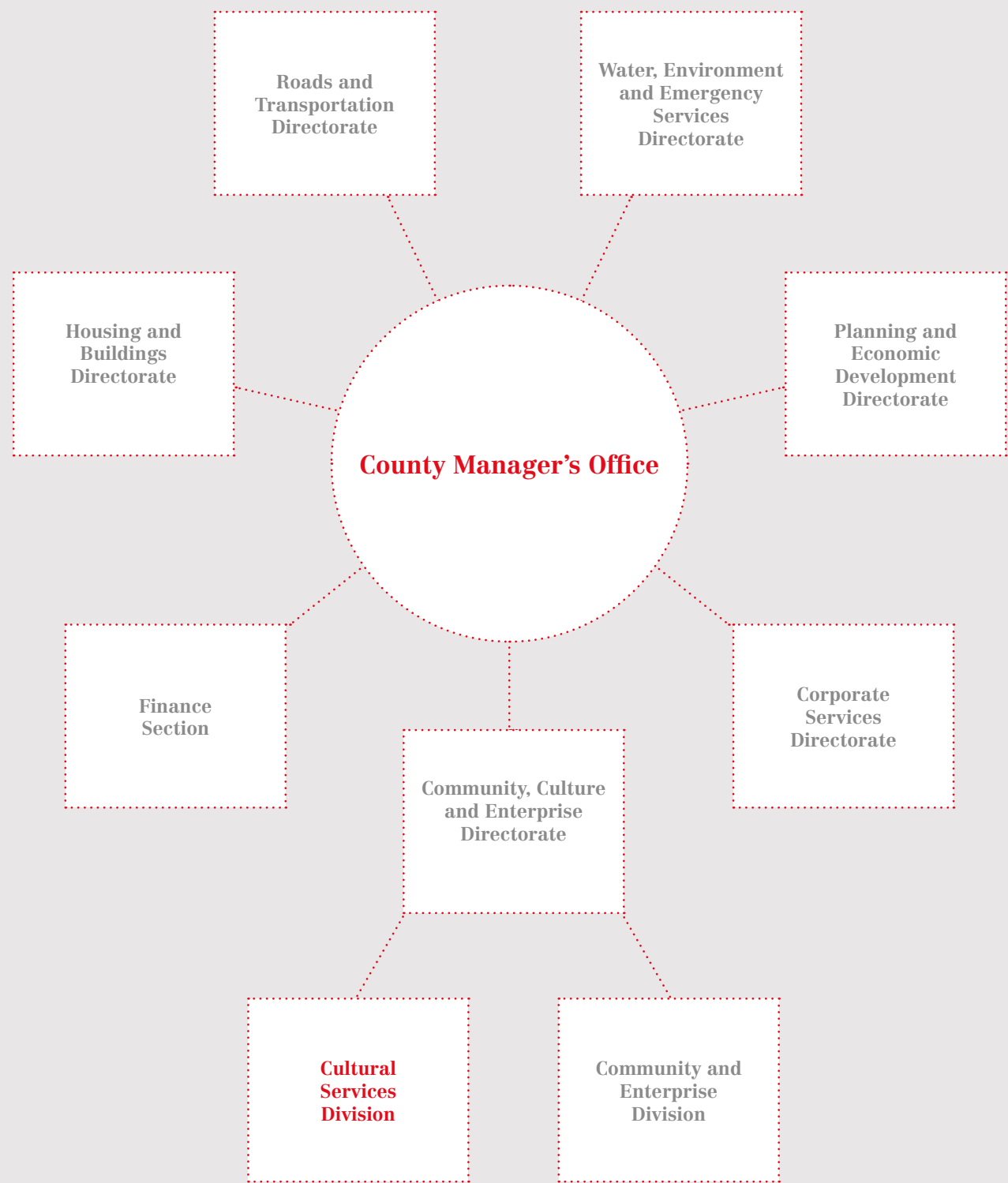
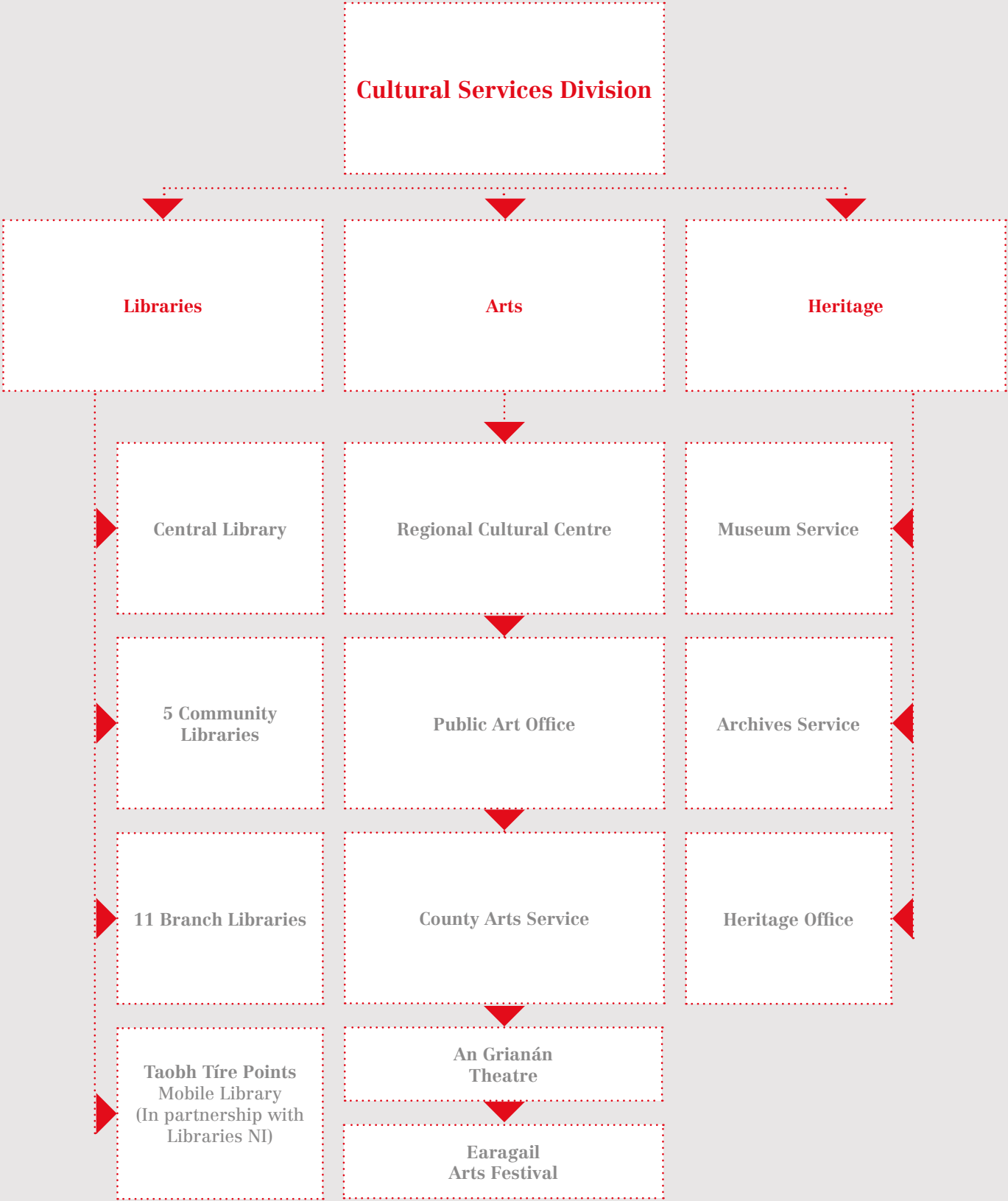


Figure 2 Organisational structure of the Cultural Services Division

Figure 2



Section 2

Review 2001-2008

Key Achievements and Outputs

Library Service: Review 2001-2008

Key Achievements and Outputs

By providing a modern library and information service, the Council seeks to meet the need for general education, information and recreation, to support the quest for knowledge, and to meet the public's interest in reading and the arts.

Enhanced Services to Children and Young People

Libraries provide extensive services to children and young people, including, though reaching far beyond, the provision of quality reading material in fiction and nonfiction. Each library hosts an annual Summer Reading Programme, the aim of which is to develop a love of reading. Thousands of children take part in reading activities across the county culminating in award ceremonies attended by the young readers with their parents, grandparents and guardians. Twelve libraries host weekly *Rhyme Time* sessions for preschool children and their parents. These are an excellent means of introducing young children to poetry, rhymes, books and reading, and act as a springboard for parent discussion and greater social inclusion. Loans of picture books to preschools, particularly those in rural areas, is exceptionally well regarded by preschool teachers. All libraries in Donegal cater for class visits from primary and secondary schools.

Development of Internet and Electronic Services

Internet and Library Management System access have now been extended to fifteen libraries in County Donegal. The WebOPAC (on-line catalogue) is also available. Databases providing access to newspaper archives, business information, online dictionaries and encyclopaedias as well as information on music and art are provided. *Ask a Librarian* is a free online information service provided by Donegal County Library. The lending website www.borrowbooks.ie allows you to search all Irish public libraries' catalogues and locate and request items not held in Donegal. A digitisation programme is underway, with selected local interest resources available at www.askaboutireland.ie.

Provision of Information

Donegal County Library launched a *Start Your Own Business* Information Service in Central Library, Letterkenny in 2002 and *Inishowen Careers and Business Information Service* in Buncrana Community Library and Carndonagh Community Library in 2003. These libraries now cater for a wide range of enquiries on careers and business. In addition to this all libraries provide access to careers and business information. A recent major trend in society has been the increase in the number of people seeking health and medical information. Donegal County Libraries have adapted accordingly, building up extensive health information collections. In some towns, the library is the only source of tourist information. All libraries hold community information leaflets and booklets. The Europe Direct Information Centre was launched at the Central Library, Letterkenny in 2005. Since then, a wide programme of events has been delivered to highlight the Centre and to encourage debate and discussion on European Union issues.

Donegal Local Studies

Donegal County Library Service acts as the collective memory of County Donegal by comprehensively collecting and making available local studies material and by acting as a centre for local studies, energetically promoting the resources and the study of local culture. Library staff have put in place a strategy to promote the unique Donegal Local Studies Collection, including family history resources, at the Central Library, Letterkenny. This involves an exhibition programme, lectures and visits by local history groups. Other libraries in the county continue to develop their local studies collections and ensure that adults, children, and young people have easy access to these local interest collections. Some libraries have facilitated the development of Local History Groups and all libraries host local history and genealogy talks and exhibitions.

Extension of Library Infrastructure and Improved Opening Hours

Over 6,100 visits to public libraries in Donegal were recorded during the one-week visitor count in 2007, an increase of 41% on the number of visits to Donegal libraries in 2002. The increase can be accounted for by the investment the Council has made in new library buildings and services in Milford, Carndonagh and Bundoran, along with improved and extended services provided by staff at these and all library locations. Donegal's national research project, Taobh Tíre, reaches out to remote, small, or isolated communities, across the county. Virtually all centres of population in the county now have access to library services within 10km.

Community Events Programme

There has been a dramatic increase in the number of community events held in libraries in Donegal, including lectures and talks on a wide range of subjects from beekeeping to place names, workshops, book club meetings, author visits, class visits, group visits, theatre, music and exhibitions. Some of these events are part of festival programmes such as Bealtaine, Seachtain na Gaeilge, Heritage Week, National Tree Week, Library Ireland Week, Earagail Arts Festival, Flight of the Earls programme and Science Week. It has been estimated that since 2001 Donegal libraries have hosted 5,360 events for adults and children. Public libraries in Donegal are key assets in fostering community empowerment and identity.

The Taobh Tíre point
in Comharchumann
Forbartha agus Fostaíochta
Arainn Mhór.
Photo: Library Staff



County Arts Service; Review 2001-2008

Key Achievements and Outputs

Strategic Partnerships Revenue Programme

The Strategic Partnerships Revenue Programme was the subject of an action in *Saol agus Saoithiúlacht*, providing for the development of 'special, longer term funding agreements with a number of specific arts groups and arts initiatives in recognition of the consistently high standards of artistic excellence and innovation which they have attained locally and nationally'. Since its inception in 2004, nine groups have benefited from substantial annual revenue funding under the Programme including The Abbey Arts Centre (Ballyshannon), Butt Drama Circle Company Ltd. (Ballybofey), Tullyarvan Mill (Buncrana), Balor Development Community Arts Ltd. (Ballybofey), Simply Music (Buncrana), Ceardlann a Croisbhealach (An Falcarrach), Tullyarvan Mill (Buncrana), Artlink (Buncrana) and The Summer Palace Press (Kilcar).

Donegal Bay and Blue Stacks Festival

The Service initiated the Donegal Bay and Blue Stacks Festival in 2001, to mirror the Earagail Arts Festival in the north of the county. The Festival provides an annual focus for the best of local, national and international creativity in South and South West Donegal, in late September/early October. At the heart of the Festival is the annual Festival Carnival Parade in Ballyshannon which typically involves up to 400 participants and attracts audiences of almost 4000 people.

Earagail Arts Festival

The Earagail Arts Festival celebrated its 20th year in 2008. It is now managed on behalf of Donegal County Council by Earagail Arts Festival Management Company Ltd. and employs three full-time staff. In 2008, the Festival presented a programme of over 135 events to an audience of 35,000 people in 13 towns and villages across North and West Donegal.

Festival highlights in recent years have included Marrugeku Theatre of Australia's *Crying Baby* at the Glebe House and Gallery (Churchill), Circus Ronaldo's *Fili* at Letterkenny Town Park, the *Oidhreacht* celebration of the musical achievements of Leo and Baba Brennan and the Brennan Family and the Festival's co-ordination of the hugely successful *Return of The Earls* spectacle at Rathmullan, with the Inishowen Carnival Group and Walk The Plank pyrotechnics company.



Walk The Plank at *An Cosán Glas*, Machaire Rabhartaigh, 2007.
Photo: Ewan Berry

The Arts Service works in partnership with a broad range of arts groups, educational interests, community groups and networks, and development agencies to strengthen the local arts sector and to further and enrich the community's engagement with the arts.

An Grianán Theatre

An Grianán Theatre opened to the public in November 1999. A flagship arts facility for the county, it has consolidated its position at the heart of the community and is one of the key players in the sector nationally. The theatre enjoys annual audience figures in excess of 65,000.

While its annual programme includes the best local, national, and international drama, music, dance and comedy, An Grianán is also a producing house, creating and touring high quality, professional theatre productions, reaching new audiences and providing employment for artists in the process. Recent highlights have included in-house, touring productions of Brian Friel's *Translations* and

Dancing At Lughnasa, An Grianán's own shows for children including *The Little Mermaid*, *Pinocchio*, and *The Witching Well* as well as in-coming shows such as *The Tinkers' Wedding* and *The Well of The Saints* from the hugely acclaimed DruidSynge project, Floez Theatre's *Ristorante Immortale* and Faber Foundry of Johannesburg's *Amajuba : Like Doves We Rise*.

In 2007, the theatre was awarded a Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism ACCESS grant which it used to increase its seating capacity from 345 to 383.

An Grianán Theatre was delighted to host visits from Ireland's four leading theatre companies in 2008, including The Abbey Theatre with *The Seafarer*, The Gate Theatre with *Waiting for Godot*, Rough Magic Theatre Company with *The Taming of the Shrew* and Druid Theatre Company with *The Cripple of Inishmaan* - all of whom played to capacity audiences.

New Community Arts and Arts Education Initiative

Donegal County Council secured funding from The Arts Council towards the employment of a Community Arts and Education Officer whose area of remit covers South and South West Donegal. Based at the Donegal Public Services Centre, the Community Arts and Education Officer took up position in late 2006 and works closely with other Cultural Service providers within the Council - the County Library, the Public Art Programme, the Regional Cultural Centre, An Grianán Theatre and the Earagail Arts Festival, in particular.

The Donegal Public Services Centre has proved the ideal location from which to provide such a service to a constituency that extends from Pettigo and Bundoran, westwards to Glencolmcille and Glenties.

Commissions and New Work

Since 2001, the Council's Touring Arts Programme has evolved into an on-going Commissions and New Work Programme, encouraging and supporting the creation and presentation of new artistic work, by Donegal artists in the main. Working either independently or in collaboration with other commissioning groups, highlights in recent years have included Fidget Feet's *Wired and Free* aerial dance piece, Saothar Ealaíne's *Loinnir Cosán Glas* sculpture trail series at Machaire Rabhartaigh, the community cast co-production, with An Grianán Theatre and Earagail Arts Festival, of Thomas Kilroy's *The O'Neill* and *Donal Lunny - The Donegal Connection*, with Tionscnamh Lugh and Earagail Arts Festival.

Letterkenny Arts Centre / Regional Cultural Centre Review 2001-2008

Key Achievements and Outputs

Development of New Regional Cultural Centre Building

The key objective for Letterkenny Arts Centre in the *Saol agus Saoithiúlacht* period was the development of a new Arts Centre building. The initial funding application was submitted to the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism in October 2000 under the ACCESS scheme and the building was completed and opened to the public in July 2007. The project was in development throughout 2001 – 2007 and key milestones included: the award of €2.5 million ACCESS funding in August 2001; the appointment of the design team led by MacGabhann Architects in April 2003; the granting of Planning Permission in January 2004; confirmation of funding from Interreg 3A, International Fund for Ireland and The Arts Council /Film Board in Autumn 2004; and commencement of construction by McDermott and Trearty Contractors in August 2005.

The new Regional Cultural Centre, built adjacent to An Grianán Theatre Letterkenny, is eight times larger than the previous Letterkenny Arts Centre. The latter was housed in the basement of the Central Library and opened to the public in 1995. The new Centre consists of a first floor art gallery, a 150-seat auditorium and a range of workshop spaces. These include three large multi-purpose workshops, two dedicated digital media suites and two small music rehearsal rooms. The Centre is one of the finest multi-disciplinary arts facilities in Ireland and has been described as 'A cultural beacon that places Donegal in an international context' (*Irish Times*) and as 'undoubtedly a world-class design' (*Irish Arts Review*).

The Centre commissions and programmes arts activities of a national and international standard and is a continuation and expansion of the original Letterkenny Arts Centre. As such, it builds on the successful countywide and cross-border approach that Letterkenny Arts Centre consistently adopted since its inception in 1995.

Exhibition Programme 2001-2008

The other key Arts Centre objectives within *Saol agus Saoithiúlacht* related to increasing and improving the level and quality of the annual programme. Since its inception, Letterkenny Arts Centre specialised in visual art exhibitions, and also in concerts, film, festivals, education/ outreach and publications and each of these areas expanded during the period 2001-2008.

The Centre has presented a continuous programme of temporary art exhibitions, among them a number of major exhibitions curated by the Centre which have attracted significant national media attention. These have included the annual series of Earagail Arts Festival exhibitions organised by the Centre in association with the Glebe Gallery Churchill, Donegal County Museum, An Gaileari Falcarragh, Artlink Buncrana and An Grianán Theatre.

As such, the 2001 Festival programme focused on photography and video while *Time Warps* in 2002 centered around three Pre Columbian Art exhibitions featuring priceless textiles, ceramic and metal artefacts. In 2003 the Centre co-ordinated a series of six exhibitions exploring local Donegal life while the 2004 programme, entitled *Form*, featured Henry Moore together with a group show, *20th Century Sculpture*, that included works by Anish Kapoor and Barbara Hepworth. *Time*, in 2005, included exhibitions by Jacques Mandelbrojt and a group show with Bill Viola and John Cage while the highlight of *Conflict and Resolution* in 2006 was William Orpen's World War One drawings.

The inaugural exhibition programme at the new Regional Cultural Centre in 2007 featured *Painting in the Noughties - 21st Century British and Irish Abstract Painting* while 2008 saw a hugely ambitious series of retrospective exhibitions, curated by the RCC, on the work of internationally renowned

Hungarian artist, Victor Vasarely. The exhibition was also toured to Provence (Aix), Paris and to Vasarely's birthplace of Pécs in Hungary. It was also selected by *The Irish Times* as one of the Top 5 visual arts highlights of 2008.

Other Programming 2001-2008

The Centre also organised an annual programme of national and international classical, jazz, traditional and world music concerts at Letterkenny Arts Centre and an annual Lettekenny Film Club programme at Century Cinemas Letterkenny, featuring the best in world cinema. The improved facilities at the Regional Cultural Centre include a raked and retractable 150-seat auditorium with stage lighting and PA and have allowed for both sit down and standing gigs since 2007. The inclusion of 35mm and DVD projectors and surround sound also means that the auditorium functions excellently as a cinema.

Outreach and Countywide

Letterkenny Arts Centre has organised a countywide programme since its inception and this is particularly true of the Centre's involvement in three annual festivals – Bealtaine for older people in May, Earagail Arts Festival in July and Wainfest for children in October/November.

Bealtaine has grown from 7 events in 3 locations in its first year in 1998 to 108 events in over 40 locations in 2008. The Earagail Arts Festival was jointly organised by the Arts Centre and the County Arts Service until it became an independent company in 2003 and the Regional Cultural Centre continues to organise the Festival's exhibition programme and to host concerts and other festival events. Wainfest and the Children and Young People's Autumn programme has grown from 14 events in 5 locations in 1998 to over 120 events in over 20 libraries and Taobh Tíre centres countywide and 50 events in the Regional Cultural Centre in 2008.

1
Centrefold by Anna Heindrich and Leon Palmer, a large scale temporary projection event that transformed the exterior facade of Regional Cultural Centre. Commissioned in 2007 as part of the context specific strand of the Public Art Programme. Photo: Paul Mc Guckian

2
Painting In The Noughties Exhibition at the Regional Cultural Centre, 2007. Photo: John Cunningham



Public Art Office: Review 2001-2008

Key Achievements and Outputs

Appointment of Public Art Manager

Donegal County Council signalled its intent with regard to the effective realization of its Public Art Programme with the appointment in 2004 of a Public Art Manager to manage the on-going programme, to revise policy and to develop and deliver a Public Art Strategy for the county. A Public Art Assistant was appointed in 2007.

Public Art Commissions 2001-2008

Donegal County Council's Public Art Programme has been active since 1990 and to date almost 60 commissions have been awarded and delivered. Some of the artists commissioned and projects completed in recent years include permanent sculptural works and installations by Claire McLaughlin at Carndonagh Community Library, Mark Joyce at Bearnasmore, Travart at Letterkenny Fire Station, Gerard Harvey at Mountcharles and Brendan McGloin at Bundoran and Lifford.

Temporary works and work in other media have included John Nee's play *Rural Electric*, a community carnival project in Killybegs under the title *Sea Spllosion*, Saothar Ealaine's *Aisling/Dreamtime* at Machaire Rabhartaigh, the *WindoWall* billboard project in Letterkenny with Caroline McCarthy and Marie Barrett's *Ark of Tides* installation at Pollan Beach, Ballyliffin.

The Public Art Website

The Public Art website, www.donegalpublicart.ie, was launched in 2006 and was 'Highly Commended' in the 2007 Irish Design Awards. The site is a comprehensive documentation of all commissions to date as well as works in progress.

Making Shapes¹ Public Art in Donegal 2006 – 2010

One of the new Public Art Manager's first tasks was to devise a blueprint for the medium to long term management and direction of the Council's public art programme. This work culminated in the production and launch in 2006 of *Making Shapes¹ Public Art in Donegal 2006 – 2010*.

Public Art Commissions 2006–2008

The inaugural year of Donegal County Council's public art blueprint, *Making Shapes¹ Public Art in Donegal 2006 – 2010*, saw the completion of a series of public art works and commissions, some of which have since attained almost iconic status locally.

Chief among these are Locky Morris' *PoleStar* work on the Port Roundabout at Letterkenny – a work commissioned jointly by Letterkenny Town Council and Donegal County Council – and Richard Wayman's *Cith is Dealán* book of photographic portraits of the people of Ardara, which was produced in association with the Regional Cultural Centre.

In 2007 as part of the Flight of the Earls commemorations, an extensive residency project with composer Elaine Agnew and writers Kate Newman and Cathal Ó Searcaigh took place in eight primary and two second level schools on the Fanad Peninsula. The resulting work was premiered as *One Less Petal, One Less Flame*, a musical performance involving an 80 strong children's choir, the Irish Chamber Orchestra, an ensemble of traditional musicians led by Tommy Peoples and the Gabriele Mirabassi Trio from Italy.

Artist John Behan R.H.A was awarded the *Flight of the Earls: Imeacht na nIarlaí* sculptural commission in partnership with Rathmullan and District Local History Society. Sited close to Rathmullan Beach, his *Imeacht na nIarlaí* public artwork was unveiled by The President of Ireland on September 14th 2007.



1
Polestar by Locky Morris
Photo: Paul Mc Guckian



2
Between The Known And The Unknown (Little Hawthorn Tree) by artists Elizabeth Caffrey and Sean Campbell. Commissioned by the Public Art Office utilising the Per Cent for Art Scheme for the Ballyshannon Bundoran by Pass.
Photo: Elizabeth Caffrey

In addition, Derry sculptor Maurice Harron was commissioned to create a figurative work in bronze to celebrate the legacy and achievements of Red Hugh O'Donnell (1427-1505). The work is sited on the pier at Donegal Town.

In 2008, The Public Art Office worked with The Regional Cultural Centre to commission *Oatfield - The Sweet Stuff*, a major three part Public Art Project with Oatfield Sweet Factory.

Chicago based theatre and art troupe Redmoon Theatre was invited to lead a Letterkenny schools outreach project which culminated in a beautiful public spectacle of fantastical artworks inspired by the names of some of Oatfield's most popular products - Eskimo Mints, Emerald Chocolate and Cherry Drops.

Donegal County Museum hosted an historical exhibition on Oatfield Sweet Factory, which included the establishment of an old sweet shop in the museum for the duration of the exhibition. The oral histories of current and past Oatfield workers and the role for the factory in the town were explored.

The third part of the project - a photographic exhibition on Oatfield Sweet Factory by Abigail O'Brien - will be shown at the Regional Cultural Centre in November 2009.

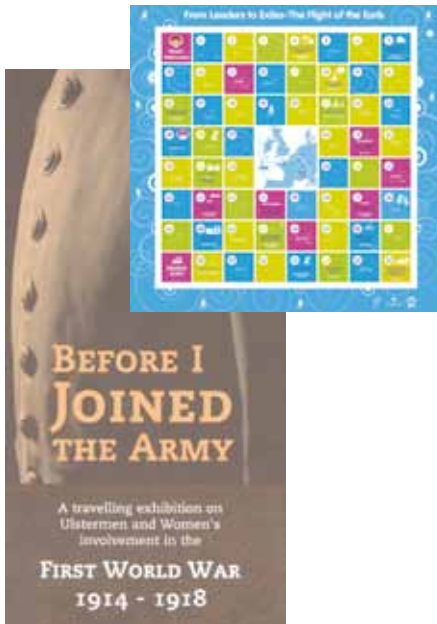
Oatfield The Sweet Stuff; a series of exhibitions celebrating 80 years of Oatfield Sweet Factory. This project forms part of the residency strand of Donegal County Council's Public Art Programme and was funded under the Per Cent for Art Scheme arising from the National Road Authority recent construction of the N56 Mountain Top to Illistrin Road Realignment Project. Photo: Paul McGuckian

The commissioning of Public Art gives the public the opportunity to experience a vast range of contemporary art in their everyday life and also provides the artist with the challenge and opportunity to create work for public engagement and response.



County Museum: Review 2001-2008

Key Achievements and Outputs



Poster for *Before I Joined The Army*, Donegal County Museum's very successful World War I travelling exhibition, 2006.
© Donegal County Museum / Marley Design

Flight Of The Earls Board Game. Devised by the Donegal County Museum as part of its *From Leaders To Exiles* travelling exhibition, 2007. © Donegal County Museum / Marley Design

The Museum develops and cares for a comprehensive collection of original artefacts relating to the history of County Donegal. There are two exhibition galleries. A series of temporary exhibitions and associated events are held each year in the ground floor gallery. The first floor gallery highlights aspects of the story of Donegal from the Stone Age to the Twentieth Century.

Development of County Museum Buildings

In 2005 the Museum service leased a warehouse to house the entire Museum collection and the conservation workshop. The majority of the Museum collection has been transferred to the warehouse.

Exhibitions

Following major renovations in the Museum, new exhibition cases and graphic panels were purchased for the first floor exhibition gallery. This exhibition tells the story of Donegal from the Stone Age to the Twentieth century through original artefacts, archives and images. Since 2001 the Museum has hosted and organised 53 exhibitions and 69 events.

Museum Collection

The Council adopted a Collection Policy in 2007, which details the principles and procedures involved in collecting artefacts for the Museum. Between 2001 and 2008 over 1,000 artefacts were acquired.

Outreach Service

In 2004 the Museum received funding from Peace II and the Heritage Council to develop a World War One travelling exhibition "*Before I Joined the Army...*" The exhibition consists of graphic display panels and a specially commissioned DVD that tell the story of the men and women from Ulster who were involved in the First World War. Since 2006 the exhibition has travelled to venues throughout the Republic and Northern Ireland. Since 2001 the Museum has organised 61 outreach events throughout Donegal and nationally.

Standards

Between 1999 and 2003 Donegal County Museum participated in the Heritage Council's Museums' Accreditation Pilot Study. The pilot study set out to identify a set of minimum standards for an Irish Museums Accreditation Scheme.

Cross Border Projects

Between 2004 and 2006 the Museum was involved in the North West Film Archive project, which collected and catalogued film material on the counties of Derry and Donegal and formed a digital archive that has been made accessible to a range of user-groups.

Between 2004 and 2006 the Museum was involved in the *Peace Building in the Border Counties* Project funded by Peace II. The outcomes of this project included the provision of a specific training programme for museum and cultural services staff and two joint exhibitions: *The Cooper Collection of Photographs* and *Touching the Past*, an innovative interactive children's exhibition.

In 2007 the Museum worked in partnership with Derry Museum on a flagship *Flight of the Earls* exhibition that was displayed in Donegal and Derry. The exhibition is travelling to other parts of Ireland and internationally. In February 2008, the exhibition opened in Switzerland. In April 2008, the exhibition went on display in Rome.

Archives Service: Review 2001-2008 Key Achievements and Outputs

The Archives Centre

Due to the large quantities of acquisitions since 1999 the Archives Service has had to lease premises for storage of archives. Two commercial units, totalling 2600 square feet, are now leased by the Council and are stocked with static archival quality steel shelving. This has allowed the Archives Service to continue to acquire, preserve and make accessible more public and private archives.

Donegal County Archives seeks to preserve, acquire and make accessible the archival heritage of the county for present and future generations.

Preservation

Under the Archives Service policy, a phased programme of preservation microfilming of especially important collections has been underway since 2001. The archives of all eight Poor Law Unions - Ballyshannon, Donegal, Dunfanaghy, Glenties, Inishowen, Letterkenny, Milford and Stranorlar have been security microfilmed, including 900 minute books, registers, letters, accounts and other items.

Collections

Important acquisitions since 2001 include public collections such as records from the old area offices across the county, planning application files, valuation and rate books, housing construction files, archives of the Town Councils, records of St. Conal's Hospital, and primary school archives. Private collections include the GAA County Board, Donegal Shirt Company, significant private papers from the Grove, Montgomery and Boyton families, Donegal Historical Society, oral history recordings and photographs from across the county. Collections catalogued include many County and Town Council records, Rural District Councils, school roll books and registers, and the majority of private acquisitions.

Services to the Public

Services provided to the public by the Archive Service, from its office in Lifford, now include access to the database, an information leaflet, a title list of archives and a *Guide to the Archives*. There are regular exhibitions of archives at the Archives office in Lifford and across the county, including occasional travelling exhibitions. A kiosk for access to the *North West Film Archive* is available to the public in Lifford. Other services include photocopying or digitisation of items from the collection.

Education

Three education packs have been developed. A pack for primary schools based on the County Archives' own collections was produced in 2006 and can be downloaded from the County Archives' website. Two Flight of the Earls commemorative resource packs were produced in 2007-2008. One was aimed at second level schools and at people generally interested in this period of history. The other pack was for primary schools and was produced in co-operation with the Donegal Education Centre. A publication: *The Donegal County Archives Collection: A Guide for Teachers and Students* was published in 2007 in Irish and English and is also available on the Archives' website. In-Service training to primary school teachers took place from 2005 - 2007.

Outreach to the Public

Outreach activities since 2001 have included reminiscence sessions at day centres throughout the county for the festival of *Bealtaine*, exhibitions in the Public Service Centres and libraries, seminars and talks for *Heritage Week* and regular displays and exhibits at events and conferences. A major travelling exhibition, *The Past in the Present*, based on the County Archives collections, was launched in 2008.

Poster from the *Donegal Board of the GAA Archives Collection*. The collection was deposited with the Archives Service in 2006. Donegal County Archives.



1
The Archives Service
visits Arranmore for
the Bealtaine festival,
2007.
Photo: Donegal County
Archives

2
Image of Annie Gallagher,
used for *The Past in
the Present: A Donegal
County Archives Touring
Exhibition*, 2008.
Photo: Kevin Kiely

3
Ministers Mary Hanafin TD
and Mary Coughlan TD at
the launch of the County
Archives' *Education
Pack on the Flight Of
The Earls*, 2007.
Photo: Donegal County
Archives



Heritage Office: Review 2001-2008

Key Achievements and Outputs

Establishment of Heritage Office

The County Donegal Heritage Office was established 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, propose policy, collect data and promote best practice in relation to the natural, built and cultural heritage.

County Donegal Heritage Plan

In conjunction with the County Donegal Heritage Forum, the Heritage Officer produced the *County Donegal Heritage Plan (2007-2011)* which was adopted unanimously by Donegal County Council in 2007. The aim of the Heritage Plan is 'to gather knowledge, raise awareness, encourage appreciation of the natural, built and cultural heritage of our county and to promote best practice in the management of our heritage for the enjoyment of present and future generations'. Implementation of the Heritage Plan to date has included a reprint of the *Archaeological Survey of County Donegal*, a report on the conservation of flora and fauna associated with old stone bridges, a survey of thatched structures, a study of clachans, a project to gather information on heritage objects associated with farming and fishing, Village Design Statements, a project to map local placenames and fieldnames and a survey of hedgerows.

Donegal County Council is committed to "placing heritage at the heart of public life" in County Donegal as set out in the National Heritage Plan, 2002.

Local Heritage Grant Awards

The Heritage Office secured four Local Heritage Grant Awards from The Heritage Council for seminars on the *Care and Conservation of Historic Graveyards* (2005), a brochure entitled *Heritage in Your Hinterland* on museums and heritage centres in County Donegal (2005), *Traditional Field Boundaries* seminars and workshops on the conservation of stone walls and hedgerows (2006), and a seminar on *Vernacular Architecture in West Donegal* in conjunction with Cumann Staire Chloich Cheann Fhaola (2007).

Publications and Publicity

Since 2005, the Heritage Office has published an annual *Heritage Week Events in County Donegal* booklet to raise awareness of the natural, built and cultural heritage. In the first five years of its operation, the Heritage Office has generated about 350 articles on heritage issues in local newspapers. The Heritage Office supported the production of a *Mapping the Moths of Donegal* brochure and the launch of *The Disappearing Irish Cottage* book by Symmons and Harkin in 2004. The Heritage Officer researched and produced a series of six *Heritage Town* brochures that include heritage trails.

Outreach, Conferences and Seminars

In 2005, the Heritage Officer was invited by the Irish American Cultural Institute to be a guest speaker on regional vernacular architecture on its *Irish Perceptions* lecture series at nine venues in seven states in the U.S. The Heritage Office was involved in organising the *Language in Heritage* conference held in Gort an Chiorce (2004) and three *Beltany* heritage conferences in Raphoe (2005-2007). The Heritage Officer has given numerous presentations, conducts many site visits and leads selected fieldtrips. The Heritage Office also assists and facilitates several community-based heritage initiatives.

In conjunction with the Roads and Transportation Directorate, the Heritage Office initiated an inventory of historic graveyards, and runs an annual *Care and Conservation of Historic Graveyards* seminar. In 2007, the Heritage Office ran two highly-successful seminars on vernacular architecture in conjunction

1
Killydonnell Friary and Graveyard are Recorded Monuments protected under the National Monuments Acts (1930-2004).
Photo: Joseph Gallagher

2
Primrose Wilson and Rita Harkin of the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society attended the *Home and Dry: How to Restore Traditional Buildings* seminar on Gola Island, organised in conjunction with the County Donegal Heritage Office, 2007.
Photo: Joseph Gallagher

with the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society and Cumann Staire Chloich Cheann Fhaola. In 2008, the Heritage Office organised highly successful seminars on the *Traditional Buildings of County Donegal* and the *Invisible Assets* biodiversity and health seminar in conjunction with the Health Service Executive. Launches in 2008 included the *Heritage Towns of County Donegal* brochures, the *Birds and Wildlife on Tory Island* leaflets in conjunction with BirdWatch Ireland and the national launch of the *Traditional Buildings on Irish Farms* booklet in conjunction with The Heritage Council and Teagasc. Heritage Office staff participate in on-going professional development such as the Heritage Training and Development Programme. The Donegal Heritage Network (a network of museums, heritage centres and heritage organisations and groups in County Donegal) was established by the Heritage Office in 2005.

County Development Plan

The Heritage Officer was involved in drafting heritage policies in the *County Development Plan* (2006-2012) and took the lead role in arranging a Heritage Appraisal of the *County Development Plan*.

Field Monument Advisor

In December 2006, the Heritage Office appointed a part-time Field Monument Advisor. The role of the Field Monument Advisor is to identify field monuments and provide information and advice to landowners on the management, care and conservation of ancient monuments in the selected study area in south Donegal.





Dessie Gallagher (Gerry Evans) and Cathleen Bradley (Chris Mundy) in a scene from An Grianán Theatre's production in 2002 of *Dancing At Lughnasa*, by Brian Friel, Photo: Andrew Paton

Section 3

Operating Environment, Policy and Legislative Context

Section 3

Operating Environment, Policy and Legislative Context



Students from Educate Together Primary School, Letterkenny visiting *Seen But Not Heard - A Century of Childhood*, a temporary exhibition in the Donegal County Museum, 2008.
© Donegal County Museum

Visitors inspecting *Ballyhanna Man* at the opening of Donegal County Museum's *Lost and Found - Discovering the Past on the N15 Bundoran – Ballyshannon Bypass* exhibition, 2006.
© Donegal County Museum

Operating Environment

The operating environment for the Cultural Services Division has changed significantly in recent years and each of the component services of the Division has experienced considerable re-definition of its role in the community. Culture is an area of life that everyone can be involved in and benefit from. In response to this, the Cultural Services Division works to bring its services to all parts of the county and to engage all sections of the community in its activities. Taobh Tire library outreach, Earagail Arts Festival and the Archives Education packs projects are just three examples of this trend.

Likewise, museums and archives are increasingly recognised as important resources in support of mainstream education. The Library Service has been radically changed through the adoption of digital media and new communications technologies.

The unprecedented development experienced in our economy and society over recent years has prompted a growth in concern for the protection of our heritage. A 2007 study commissioned by the Heritage Council on the value people in Ireland place on heritage shows strong public concern about the need to safeguard our heritage. The vast majority of those surveyed agree that new measures and increased funding should be put in place, with over 92% agreeing that it is important to protect our heritage while 92% think that people should be penalised for damaging heritage. 90% are proud of our heritage and 85% agree that the Government should offer more incentives to protect heritage. A key conclusion of the study was that there is a need to encourage a more comprehensive relationship between citizens and heritage that will allow the overall value placed on heritage to be realised in terms of benefits to health and well-being as well as to the economy and employment.

Culture and Tourism

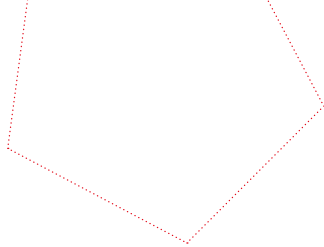
Culture is now widely recognised as a key component of our tourism industry. Fáilte Ireland estimates that cultural tourism currently delivers €2 billion in annual revenue to this country – out of a total visitors' spend of some €4.8 billion - and that the sector is growing at the rate of 15% per year, outstripping by threefold the rate of general tourism growth.

The state tourism body also estimates that in 2007, 3.25m overseas visitors – 61% of the total number - participated in 'historical/cultural' activities when in Ireland, while almost 0.5 million domestic holidays included a visit to a place of historical or cultural interest.

Furthermore, industry research shows that 35% of domestic holiday-makers cite 'proximity to amenities nearby such as beaches, mountains, galleries, museums, nightlife, restaurants, sports activities/fixtures and festivals' as their primary reason for choosing a particular holiday destination, while a further 19% cite the natural environment, 'scenery, countryside and remoteness'.

Local tourism interests are obviously taking due cognizance of these trends. Fáilte Ireland North West Regional Tourism Development Plan 2008-2010 states 'Arts and culture ...are the key strengths of Irish tourism and the North West can take on the challenge successfully to grow market share'.

The economic impact of arts, culture and the creative industries has been well documented in international studies over the past thirty years, although there have been no sufficiently detailed studies conducted in Ireland. The research illustrates that the arts and creative industries are a significant economic sector, a major source of employment and a high growth area.



Policy Context

Cultural Connections is set within a local, regional and national policy context, and as such, must take account of existing and established policies, strategies and programmes. While significant advances were made since 2001, a number of actions in the earlier strategic plan for Cultural Services, *Saol agus Saoithiúlacht*, remain to be delivered on and remain valid. This plan restates a number of these actions.

The plan seeks to interpret the goals of relevant county, regional and national plans imaginatively and in the context of the unique social and geographic conditions and heritage of the county. It also reflects the outward-looking and innovative character of the people of Donegal.

Branching Out – Future Directions is the national policy document driving the development of the public library service in Ireland. It states, ‘The public library service is socially inclusive. Individual public libraries play a very important community role as centres of knowledge, information and culture. They have the added advantage of being open to everyone, whatever their age, education or nationality. They are a magnificent resource for the promotion of community development, for social integration and, increasingly, a focal point for people of all ethnic backgrounds’. In Donegal, the number of library visits increased by 41% over the period 2002 – 2007, which shows clearly the understanding of the value of libraries and the response to Donegal County Council investment in quality public library services.

Partnership for the Arts: Arts Council Goals 2006-2010 states ‘The arts have a central and distinctive contribution to make to our evolving society’. Indeed the continued contribution of culture in its broadest sense to Irish social and economic development is widely acknowledged and recent research has suggested that the sector will be central to the country’s future economic well-being.

Legislative Policy Context

Cultural Connections must also take account of existing and established government legislation.

Culture is an area of life that everyone can be involved in and benefit from. In response to this the Cultural Services Division works to bring its services to all parts of the county and to engage all sections of the community in its activities.

Government legislation pertaining to the provision of cultural services in Ireland predates the establishment of the State itself. One of the first acts of the Free State government, the *Local Government Act, 1925*, empowered local authorities to adopt all of the provisions of the *Public Libraries (Ireland) Act, 1855*, so becoming the library authorities for the areas and the communities under their remit. In addition to providing the traditional research and book lending services, the new library authorities were also empowered to provide programmes of ‘public lectures and exhibitions and libraries in schools’.

Further legislation empowered local authorities to ‘contribute towards the expenses of a band to give public performances of music’ (*Local Government Act, 1946*), to ‘provide a building for use ... for public or other meetings and for lectures, exhibitions, general recreation or other similar social objects’ and ‘to assist a society proposing to provide a museum ... by paying the whole or part of the remuneration of any person employed in relation to the museum’ (*Local Authority Act, 1955*) and ‘to provide and maintain a concert hall, theatre or opera house’ (*Local Authority Act, 1960*).

Many of these provisions were further reinforced within the provisions of the *Arts Act, 1973* which empowered and encouraged local authorities to partner the work of The Arts Council through assisting ‘with money or in kind or by the provision of services or facilities, any person organising an exhibition or other event, which would, in the opinion of the authority, stimulate public interest in the arts, promote the knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts, or assist in improving the standards of the arts’.

The most comprehensive collation of all legislation, however, pertaining to cultural services provision in the State is enshrined in the provisions of the *Local Government Act, 2001*. Therein, local authorities are empowered and encouraged to pursue programmes and interventions towards the 'Promotion of Interests of the Local Community', which are deemed to be any measures which contribute towards 'social inclusion or the social, economic, environmental, recreational, cultural, community or general development of the administrative area or the local community'. As such, the 2001 Act empowers and encourages local authorities to provide financial or in-kind assistance 'towards the organization or promotion of ... seminars, exhibitions, displays, festivals or other events' and also to engage in the direct provision of such services and programmes of activity.

The most comprehensive collation of all legislation, however, pertaining to cultural services provision in the State is enshrined in the provisions of the *Local Government Act, 2001*. Therein, local authorities are empowered and encouraged to pursue programmes and interventions towards the 'Promotion of Interests of the Local Community', which are deemed to be any measures which contribute towards 'social inclusion or the social, economic, environmental, recreational, cultural, community or general development of the administrative area or the local community'.

The Act also refers specifically to the promotion by local authorities of the interests of the community in relation to 'general recreation and leisure activities', 'artistic, linguistic and cultural activities', 'general environmental and heritage protection and improvement' and the 'public use of amenities', both natural and man-made.

The Act encourages local authorities as library authorities to provide 'premises and facilities for the borrowing of and reference to books and other printed matter, tapes and discs (being audio, video or both), slides, and such other material, including material available by means of the use of computers and information technologies, as it considers appropriate' and to promote and present programmes of 'activities and events of artistic, linguistic, educational, cultural, recreational, community or similar interest'.

In relation to the preservation of archives and the management of records, the 2001 Act is quite explicit, stating, 'it is a function of a local authority to make arrangements for the proper management, custody, care and conservation of local records and local archives and for the inspection by the public of local archives'.

In summary, therefore, the following Plans and Acts of Legislation are relevant to the preparation and implementation of the strategy:

- National Development Plan 2007-2013
- The County Donegal Development Plan 2006-2012
- An Stratéis, Donegal County Implementation Plan 2002-2012 (Donegal County Development Board, 2002)
- Donegal County Council Corporate Plan 2004 - 2009
- Local Government Act 2001 (Section 67 relating to 'Amenity, Recreation and Other Functions', Section 80 relating to the statutory obligations regarding the preservation of Archives)
- The Arts Act, 2003
- National Heritage Plan 2002
- Heritage Council Strategic Plan 2007 - 2010
- Heritage Council Museums Standards Programme
- Branching Out: Future Directions (Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2008)
- National Network Local Service (Library Association of Ireland, 1999)
- Partnership for The Arts, in practice 2006-2008 / Comhpháirtíocht ar son na nEalaíon, cleachtais 2006-2008. (The Arts Council 2005)
- Per Cent For Art Scheme General National Guidelines - 2004 (Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism 2004)
- A New Strategy for Cultural Tourism (Fáilte Ireland 2007)
- Straitéis le haghaidh Forbairt na nEalaíon sa Ghaeltacht 2005-2009 (Údarás na Gaeltachta/An Comhairle Ealaíon 2004)
- Towards a Policy for the Traditional Arts / I dTreao Bheartas um na hEalaíona Traidisiúnta (The Arts Council 2004)
- AUDITORIA - A Review of Planning, Programming and Provision for



Sensazione at Earagail Arts Festival, 2008.
Photo: Declan Doherty

Students from Woodlands National School at the Donegal County Museum's *Oatfield – A Short But Sweet History* exhibition, 2008.
© Donegal County Museum



Performing Arts Venues in Ireland (The Arts Council 2004)

- The Arts, Cultural Inclusion and Social Cohesion (National Economic and Social Forum 2007)

Donegal County Council Corporate Plan

A key policy document influencing the strategy for the Cultural Services Division is the Corporate Plan for Donegal County Council 2004 - 2009. The County Council has responsibility for ensuring local integrated delivery of the various plans relating to Cultural Services and this plan sets the priorities for the core services provided by the Division.

The Donegal County Council Corporate Plan sets the following goals for the Cultural Services Division:

- Develop and implement a new integrated strategic plan for the development of Cultural Services
- Maintain and extend strategic partnerships with locally-based community groups, agencies and other service providers to increase awareness of, access to and participation in Cultural Services
- Encourage greater participation in Cultural Services by addressing social, physical and financial barriers
- Develop the physical infrastructure to meet or exceed national and international standards for Cultural Services
- Manage the implementation of a multi-annual capital programme for the provision of additional cultural facilities
- Create and develop awareness of the importance and relevance of Cultural Services, including providing advice, encouraging best practice and increasing participation.

County Development Board

The County Development Board (CDB) is responsible for co-ordinating all development and public service delivery in the county. To achieve this it brings together representatives of local development agencies, state agencies, social partners and elected members and executives of the County Council with the aim of networking and cooperation for the more effective implementation of development plans and strategies.

The CDB recognizes the significance of cultural activity, and the provision of cultural facilities is seen as a key determinant in attracting inward investment and in attracting people to locate and to work in an area. The CDB supports the essential work being carried out by Donegal County Council in this regard.

The key role of culture in relation to areas such as community development, social inclusion and lifelong learning is also recognised and supported by the activity of Donegal County Council Cultural Services working in collaboration with a range of stakeholders in Donegal and further afield, through the CDB Cultural Development Forum and other relevant Fora.

An Straitéis, the Donegal County Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development for 2002 - 2012, recognises the value of culture, and the need to promote and support employment in the sector. *An Straitéis* provides the framework for integrated activities and many of the services and initiatives of the Division are dependent on close liaison and partnership with external organisations. This co-operation and a range of collaborative activities take place in the broad context of Donegal CDB and its various substructures.

An Straitéis sets out six high level goals relevant to the Cultural Services Division as follows:

- To promote the meaning and value of culture in society
- To continuously improve the quality of cultural provision throughout the county
- To stimulate and encourage participation in culture
- To recognise the value of culture as a profession



- To acknowledge and promote the economic benefits of culture in the county
- To promote cultural diversity in the county.

These goals are targeted through individual objectives across the range of cultural services provided by Donegal County Council. They involve, in many cases, partnerships with other service providers to achieve integrated delivery across traditional sectoral boundaries. Achieving these goals requires cooperation between the Cultural Services Division and organisations in the community, education, tourism and enterprise sectors. Examples of such cultural linkages include the Local Music Education Partnership, and the *Cultural Compass* audit of cultural provision.

The Cultural Services Division takes a lead role in one of the CDB substructures, ie. The Cultural Development Forum, which is charged with delivering on the objectives mentioned above. The Forum has undertaken a major piece of research into the cultural resources of the county, which identified the strategic priorities and which maps the way forward. The *Cultural Compass* project informs cultural development within the county, development which will be delivered by the Cultural Services Division of Donegal County Council, in partnership with its Cultural Development Forum partners (see Appendix 4).

Cultural Services Division staff also participate in other relevant CDB Fora, including the Social Inclusion Measures Group, the Tourism Forum, the Environment Forum, and the Lifelong Learning Forum.



One Less Petal, One Less Flame was commissioned under the context specific strand of the Public Art Programme. On a theme of *The Flight of the Earls*, the 2007 project involved a diverse range of musicians and an 80 strong childrens choir plus the publication of a book of poems and stories by children from primary schools on the Fanad Pensinusla.
Photo: Paul Mc Guckian

Irish Language

With regard to the support of cultural activities in, and delivery of services through, the Irish language, the Cultural Services Strategic Plan takes due cognisance of the aims, objectives and guiding principles of *An Straitéis le haghaidh Forbairt na nEalaíon sa Ghaeltacht 2005 - 2009*¹. Similarly, it may also be taken as read that all of the actions, objectives and guiding principles as outlined in the plan apply to the support of cultural activities in, and delivery of services through, the Irish language. The plan also implicitly recognises the importance of the Irish language as an invaluable cultural resource for the county.

Cross-Border and International Dimension

Given Donegal's geographical location, opportunities for collaborative working with Northern Ireland are immense, and the Cultural Services Division has successfully delivered a number of Cross Border projects, including the *North West Film Archive*, *Peace Building in the Border Counties*, *Inspiring Readers* reader development project, and the Cross Border Mobile Library. Strong links and working relationships have been established with the Nerve Centre in Derry, the Western Education and Library Board, Derry City Council and Strabane District Council, to name but a few. Emerging funding programmes and the links being promoted with Scotland, in the context of collaboration on areas of mutual interest (culture, tourism, heritage) will be relevant to the Cultural Services Division. Other EU programmes may also provide opportunities in a regional or EU context. Over the lifetime of this plan a potential Gulfstream project will be explored, incorporating arts and heritage aspects.

Resourcing the Plan

As the Cultural Services Division is an integral element of Donegal County Council, significant local authority funding is invested in Library, Arts and Heritage services to the public.

.....
1 Údarás na Gaeltachta /An Comhairle Ealaíon 2004

The Arts Council, the Heritage Council and the Library Council are also significant sources of funding, match funding, and/or information on funding opportunities.

Major capital projects may be eligible for Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government or Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism grants. The recently opened Regional Cultural Centre was funded from a range of sources including the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism (ACCESS), Donegal County Council, Letterkenny Town Council, International Fund for Ireland, Interreg IIIA and the The Arts Council/Film Board.



Photograph of Dorothea Alice Wood Grove, 1861, from the *Groves of Castlegrove House Collection*, used for *The Past in the Present* exhibition, 2008. Photo: Donegal County Archives

In recognising the relevance of culture to all, the Cultural Services Division will work to deliver programmes both independently and jointly with other organisations and bodies, in particular with County Development Board stakeholders.

Donegal County Council is committed to continuously developing its Cultural Services Division and will continue to invest in culture.

Staff of the Division will keep abreast of relevant funding opportunities.

Section 4

Consultation and Preparation of the Plan

Section 4

Consultation and Preparation of the Plan



Nicole et Martin
at Earagail Arts
Festival, 2008.
Photo: Declan Doherty

*The Fid: Merville
Emigration Monument*
by Locky Morris was
commissioned in 2008
under the context specific
strand of the Public Art
Programme. It is sited
on the Old Pier, Merville.
Photo: Locky Morris

In addition to the policy context outlined in the previous section, the strategy has also been shaped by the responses to an extensive public consultation and crucially, through learning from the hands-on experience gained by our staff and management and a wide variety of committed partners and stakeholders, in implementing the previous plan.

An early draft of the plan was brought to the Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) for Community, Corporate, Culture and Enterprise to consult with its members who are drawn from Elected Members and the Community/Voluntary sector. The Cultural Committee, comprised of Elected Members or their nominees, was also invited to comment on the early draft. County Development Board members and Cultural Development Forum members were invited to contribute to the consultation process. The Senior Management Team was also invited to input into the plan.

A working group of three staff members (one from each of the relevant service areas) along with the Divisional Manager of Cultural Services, guided the development of the strategy. Professional support was provided internally by the Strategic Policy and the Research and Policy Units. Feedback and assistance from staff throughout the service was instrumental in shaping each stage of the plan, given their level of direct interaction with the public on a day-to-day basis, and valuable experience in developing, managing and delivering existing services. The title of the plan, *Cultural Connections*, was selected following an invitation to all staff to propose an appropriate name for the new plan. There have also been suggestions from other sections within the County Council and from key stakeholders throughout the county and beyond, all of which has been vital in ensuring the relevance and feasibility of this plan.

Process

The public consultation period for this plan ran from 27th November – 29th December 2006. Seven widely advertised public consultation meetings were held - one in each of the county's six electoral areas and one in Donegal County Council's Administrative Headquarters in Lifford. These meetings and workshops generated valuable contributions on a wide range of relevant issues.

Also, during the consultation period an open call was made for submissions in writing or online using a written questionnaire. This aspect of the consultation resulted in 46 written responses with nine of these received through the online 'Econet System'.

Participants were asked to provide comments and observations on the following five aspects of the service:

- Access and Participation in Culture
- Quality of the Service provided
- Educational Benefits of Culture
- Excellence and Innovation in Culture
- Promotion and Protection of our Cultural Inheritance for future generations

An internal service-wide consultation was also conducted with staff and other relevant members of the County Council's executive.

Key Findings

Access to and Participation in Culture

There was a widely held perception among respondents that the services were concentrated in the larger towns in the county. Donegal is a rurally dispersed county with a substantial percentage of the population (58%) living outside any of the 56 urban settlements. It is not unrealistic that the majority of activities have to be concentrated within these urban settlements of critical mass, which have the capacity to draw in people from the surrounding areas. The Cultural Services Division has however done much in recent years to spread its activities as widely as possible throughout the county through, for example the Taobh Tíre and Earagail Arts Festival initiatives.

The perception that cultural activities are just for an elite was ranked as the second most important barrier to participation. In County Donegal, a substantial amount of work has been done to make services more socially inclusive and this is no exception with Cultural Services. It is expected that increased co-operation between the Cultural Services Division and the education system and links with community groups throughout the county will reduce this perception of exclusivity.

Difficulties arising from lack of public rural transport and financial reasons ranked joint third as a barrier to access to cultural activities.

As such, an action relating to rural transport is included in the plan. In addition, as free events form a large part of the Cultural Services events programme, a significant number of such events will continue to be provided.

Figure 3: Barriers Preventing Access to Culture and Culture Activities*

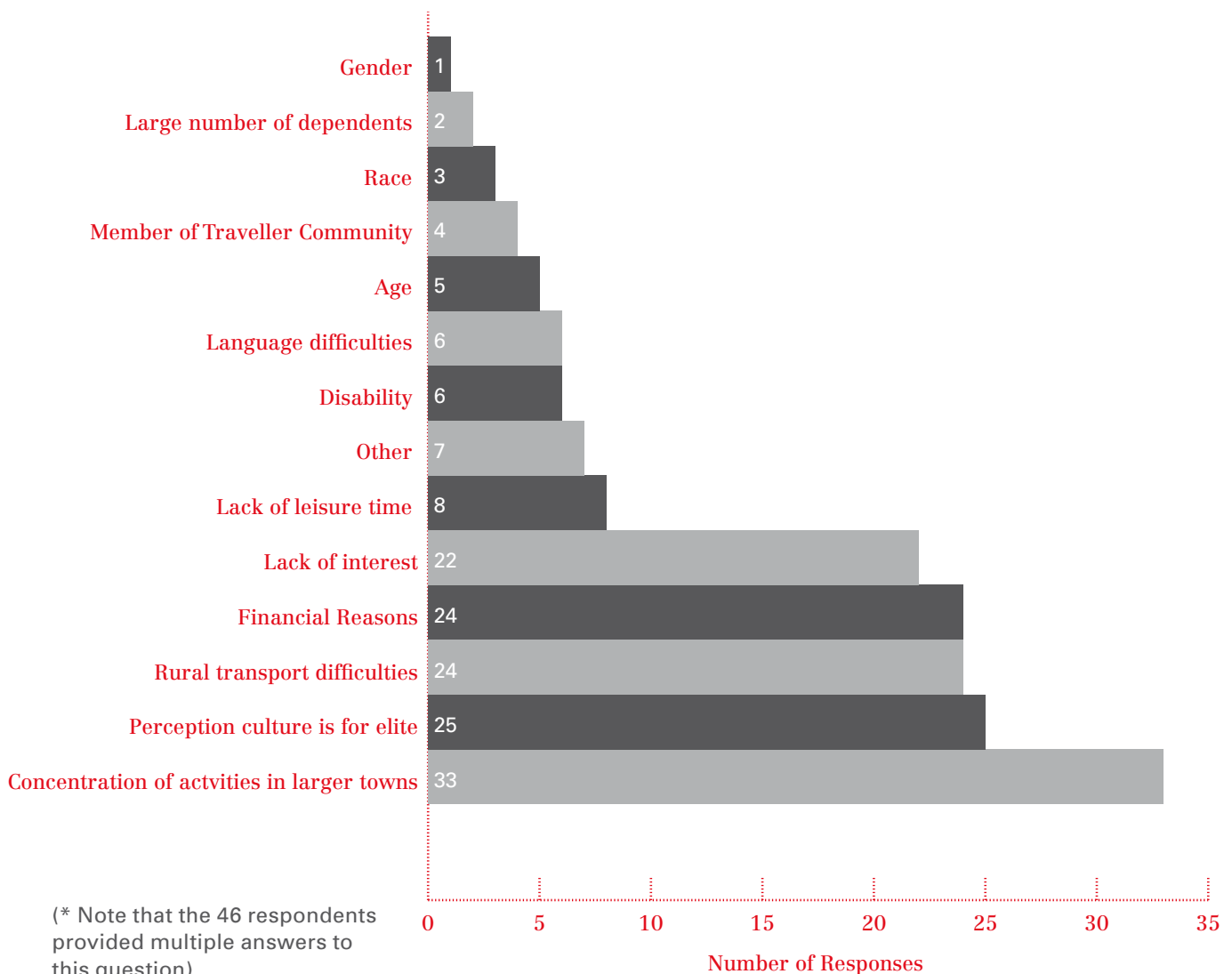
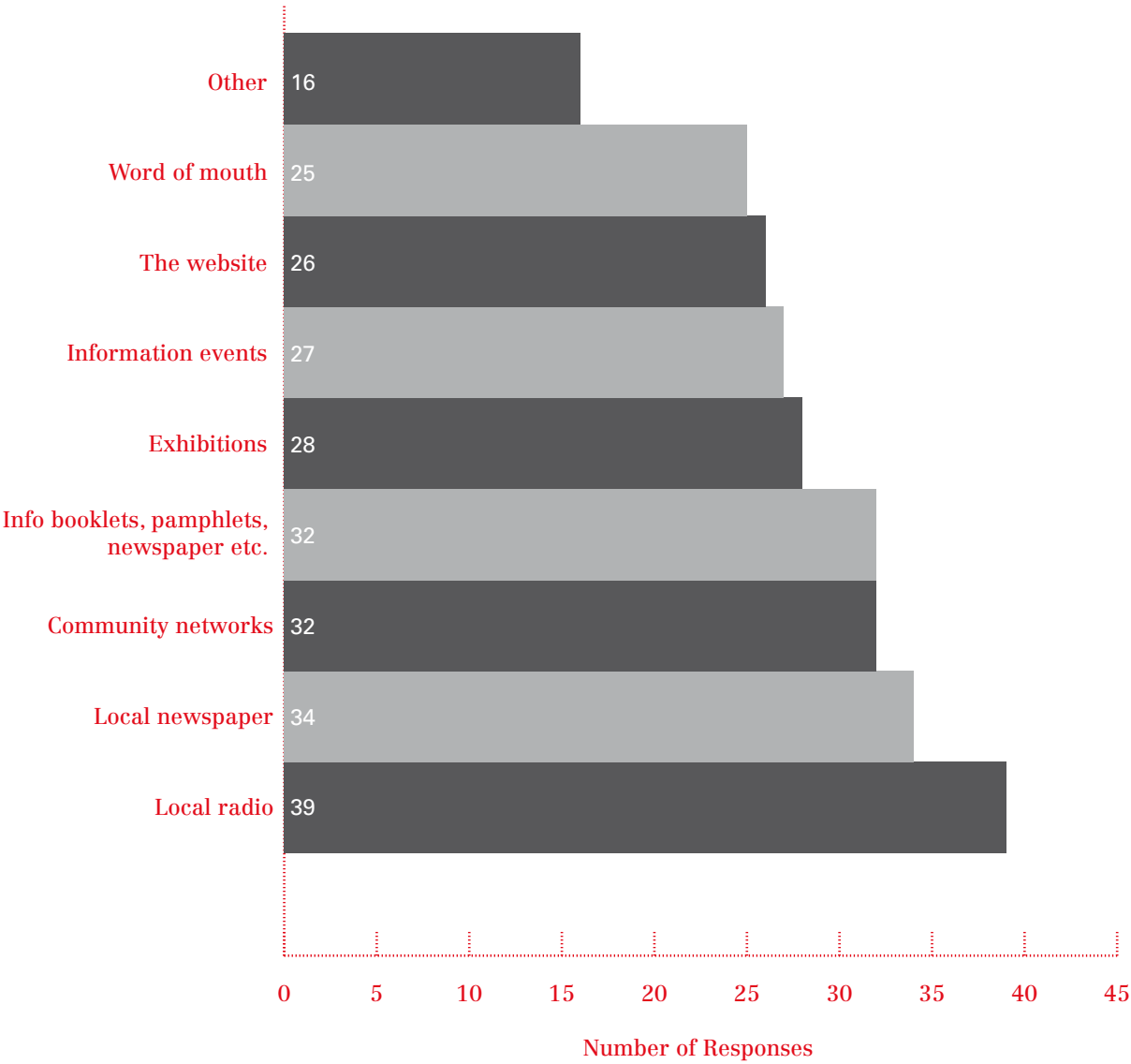


Figure 4: Proposed Methods to Increase Awareness of Cultural Services



Quality of the Service Provided

The results of the public consultation highlighted the importance of knowledgeable and highly motivated staff in the achievement and maintenance of a high quality service.

When asked to identify the key characteristics of a quality service, the following were identified by participants in the consultation:

- Well-communicated
- Well-funded
- Affordable
- Accessible
- Customer orientated
- Staffed by charismatic and interested personnel
- Stimulating interest in culture
- Monitored.

Educational Benefits of Culture

There was a high level of awareness among respondents of the various collaborative projects undertaken by the Cultural Services Division in co-operation with education providers. Awareness of initiatives in the primary school sector was particularly high.

Respondents were clear in their appreciation of the role that cultural services can play in enriching the educational experience and suggested a number of potential initiatives that might be undertaken in this area.

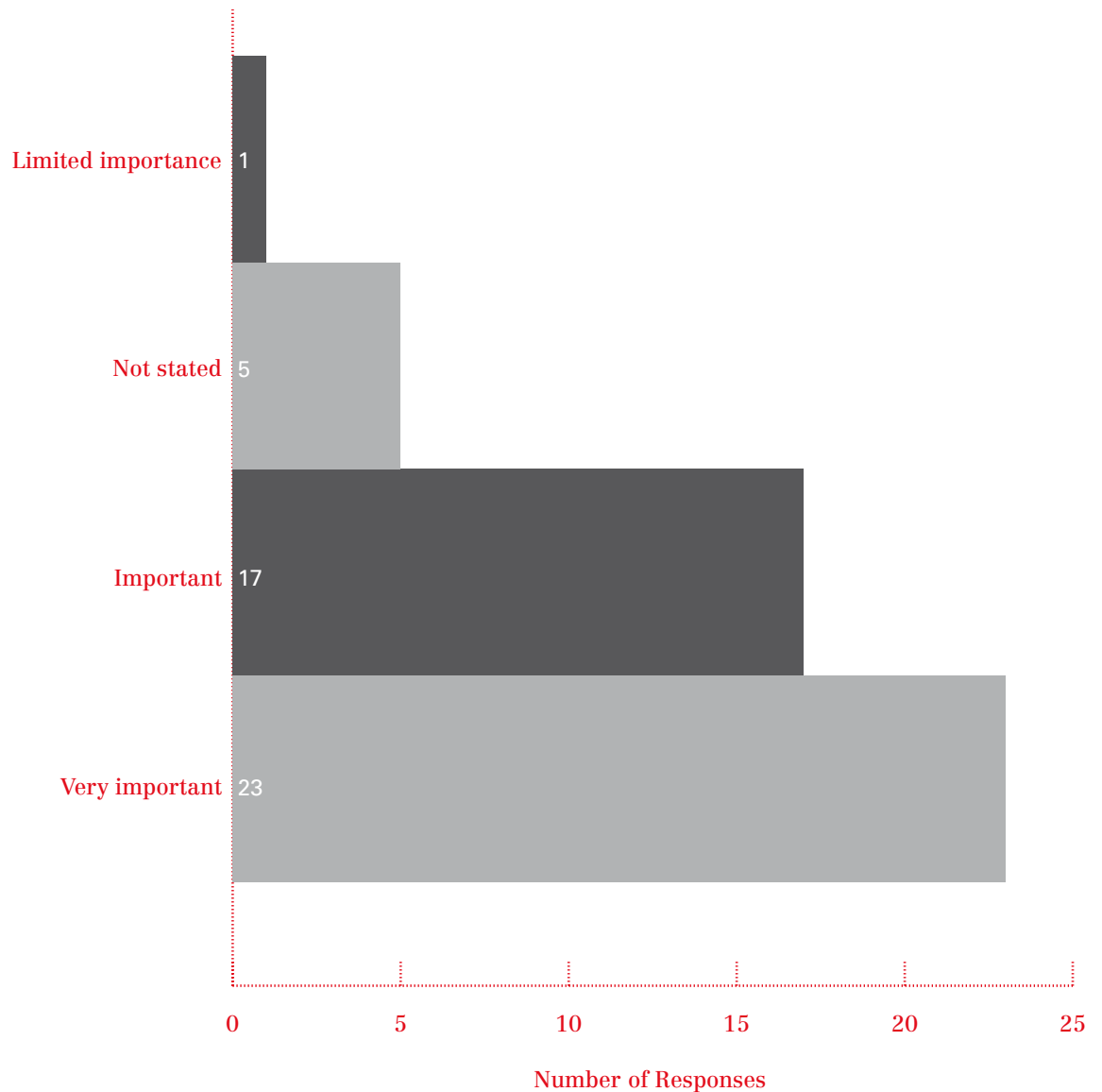
Excellence and Innovation in Culture

Respondents cited numerous events and initiatives that they considered to be innovative and implemented to high standards of excellence. For example, several community projects were cited as well as the Regional Cultural Centre, the Earagail Arts Festival and various outreach projects undertaken by Cultural Services Division.

Promotion and Protection of our Cultural Inheritance for future generations

Participants in the consultation were asked to rank how important all aspects of culture were in their lives and the results are captured in Figure 5 below.

Figure 5: Ranking of the Importance of all Aspects of Culture



Key Responses

The following are some of the comments made by respondents on this aspect of the consultation:

- “Music, art, history, literature and our heritage provide a wonderful richness in our community. Please give it local access”
- “Cultural services have an important role to play in education, particularly of our children”
- “All aspects of culture are important to create a society of happy and productive people”
- “Involve as many people actively, so that they feel themselves to be a living and important part of the life of the County”.

A number of key messages emerged from the public consultation process, including the need to increase awareness of existing services, the need to remove real or perceived barriers, and the need to continue to develop and deliver quality cultural services. The key messages from the staff consultation included the commitment to maintaining and expanding the delivery of quality cultural services to the public across the county, and to the growing community of online users. This can be seen clearly in the number of objectives and actions related to the development and delivery of improved services. The Strategic Plan Steering Group considered the results of the public consultation in detail, along with all feedback and comments received. A number of actions were refocused and a number of new actions included.

Adoption of Plan

The Strategic Policy Committee approved the final draft in June 2008. Members committed to supporting the implementation of the plan and affirmed the value of culture in promoting inward investment, cross border co-operation and tourism. Members highlighted the importance of links with primary education providers, outreach provision, working with older people, public consultation, sourcing funding for infrastructure, and delivering services in partnership with other organisations. Members agreed it was critical to address the perception that culture is only for the elite. Ways in which members could assist in getting information to the public were suggested.

The plan was endorsed by Donegal County Council at its July meeting. Priority areas identified included overcoming barriers to accessing services, introducing the arts to children, providing services directly and/or in partnership with other agencies or bodies, and supporting lifelong learning.

The work programme for 2009 and subsequent years will be based on the Strategic Plan.

Fidget Feet Aerial Dance Company in *A Fairy's Tale*, performed at Glebe House and Gallery, Churchill. Earagail Arts Festival 2007. Photo: Delcan Doherty



Section 5

Statement of Strategy - Mission, Goals, Objectives and Actions

Section 5

Statement of Strategy - Mission, Goals and Objectives

An Stratéis defines culture as ‘...our creative expression. It reflects our experience; past and present’ and sets a vision for culture as being ‘where everyone in society is inspired and enriched by cultural activity’.

The mission of the Cultural Services Division of Donegal County Council is ‘to enrich life, enhance sense of identity, increase cultural and social opportunities and conserve cultural inheritance for present and future generations by maintaining and developing Library, Arts, Museum, Archive and Heritage Services’.

Guiding Principles

In pursuit of this mission the Cultural Services Division will apply the following principles:

- **Equality and Inclusiveness**
- **Quality**
- **Education and Lifelong Learning**
- **Professionalism**
- **Partnership**
- **Excellence and Innovation**
- **Respect for the Importance of Culture and Cultural Diversity**
- **Conservation of the Cultural Heritage**
- **Sustainability**

Goal 1

**To improve Access to,
and increase Participation
in cultural activities in
County Donegal**

Goal 2

**To maintain and develop a
High Quality Service**

Goal 3

**To promote and develop the
Educational Value of culture**

Goal 4

**To promote Excellence and
Innovation**

Goal 5

**To promote the Importance
of culture and preserve
cultural Inheritance**

Goal 1

To improve Access to, and increase Participation in cultural activities in County Donegal

Objective 1.1

**To continue to identify and address
barriers to access and participation in
culture**

Objective 1.2

**To ensure that Cultural Services'
programmes are delivered based
on a policy of access through
outreach provision**

Objective 1.3

**To increase awareness and use of
Cultural Services among all members
of the community**

Objective 1.4

**To continue to develop and support the
network of Donegal County Council
initiated and independent cultural service
providers throughout the county**

Objective 1.1

To continue to identify and address barriers to access and participation in culture

Action 1.1.1

Conduct an accessibility audit of Cultural Services' infrastructure and implement its recommendations.

Action 1.1.2

Arrange training for front-line staff in multi-culturalism, age awareness, disability and related areas.

Action 1.1.3

Design more accessible print material and produce material in other formats.

Action 1.1.4

Continue to develop and secure Donegal County Council's Festival and Events Programme.

Action 1.1.5

Deliver programmes in the contexts of health, disability, older people, cultural diversity, community, schools, children and young people.

Action 1.1.6

Ensure that charges are kept to a minimum and that there is a significant programme of free events and services.

Action 1.1.7

Develop specific programmes for target groups, including those who may be or who may feel socially excluded, across all cultural services.

Action 1.1.8

Identify and undertake a pilot project to increase participation from a multicultural audience.

Action 1.1.9

Assess the role of the Cultural Services Division in developing active citizenship.

Action 1.1.10

Work with the County Development Board Transport Forum to improve access to cultural services.

Objective 1.2

To ensure that Cultural Services' programmes are delivered based on a policy of access through outreach provision

Action 1.2.1

Review and develop existing Taobh Tíre services based on the recommendations of the independent evaluation.

Action 1.2.2

Consolidate existing links and foster new links with community, marginalised and voluntary groups to provide outreach services.

Action 1.2.3

Continue to enhance existing outreach programmes delivered by the Libraries, Arts, Museum, Archive and Heritage Services in the public service centres, outreach centres and other locations.

Action 1.2.4

Develop and implement a policy on travelling exhibitions and touring arts.

Objective 1.3

To increase awareness and use of Cultural Services among all members of the community

Action 1.3.1

Prepare and implement a Marketing Plan for Cultural Services.

Action 1.3.2

Seek the appointment of a Communications Officer.

Action 1.3.3

Undertake a communications strategy for Cultural Services within County Donegal.

Action 1.3.4

Prepare and publish guides to the services provided by the Cultural Services Division.

Action 1.3.5

Continue to organise comprehensive programmes and services for residents and visitors, on a county-wide basis, and online.

Objective 1.4

To continue to develop and support the network of Donegal County Council initiated and independent cultural service providers throughout the county

Action 1.4.1

Continue to maintain revenue and programme funding support e.g. Strategic Partnership Revenue Funding Programme.

Action 1.4.2

Promote the grants programmes provided by all state bodies, including the Arts Council, Heritage Council, etc.

Action 1.4.3

Continue to enhance partnerships with independent cultural providers in Donegal and beyond.

Action 1.4.4

Provide advice and assistance to museums, archival, local history and genealogy institutions, heritage centres and other organisations to support best practice.

Goal 1

Performance Measurement

Progress in achieving this goal will be measured by indicators, including:

- Accessibility audit complete, implementation plan prepared and executed
- Numbers of staff trained in accessibility and other issues
- Feedback systems in place to capture views from stakeholders on accessibility
- Attendance levels at events in the county-wide festival programme
- Number of free events delivered
- Feedback from participants at events and special programmes sought
- Partnership and collaboration with relevant stakeholders
- Collaborations with County Development Board stakeholders/community networks
- Implementing recommendations of the Taobh Tíre report
- Marketing plan prepared
- Guides to services produced
- Advice and assistance provided to local cultural organisations

Goal 2

To maintain and develop a High Quality Service

Objective 2.1

To ensure consistent levels of professional service by highly skilled and motivated staff

Objective 2.2

To continuously improve services through information and communications technology

Objective 2.3

To extend and develop physical infrastructure for the delivery of Cultural Services

Objective 2.4

To provide information and advice

Objective 2.1

To ensure consistent levels of professional service by highly skilled and motivated staff

Action 2.1.1

Increase Donegal Local Authorities' per capita investment in Cultural Services in the county.

Action 2.1.2

Provide high standard of customer care, in accordance with adopted County Council policy.

Action 2.1.3

Implement the recommendations of the Final Report of Working Group on Staffing in Cultural Services (2002). Bring the library staffing levels up to and beyond national standards.

Action 2.1.4

Review above report in light of recent developments and make further recommendations.

Action 2.1.5

Prepare Health and Safety plans for all Cultural Services locations.

Action 2.1.6

Work towards improving Donegal's position in the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government service indicators.

Action 2.1.7

Develop an innovative and comprehensive set of performance indicators, appropriate to the needs of the Cultural Services Division.

Action 2.1.8

Prepare staff development plans incorporating PMDS (Performance Management Development Systems).

Action 2.1.9

Develop a staff mobility policy for the Cultural Services Division, ie. for specialist posts, in the context of Donegal County Council policy for general posts.

Action 2.1.10

Investigate the establishment of a staff relief pool.

Action 2.1.11

Create and implement a new collection development policy for libraries and the Donegal County Council art collection.

Action 2.1.12

Continue to expand and develop high quality information services.

Action 2.1.13

Continue to provide access to wider local authority information, in printed form and online.

Action 2.1.14

Increase participation in specialised training by all Cultural Services Division staff.

Action 2.1.15

Increase the levels of service provided in the Irish language in Gaeltacht areas and throughout the county.

Objective 2.2

To continuously improve services through information and communications technology [ICT]

Action 2.2.1

Formulate and implement web development strategy.

Action 2.2.2

Create a portal as one centrally accessible point from which all Cultural Services can be accessed.

Action 2.2.3

Enhance existing websites to ensure information, data and catalogues are accessible online, as well as virtual exhibition tours and other facilities.

Action 2.2.4

Extend the level of services provided online and further promote existing services, eg. *Ask-a-Librarian*.

Action 2.2.5

Complete ICT extension of library network.

Action 2.2.6

Review ICT policies across all Cultural Services and address deficiencies.

Objective 2.3

To extend and develop physical infrastructure for the delivery of Cultural Services

Action 2.3.1

Investigate possible sources of funding to extend and develop physical infrastructure for the delivery of Cultural Services in line with agreed priorities.

Action 2.3.2

Review infrastructural deficits through the *Cultural Compass* audit – and other means – and seek to address them.

Objective 2.4

To provide information and advice

Action 2.4.1

Provide information and advice to elected members, Donegal County Council staff, members of the general public and community groups on relevant matters (Libraries, Arts, Museum, Archives, Heritage).

Action 2.4.2

Report on the impact of development plans and other relevant plans as they relate to culture.

Goal 2

Performance Measurement

Progress in achieving this goal will be measured by indicators, including:

- Increased investment in Cultural Services per capita
- Staff training and development undertaken
- Health and Safety plans for all locations prepared
- Position in Service Indicators improved
- PMDS (Performance Management and Development System) implemented
- Staff mobility policy developed
- Collection development policy prepared
- Uptake of internet and online facilities
- Uptake of services by the public
- Efficiencies achieved through modernising ICT systems
- Improvements to infrastructure, as in capital development programme and in *Cultural Compass* audit
- Contributions made to consultations at county, regional and national levels

Goal 3

To promote and develop the Educational Value of culture

Objective 3.1

To consolidate existing and foster new links and partnerships with education and training providers

Objective 3.2

To develop a coordinated policy and approach to education on a county-wide basis

Objective 3.3

To collect data and conduct research on aspects of County Donegal culture

Objective 3.1

To consolidate existing and foster new links and partnerships with education and training providers

Action 3.1.1

Maintain the primary schools library service with support from the Department of Education.

Action 3.1.2

Review existing provision to educational providers and make recommendations to enhance services (e.g. adult learners and tutors, secondary schools exhibitions).

Action 3.1.3

Promote the resources and services of the Cultural Services Division among education and training providers.

Action 3.1.4

Provide educational support materials, including a series of themed educational packs.

Action 3.1.5

Develop a programme of relevant training for teachers.

Objective 3.2

To develop a coordinated policy and approach to education on a county-wide basis

Action 3.2.1

Devise a mechanism for the delivery of co-ordinated and balanced arts and cultural education services in the county by working in partnership with independent providers.

Action 3.2.2

Devise a strategy on life long learning with other cultural and educational providers, also considering independent learners.

Action 3.2.3

Encourage and facilitate independent learners in following their chosen interests.

Action 3.2.4

Organise and deliver an extensive Arts Education Programme through the County Arts Service, the Regional Cultural Centre and the Public Art Programme.

Action 3.2.5

Seek the appointment of an Education Officer to be shared by the Museum, Archives and Heritage Office.

Action 3.2.6

Produce a brochure promoting Cultural Services to primary schools.

Action 3.2.7

Encourage the provision and uptake of third level professional training in arts and culture.

Objective 3.3

To collect data and conduct research on aspects of County Donegal's culture

Action 3.3.1

Undertake an audit of all cultural education providers in the county.

Action 3.3.2

Create and make available a database of natural, built and cultural heritage information in Donegal County Council.

Action 3.3.3

Facilitate and encourage research on various aspects of County Donegal history and heritage.

Action 3.3.4

Advocate the need for a heritage assets inventory in Donegal County Council.

Goal 3

Performance Measurement

Progress in achieving this goal will be measured by indicators, including:

- Number of partnership initiatives undertaken with education providers
- Number of primary schools availing of services
- Participation levels of primary and second-level school students in initiatives
- Establishment of systematic method of assessing participant feedback on educational initiatives
- Preparation of an education policy statement for the Cultural Services Division
- Audit of cultural education providers in the county
- Production of resource materials to support the education sector
- Production of brochure on Cultural Services relevant to schools
- Numbers of teachers participating in training programmes
- Databases of heritage information built up
- Number of research projects undertaken on cultural topics in the county
- Appointment of Education Officer

Goal 4

To promote Excellence and Innovation

Objective 4.1

To create an environment that encourages and supports creativity in the workplace

Objective 4.2

To seek to attain the highest standards of national and international best practices in Cultural Services delivery

Objective 4.3

To create a supportive environment for artists to create new artistic work

Objective 4.1

To create an environment that encourages and supports creativity in the workplace

Action 4.1.1

Contribute to research and innovation in Donegal County Council, and nationally within libraries, arts, and heritage.

Action 4.1.2

Provide training that supports innovation.

Action 4.1.3

Foster strategic partnerships e.g. developing cross border networks, with a view to creating new opportunities.

Action 4.1.4

Continue to promote cooperation between the Cultural Services Division and other Council Services.

Action 4.1.5

Continue to strengthen the links between the different sections within the Cultural Services Division.

Objective 4.2

To seek to attain the highest standards of national and international best practices in Cultural Services delivery

Action 4.2.1

Devise mechanisms to invite feedback from service users, e.g. utilising community and sectoral networks.

Action 4.2.2

Work towards achieving full accreditation in the Heritage Council's Museum Standards Scheme.

Action 4.2.3

Work with external bodies to update existing archives standards and to develop new standards in line with current best practice.

Action 4.2.4

Work towards reaching and exceeding Library Association of Ireland stated standards.

Action 4.2.5

Organise seminars and workshops and attend seminars and workshops that promote best practice.

Action 4.2.6

Review and make submissions to consultation documents at national, regional, cross-border and local level.

Action 4.2.7

Seek to develop formal partnerships with County Development Board stakeholders, e.g. state agencies towards the promotion of the importance of the Libraries, Arts, Museum, Archives, and Heritage, and to further the cultural needs of the county.

Action 4.2.8

Develop capacity to host a new programme of national and international artists' and best practitioners' residencies.

Action 4.2.9

Regional Cultural Centre will organise an innovative visual arts, digital media, music, film and creative writing programme, to the highest international standards for its countywide and regional audience.

Action 4.2.10

Fully implement the Research and Development, the Context Specific and the Artists' Residency, strands of the *Making Shapes* Public Art Policy and Strategy for Donegal.

Action 4.2.11

Devise records and files management policy and programme for local authorities and implement recommendations on a phased basis.

Objective 4.3

To create a supportive environment for artists to create new artistic work

Action 4.3.1

Develop a comprehensive Commissions Programme to create new artistic work.

Action 4.3.2

Provide opportunities for innovative collaborative projects between artists, arts groups and community groups.

Goal 4

Performance Measurement

Progress in achieving this goal will be measured by indicators, including:

- Contribution to research and innovation
- Systematic improvements to communication within Division put in place
- Strategic partnerships established
- Co-operative ventures between Cultural Services and other Donegal County Council services established
- Number of initiatives involving several sections of Cultural Services working together
- Achievement of full accreditation under the Museum Standards Scheme
- Achievement of Library Association of Ireland standards
- Number and range of consultations contributed to by the Division
- Number of partnerships with County Development Board stakeholders established
- Establishment of new artists residency programme
- Records Management policy in place
- Commissions programme established

Goal 5

**To promote the Importance
of culture and preserve
cultural Inheritance**

Objective 5.1

**To protect the culture and heritage of
County Donegal**

Objective 5.2

**To communicate the culture and heritage
of County Donegal**

Objective 5.3

**To implement existing strategies and
future plans**

Objective 5.1

To protect the culture and heritage of County Donegal

Action 5.1.1

Promote, develop and preserve the Local Studies Collection throughout the County library network.

Action 5.1.2

Devise and implement a *Care of Collection* strategy and a *Disposal Policy* for the Museum.

Action 5.1.3

Extend the programme of conservation of archives and local newspaper collections.

Action 5.1.4

Organise and deliver an extensive Traditional Arts Programme through the County Arts Service, the Regional Cultural Centre and the Public Art Programme.

Action 5.1.5

County Arts Service, the Regional Cultural Centre and the Public Art programme to develop a specific contemporary arts programme strand, informed by the traditional arts or elements thereof.

Action 5.1.6

Work with relevant stakeholders to develop Irish language projects.

Action 5.1.7

Develop the concept of *a sense of place*, contributing to overall wellbeing, pride and social capital.

Objective 5.2

To communicate the culture and heritage of County Donegal

Action 5.2.1

Organise seminars and workshops that promote best practice in the management, maintenance and care of heritage in County Donegal.

Action 5.2.2

Undertake and promote lectures, seminars, fieldtrips, and case studies on County Donegal's heritage and history.

Action 5.2.3

Raise awareness of culture and cultural issues through the continued promotion of *Heritage Week* and other themed events.

Action 5.2.4

Create and implement a policy for the phased cataloguing of Archival collections.

Action 5.2.5

Contribute to relevant publications on the history and culture of Donegal.

Action 5.2.6

Continue to develop a comprehensive information and awareness strategy for the contemporary and traditional arts to include websites, themed publications, conferences and seminars.

Objective 5.3

To implement existing strategies and future plans

Action 5.3.1

Prepare and implement the County Donegal Heritage Plan in conjunction with the Heritage Forum.

Action 5.3.2

Implement *Making Shapes*¹ Public Art in Donegal 2006 – 2010.

Action 5.3.3

Implement other relevant archives, arts, heritage, museum and library strategies.

Action 5.3.4

Contribute where appropriate to the development of other organisations' strategies.

Goal 5

Performance Measurement

Progress in achieving this goal will be measured by indicators, including:

- Development and implementation of *Care of Collection* Strategy for museum
- Development and implementation of *Disposal Policy* for museum
- Quantity of archive material microfilmed
- Development and implementation of phased conservation programme for archives
- Delivery of Traditional Arts Programme
- Development of a contemporary arts programme informed by the traditional arts
- Number and range of best-practice seminars on heritage
- Publications contributed to by Division staff
- Implementation of County Heritage Plan
- Implementation of *Making Shapes*¹
- Implementation of other relevant strategies
- Input into the development of tourism projects.



Participants attending a County Donegal Heritage Office organised training seminar for the *Dry Stone Walls Survey of County Donegal*, take a break from their recording work in Bloody Foreland, 2008. Also pictured are expert stonemason Patrick McAfee, geographer and folklorist Jonathan Bell and geologist Malcolm McClure. Photo: Joseph Gallagher

Section 6

Case Studies

Section 6

Case Studies

These case studies have been selected to illustrate the range of activities that the Cultural Services Division is engaged in. They demonstrate the approaches being taken to overcome the problems encountered in delivering high quality services and events to a dispersed population base. They also give a flavour of the innovative approach adopted by the services in appealing to as wide an audience as possible. Through implementing these and many other projects, staff of the Cultural Services Division have gained invaluable experience of how best to collaborate effectively with other organisations and in the logistics of project management.

- **Taobh Tíre**
a better library service for rural and isolated communities
- **World War I Travelling Exhibition**
Before I joined the army, I lived in Donegal
- **Archives Facsimile Packs**
a resource for primary schools
- **Regional Cultural Centre**
a flagship cultural project by Donegal County Council
- **Wainfest**
incorporating Children's Book Week
- **Flight Of The Earls**
400th Anniversary Commemorative Programme

Taobh Tíre a better library service for rural and isolated communities

Taobh Tíre is an action research project run by Donegal County Council in association with An Chomhairle Leabharlanna under the Public Library Research Programme. Taobh Tíre addresses a theme common to many Irish counties, that of serving small isolated communities which are not large enough to support a full time branch library. In parallel with the activities of the Public Library Research Programme, Donegal County Council has been pursuing an agenda of inclusive cultural services reflected in the last strategic plan *Saol agus Saoithiúlacht*, where it states that Donegal County Council will implement new ways to serve smaller communities. In addition to this the County Development Board strategy document, *An Straitéis*, has sustaining rural communities as a cross cutting theme.

The project team works in partnership with local stakeholders, Community Development Projects, Family Resource Centres, a commercial company, a rural transport initiative and other agencies on a pilot basis. While Donegal is the location for the pilot, the results are applicable to isolated communities across Ireland. Taobh Tíre delivers library services through a network of service points consisting of a taster collection of books and one or more computers with access to the Internet which in turn gives access to the library on-line catalogue. Members can reserve and request items from the catalogue and have them delivered directly to their nearest Taobh Tíre site. Service points are typically sited in community centres, co-operatives and other public spaces and staffed from the local community. As well as providing access to books, the project has developed its online services. Through the library website members can access a range of online databases free of charge. These databases give access to online dictionaries, encyclopaedias, thesauri, newspapers, business information and much more. If members cannot find the information they require through the on-line databases they can contact the library service directly through the *Ask-A-Librarian* Service.

Students relaxing at
the Taobh Tíre point
in Áras Sheáin Bháin,
Baile na Finne.
Photo: Library Staff

Taobh Tíre has established fourteen service points in rural and isolated communities across Donegal, including two on the offshore islands and two urban points in Letterkenny. The service provided by Taobh Tíre is an important element in ensuring the sustainability of small communities and the delivery of equitable services across the wider population.



World War I Travelling Exhibition

Before I joined the army, I lived in Donegal

In 2001 the Museum organised an exhibition entitled *Before I Joined the Army I Lived in Donegal – Donegal and the First World War*. The exhibition gained much interest from the public both locally and nationally and it was decided to create a travelling exhibition on a similar theme. The exhibition was designed so that it would be easily transportable and could be displayed in a wide variety of venues throughout Ireland that would not normally have access to Museum exhibitions. A DVD featuring footage from the Imperial War Museum and Pathe News was especially commissioned to accompany the exhibition.

The exhibition tells the story of Ulster men and women in the First World War and emphasises the realities of life both on the front and at home during this period. It also relates the experiences of veterans on their return from the War and the controversial history of commemorating the War in Ireland.

The project was supported by a Donegal County Council-led Task Force grant under the EU Peace II Programme and was part-financed by the Irish government under the National Development Plan. The DVD was supported by the Heritage Council / An Chomhairle Oidhreachta.

The exhibition was launched in January 2006 and has travelled to a variety of venues including St Johnston/Carrigans Resource Centre, the Archives Centre, Lifford, the Tower Museum, Derry, the Somme Heritage Centre, the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers Museum, Enniskillen, libraries under the remit of the Meath Library Service, Pearse Library, Dublin, Louth Archives Service, Dundalk and the MacGill Summer School, Glenties.

11th Battalion Ulster
Volunteer Force recruits
in Finner Camp near
Ballyshannon, circa 1915.
Image from Donegal County
Museum's World War I
Travelling Exhibition,
*Before I Joined the Army
I Lived in Donegal*.
© Donegal County Museum



Archives Facsimile Packs a resource for primary schools

The Archives Facsimile Packs Project was piloted in 2006 with ten participating schools. It was part funded by the Heritage Council.

The new Primary Schools' History Curriculum requires use of primary sources by students, laying emphasis on the need for the child to 'work as an historian'. Because of space limitations in the Archives Service research room, it was decided that the best way, in the short term at least, of introducing archives to schools would be to bring the archives into the classroom itself. This was achieved through the development of a Schools Pack, using high quality facsimiles of relevant archival material from the County Archives' collection.

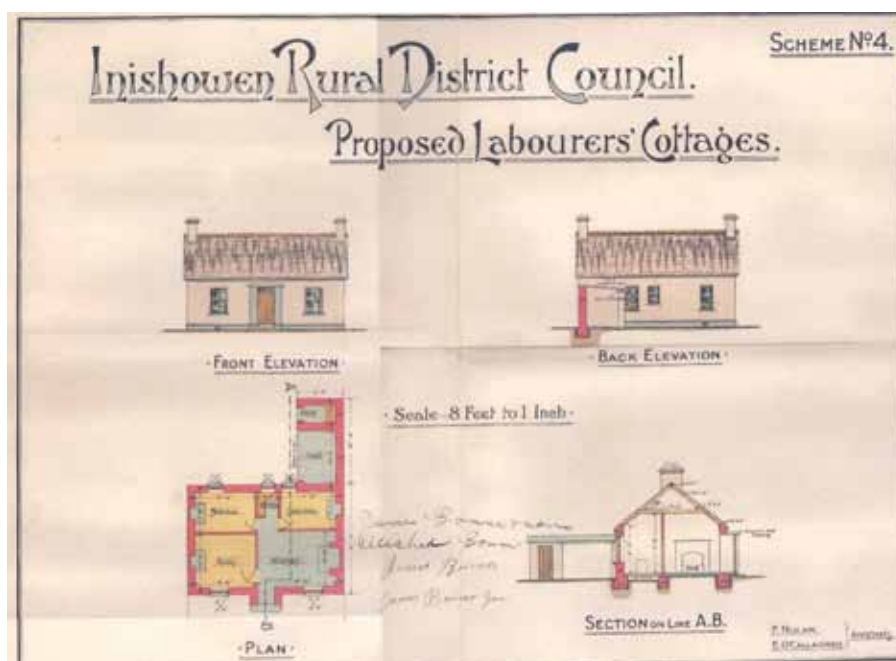
The aims of the project are to increase awareness of local archives and local history by introducing archival material to children at a young age, in a manner that causes no threat to the preservation of the documents and to allow teachers to teach the new curriculum using the archives in a classroom setting.

The pack contains colour facsimiles of documents and photographs from the County Archives collection along with worksheets. There are packs for four different regions in the county, with accompanying facsimiles of documents from the Archives relating to the regions. Documents include past and present day photographs of towns, railway notices and photographs of trains and other means of transport, plans of labourers' cottages, school records, extracts from workhouse registers, and fisheries' posters.

The worksheets, which are directly relevant to a variety of strands contained in the curriculum, assist children to examine evidence contained in the facsimiles, and to study a range of sources to aid in their understanding about the past, particularly at a local level.

The pilot project was very successful with a strong demand for copies of the pack. Many more schools showed an interest in participating in the project. To facilitate this interest, the Archives Service ordered a second print run of packs.

Design for *Labourers' Cottages* by Inishowen Rural District Council, from the *Archives Service Primary Schools Facsimile Pack*, 2006.
Photo: Archives Service



Regional Cultural Centre a flagship cultural project by Donegal County Council

The new Centre, one of the finest integrated arts centre facilities in Ireland, is built on a site adjoining An Grianán Theatre in Letterkenny. Opened to the public in the summer of 2007, it commissions and programmes arts activities of a national and international standard and caters for local people and visitors on a countywide basis. It incorporates an exhibition gallery, a studio cinema/ theatre, three multi-purpose workshop spaces, two digital media spaces and two music rehearsal rooms.

A number of sources provided the capital funding for the building – Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism (ACCESS Fund), EU Interreg IIIA, International Fund for Ireland, Arts Council / Film Board, Donegal County Council and Letterkenny Town Council.

The project is a flagship project of Donegal County Council. The Centre works in close partnership with relevant stakeholders, ie. An Grianán Theatre, Earagail Arts Festival, Letterkenny Institute of Technology (LYIT), and on a cross-border basis with the Nerve Centre, Derry. The Regional Cultural Centre is not an entirely new initiative, it is a continuation and expansion of the Letterkenny Arts Centre (opened 1995) in the Central Library into a new premises.

The Centre continues and builds on the extensive countywide programme of activity developed by Letterkenny Arts Centre in recent years. It specialises particularly in visual arts. The Centre will be the main visual arts resource for County Donegal. It will also specialise in music, film, digital media and creative writing. There is an emphasis on engagement, education and participation and programmes for children and young people across the county.

The Regional Cultural
Centre opened to the public
in the summer of 2007.
Photo: John Cunningham



Wainfest incorporating Children's Book Week

The annual Wainfest programme in County Donegal involves authors, storytellers and artists entertaining groups of children in Libraries, Taobh Tíre Centres, the Letterkenny Arts Centre (now the Regional Cultural Centre) and the County Museum over a two-week period at the end of October. The aim of the programme is to develop a love of reading, writing and creative activity among children and young people. There is no better way to get children involved in reading and creative activity than to give them an opportunity to meet authors, artists and storytellers.

The visit by Darren Shan is an example of how an author visit can spark an interest in reading. Darren Shan is an extremely popular children's author. During his visit to Donegal, children enthusiastically questioned him about how he brings his ideas to print and the whole process of creating a book. Undoubtedly this type of event creates a more meaningful connection with books and reading for all participants.

Library staff and Arts staff coordinate all aspects of the organisation and promotion of the Wainfest programme, which for 2008 included storytelling, science and history shows, authors' visits, creative writing sessions, workshops, theatre, film, magic, puppetry, art, music and dance.

Wainfest has developed from small beginnings in the early 1990s with one or two performers visiting Donegal to a major programme of activity, which takes place in every corner of the county. In 2008, 6,613 children attended over 170 events in 30 venues across the county.

Donegal County Council funds Wainfest which is by far the largest free cultural event for children in Donegal.

An after-show photo opportunity for this enthusiastic primary school group following a Wainfest performance at the Central Library of *Catkin's Broom* by Pignut Productions, 2005.
Photo: Library Staff



Flight Of The Earls

400th Anniversary Commemorative Programme

2007 was the 400th Anniversary of the Flight of the Earls. To mark this keystone in Irish history, Donegal County Council and Donegal County Development Board coordinated a year long commemoration that took place throughout Donegal and the North West region during 2007.

Libraries Programme

Michael Moylan, History Live presented a new Flight of the Earls (FOTE) themed show as part of the annual Wainfest programme. 839 children attended the show in 13 libraries and Taobh Tíre centres across County Donegal. The interactive programme proved immensely popular, with children trying on the clothing and armour from 1607 and learning about ships, wars, and the challenges facing those living in the FOTE era.

Several libraries hosted lectures with FOTE related themes including *Rory O'Donnell and the Flight of the Earls* by Darren McGettigan and *The impact of Bishop Niall O'Boyle and the Montgomerys on Events leading up to the Flight of the Earls*, by Helen Meehan.

Milford Community Library invited Mulroy College to create a book on the Flight of the Earls story. Teachers, students and library staff participated in this enterprise to produce *The Flight* – a very attractively illustrated 30-page book. This project was an important means of exploring and gaining insight to the past and the book itself is a valuable resource for students of the FOTE.

Arts Programme

Among the highlights of the County Arts Service programme were the Killybegs Community Carnival Group's themed Carnival Parade and a specially commissioned music and pyrotechnics performance at Killybegs Harbour by Walk the Plank, commemorating the Earls travels' through Europe.

At the Franciscan Friary in Rosstown a special programme commemorating both the Flight of The Earls and the foundation of the Irish College in Louvain took place, while the Donegal Bay and Blue Stacks Festival staged the world premier of Soinbhe Lally's play on the life of Finola An Iníon Dubh Uí Dómhnaill, *The Dark Daughter*.

The Regional Cultural Centre marked the commemoration with an ambitious series of exhibitions, films and installations from Donegal, Australia and the US under the banner of Migration and Diaspora. Further work from the series was presented at The Glebe Gallery, Churchill and at An Grianán Theatre.

An Grianán Theatre's own programme included two major productions - a co-production with Ouroboros Theatre Company of Brian Friel's *Making History* and a very successful community production, in association with Earagail Arts Festival, of Thomas Kilroy's *The O'Neill*.

The Earagail Arts Festival reflected the commemoration through the eyes of Eastern European migrants to the US in *Sclavi ; Song of an Immigrant*, performed by the Czechoslovakian company, Farm In The Cave. The Festival was also responsible for one of the largest projects presented as part of the commemoration, that of *The Exiles Return* pageant at Rathmullan on September 15th, featuring Inishowen Carnival Group, Walk the Plank and Killybegs Community Carnival.

The Council's Public Art Programme contributed two major sculptural commissions - John Behan's *Flight of The Earls* piece at Rathmullan and Maurice Haran's *Aodh Rua Ó Domhnaill* on Donegal Quay. The Public Art

Programme also produced the *One Less Petal, One Less Flame* series of concerts at St. Peter's Church, Milford. The concerts were the culmination of an extensive music and creative writing schools outreach project which involved all primary and second level schools in the Fanad Peninsula, writers Kate Newman and Cathal Ó Searcaigh, musicians Elaine Agnew and Tommy Peoples and The Irish Chamber Orchestra.

Museum and Archives Programme

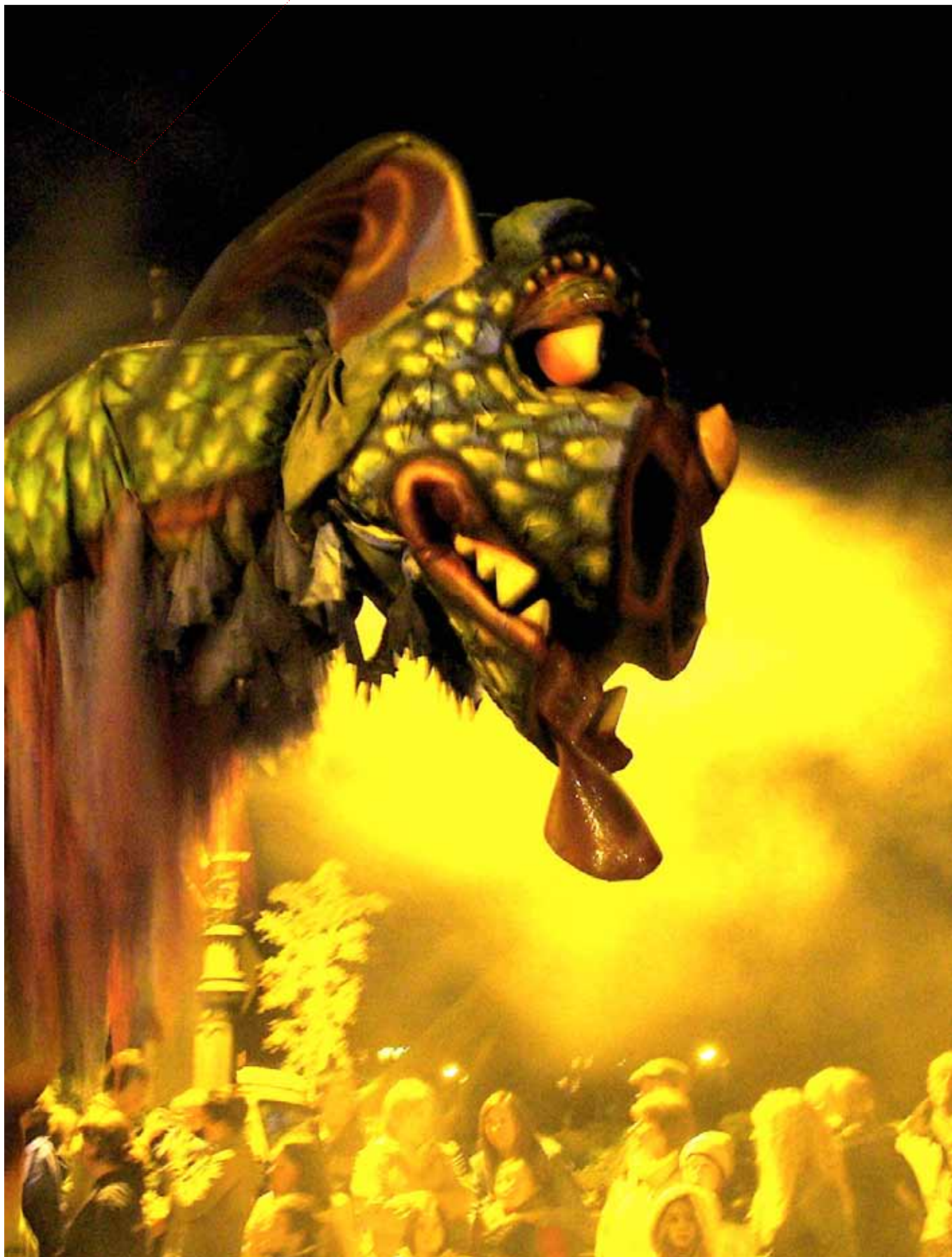
Donegal County Museum and County Archives, in conjunction with Derry City Council Heritage and Museum Service, curated a major exhibition called *From Leaders to Exile: The Flight of the Earls*, which was on display in the County Museum for six months. An accompanying booklet was produced. The exhibition included a specially designed educational game and activity trail aimed at young children. A series of education workshops based on the theme of the Flight of the Earls was organised for primary schools. The interpretative panels from this exhibition formed part of a travelling exhibition, which toured to venues in Northern Ireland including Derry, Dungannon, Enniskillen and Omagh. At the invitation of the Irish embassies of Italy and Switzerland, the exhibition also travelled to Rome, Basel and Zurich.

Donegal County Archives produced a *Document Study Pack for Second Level Students* on the subject of the Flight of the Earls. The pack consisted of an illustrated history of the period from the Nine Years War to the aftermath of the Flight, biographies of the main characters involved, facsimiles of related archives from various archival institutions and libraries, worksheets and a glossary. The pack has been distributed to schools across the country north and south, to Irish cultural institutions and interested individuals at home and abroad and to embassies. The County Archives, in conjunction with the Donegal Education Centre, produced a similar pack for primary school students.

A scene from *The O'Neill*,
by Thomas Kilroy,
produced in 2007 by
An Grianán Theatre and
Earagail Arts Festival, as
part of the commemorative
programme marking the
400th. anniversary of
The Flight of the Earls.
Photo: Declan Doherty



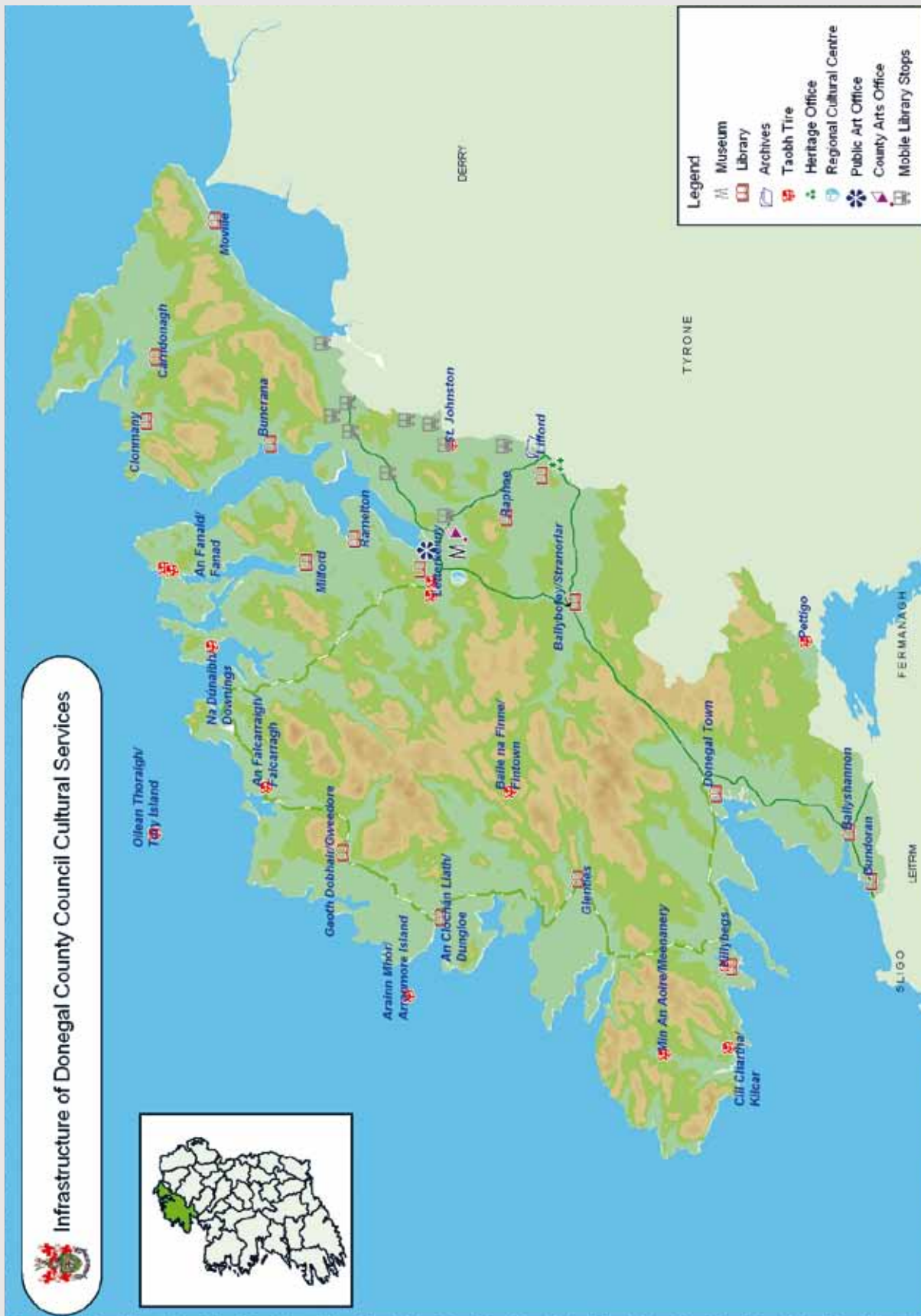
*Parthalon Street Band
Dragon at Carnival
Ballyshannon, Donegal Bay
and Blue Stacks Festival
2005. Photo: Matt Britton*



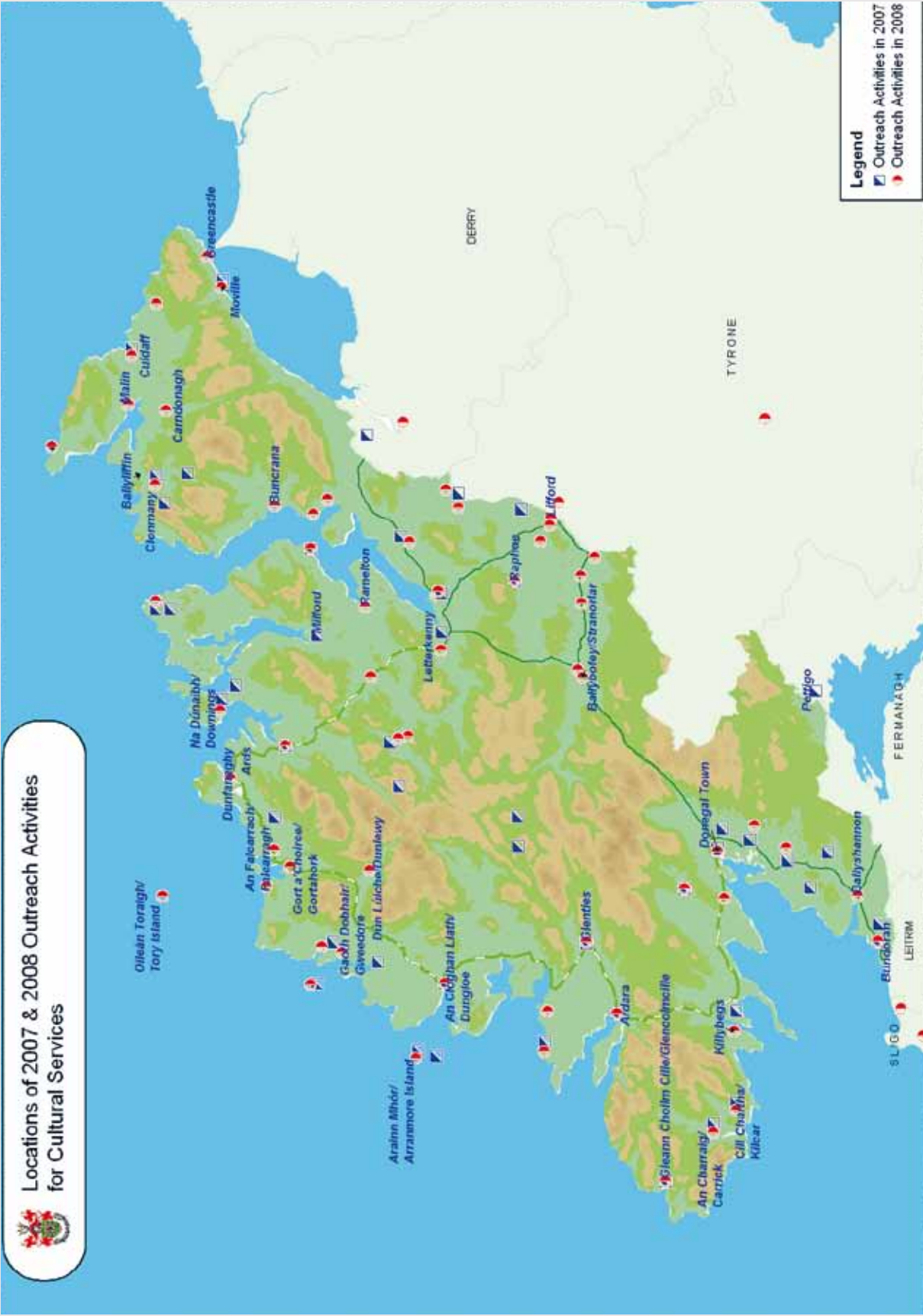
Appendices



Appendix 1: Cultural Services Infrastructure



Appendix 2:
Cultural Services Outreach Programme 2007



Appendix 3:

Cultural Services Capital Building Programme

Strategic Policy Committee members considered and determined priority projects for Donegal County Council's Building Programme on 30th April 2007. These projects were then approved by Donegal County Council.

The first 4 library priorities were submitted to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government following the call for proposals in September 2008.

Libraries

Donegal Town Community Library	Application submitted
Cultural Services Headquarters	Application in development
Ballybofey/Stranorlar Community Library	Application in development
Central Library enhancement	Extension plus use of basement
Leabharlann Phobail Ghaoith Dobhair	Joint project with Údarás na Gaeltachta
Glenties Community Library	Old Fire Station site suitable
Leabharlann Phobail Chloich Cheann Fhaola	Potential site being explored

* A replacement library delivery van may also be required over the course of the next five years.

Given that Department funding is mainly available for towns with core populations of 1,500 or over, alternative sources of funding for enhancing existing library buildings, or for establishing new libraries, in towns with smaller centres of population, will be followed up as opportunities arise. Taobh Tíre outreach points are alternative means of providing library services to rural and isolated communities. There are a number of locations throughout the county which may be suitable for Taobh Tíre points. This will be considered when the recommendations from the Taobh Tíre final report are available, and as adequate resources are provided.

Arts/Museum/Archives/Heritage

Extension to County Museum	Seek funding
Archives Centre	Planned with Phase II of County House
Records Centre	Planned with Phase II of County House
Teach Chathail Uí Shearcaigh	Complete work on public facility

Accessibility

It is the aim that Donegal County Council will make the buildings from which its services are provided fully accessible, and that if it is not possible to bring buildings to an acceptable level, alternative buildings may be sought on a phased basis. All buildings must be suitably located as well as being accessible.

Funding

The Cultural Services Division will follow up on all potential funding opportunities in order to deliver on the adopted capital programme. The advice and expertise of the Community and Enterprise Division will be invaluable in the complex and continuously evolving area of funding programmes.

Appendix 4: Cultural Development Forum Members

Mr. Adrian Kelly

Office of Public Works
Glebe House and Gallery

Ms. Aideen Doherty

Donegal County Council
Community and Enterprise Division

Ms. Aisling Lynch

Donegal County Enterprise Board
Craft Development Office

Ms. Ann Marie Crosse

Health Service Executive
Health Promotion Department, HSE West

Mr. Conor Malone

Balor Developmental Community Arts
Balor Arts Centre

Ms. Denise McCool

Inishowen Partnership

Gráinne Ní Ghallcháoir

An Roinn Ghnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta, Doire Beag

Ms. Eileen Burgess

Donegal County Council
Library Service, Cultural Services Division

Ms. Geraldine McHugh

Donegal County Council
Library Service, Cultural Services Division

Mr. Hugh Friel

Donegal Travellers Project

Mr. John Cunningham

Donegal County Council
Regional Cultural Centre, Cultural Services Division

Mr. Joseph Gallagher

Donegal County Council
Heritage Office, Cultural Services Division

Ms. Judith McCarthy

Donegal County Council
Donegal County Museum, Cultural Services Division

Máire Áine Gardiner

Fáilte Ireland North West
Letterkenny Regional Office

Mícheál Uas. Ó Fearraigh

Údarás na Gaeltachta, Doire Beag

Dr. Martin Gormley

Donegal Vocational Education Committee
Adult Education Office

Mr. Martin Regan

Coillte Teoranta Irish Forestry Board

Ms. Mhairi Sutherland

Artist, Buncrana

Mícheál Uas. Ó hÉanaigh

Comhairle Chondae Dhún na nGall

Stiúrthóir Sheirbhísí, An Stiúrthóireacht Pobail, Cultúir is Fionntair

Mr. Michael Ferry

Foras Áisínteacht Saothar (FÁS)

Anna Bean Uí Laifearaigh

Meitheal Forbairt na Gaeltachta (MFG)

Ms. Niamh Brennan

Donegal County Council

Archives Service, Cultural Services Division

Mr. Pat Campbell

Letterkenny Institute of Technology

Department of Design and Creative Media

Ms. Nuala McGarrigle

Foras Áisínteacht Saothar (FÁS)

Ms. Patricia McBride

An Grianán Theatre

Ms. Elaine Forde

Artlink, Buncrana

Mr. Mickey Mullan

Donegal County Community Forum

Ms. Terre Duffy

Donegal County Council

Public Art Office, Cultural Services Division

Traolach Uas. Ó Fionnáin

Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall

Seirbhís Ealaíne, Rannán na Seirbhísí Cultúrtha

Ms. Una Campbell

An Gailearaí, Falcarragh

Ms. Nollaig Crombie

Letterkenny Institute of Technology

Department of Design and Creative Media

Ms. Helen McNutt

Donegal County Council

Library Service, Cultural Services Division

Diarmuid Uas. Ó Mórdha

An Roinn Ghnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta, Doire Beag

Ms. Anne McClean

Donegal Travellers Project

Mícheál Uas. MacAoidh

Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Doire Beag

Mr. Shaun Hannigan

Donegal County Council

Regional Cultural Centre, Cultural Services Division