



9<sup>th</sup> February, 2017

**To: An Cathaoirleach and Each Member of Kilkenny County Council.**

**Re: Creative Ireland Programme 2017-2022**

A Chara,

Creative Ireland, an ambitious culture and citizenship initiative, was launched in December 2016 as a legacy project to the 1916 Centenary Programme.

Similar to the circumstances whereby the 1916 Centenary Programme provided local communities with a commemoration framework together with some support funds, the Creative Ireland Programme envisages successful outcomes based on local citizen engagement, led by local authorities, with the overall aim of increased public engagement with and participation in creative cultural activity.

With the above in mind and further to correspondence from Minister Heather Humphries TD to the Chief Executive, Kilkenny County Council has been requested to initially undertake the following;

- Establish a Culture Team
- Nominate a Creative Ireland Co-ordinator.
- Develop a Culture and Creativity Plan
- Drive public participation in creative cultural activity

Items (1) and (2) above are in place and in line with Ministerial recommendations, Kilkenny County Council Culture Team consists of the Director of Services (Community and Culture), Arts Officer, Heritage Officer, County Librarian, Council Architect and PPN Co-ordinator. Additionally, the Heritage Officer will fulfil the role of Creative Ireland Co-ordinator to attend the forthcoming workshops designed to advise to the Programme.

It is also of note that the Minister envisages the launch of the Culture and Creativity Plans in April 2017 and the process required to achieve this will be discussed in detail at a Creative Ireland workshop on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2017.

Pillar 2 of the Creative Ireland Programme sets out objectives for an annual event of arts activities and cultural reflections on Easter Bank Holiday Monday, together with an annual County of Culture Award to be based on individual counties showcasing their cultural creativity over a twelve month period.

In conclusion, I note that Minister Humphries has made a specific allocation of €1 million across all local authorities towards the implementation of the 2017 Creative Ireland Plans.

Further updates will issue to Elected Members as matters progress.

Mise, le meas

Simon Walton  
A/Director of Services