



**15<sup>th</sup> February, 2017.**

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

**Re: Heritage/Arts/Culture/Library Strategic Plans**

A Chara,

Elected Members are advised that various statutory and policy Plans require renewal over the course of 2017.

The existing Plans, to be updated, include;

1. Heritage Plan 2007–2011 (existing policy Plan extended in agreement with Heritage Council)
2. Kilkenny Arts Strategy 2005-2009 (Statutory Plan)
3. Kilkenny Libraries Development Plan 2009-2013 (Statutory Plan).

A framework to facilitate the preparation of the new Plans is now in place and the scoping and themes for the strategies are currently being finalised. There will be a shared public consultation process for the three Plans and the first phase of such public consultation will commence in March 2017.

As the process proceeds there will be ongoing consultation with the various Strategic Policy Committees, Heritage Forum etc. and detailed presentations regarding the process will be made at the next round of meeting for such Committees.

Consultation through and with the Public Participation Network will also be a key form of advising the Plans and, by advancing a collective consultation process, it is intended to achieve enhanced cohesiveness in the prioritisation and delivery of services emanating from the approved Plans.

Elected Members will also note the requirement to prepare a County Kilkenny Culture and Creativity Plan for the period 2017-2022 and the preparation of that Plan will advise and compliment the Plans referred to above.

Mise, le meas,

Simon Walton  
A/Director of Services.