



**An Roinn Cultúir,
Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta**
Department of Culture,
Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Statement of Strategy 2018 – 2020

Minister's Foreword

This Statement of Strategy sets out the actions that my Department will take over the coming period to enrich the quality of life in Ireland through our rich culture, arts, heritage and language. In addition to their immense inherent value, our language, culture and heritage are valued by all of our communities and are important resources too for economic activity, including tourism and for the presentation of Ireland as an attractive destination for sustainable inward investment.

Announcing the formation of the Department, An Taoiseach acknowledged the work already undertaken in respect of the Decade of Commemorations and Creative Ireland programmes. He went on to identify the need for a renewed emphasis and importance to be attached to the promotion of arts, culture and heritage in Ireland. Our Department is tasked with supporting and encouraging the unique creativity that marks us as a nation, as it is with maintaining and promoting the use of our national language and our island communities.

This commitment to providing the high quality infrastructure that is critical for a vibrant arts, heritage and culture sector as well as to preserving and promoting our national language is reflected in the ten year plan *Investing in our Culture, Language and Heritage* which sets out the high-level, strategic capital priorities for this Department over the next ten years to underpin social cohesion and support strong, sustainable economic growth.

The Department will also continue its role in the protection, preservation and conservation of our natural and built heritage assets. The richness of these assets not only contributes to the fabric and overall wellbeing of our communities but has significant economic value as a major component of our attractiveness as place to come for work, study and as a unique tourism destination.

I would like to thank all those who participated in the development of this Strategy, especially the management and staff of my Department and our community of stakeholders. My ministerial colleague, Joe McHugh T.D., and I look forward to working with our partners and our stakeholders to advance this important work for the benefit of people and communities across Ireland through the coming years.



Josepha Madigan, T.D.

Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

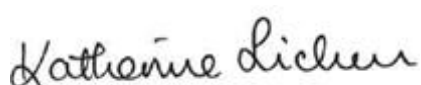
Secretary General's Introduction

I am pleased to present the Statement of Strategy 2018-2020 for the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Following its restructuring in 2017, the Department continues to oversee, and have policy responsibility for, the conservation, preservation, protection, development and presentation of Ireland's rich heritage, arts and culture. The Department also retains its role in the promotion of the Irish language, the development of the Gaeltacht and the sustainable development of island communities.

This Statement of Strategy sets out the Department's high level goals for the coming period, together with the strategies and outputs that we will employ to deliver on these goals and the positive outcomes that we will work to achieve.

The high level goals, strategies, outputs and outcomes in this Statement of Strategy will be reflected in the business plans and individual work plans of the staff of the Department so that each staff member has a clear understanding of the importance of their role and the contribution they will make to the achievement of these goals.



Katherine Licken
Secretary General

1. Mission and Environmental Analysis

Environmental Analysis

The Department has undergone a period of change which requires us to review our strategic priorities and deployment of resources to achieve delivery in key policy areas. Under the *Programme for a Partnership Government*, we are required to play a significant role in facilitating the conservation and promotion of our arts, culture and heritage and supporting the Irish language, Gaeltacht regions and offshore Islands. This role has been further enhanced by the emphasis placed on protecting and enhancing our culture, language and heritage infrastructure under the National Development Plan (*Project Ireland 2040*) and the Department's accompanying sectoral plan *Investing in our Culture, Language and Heritage* under which the Department is tasked with the investment of €1.2 billion over the next 10 years.

The National Development Plan 2018-2027 identified four investment priorities for the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for the next decade:

- National Cultural Institutions Investment Programme – €460 million
- Culture and Creativity investment programme – €265 million
- Heritage Investment Programme – €285 million
- the Irish language, the Gaeltacht and the Islands – €178 million

The delivery of these priorities will be the primary driver of the Department's work over the coming years and will pose challenges for management and staff alike in delivering a programme of investment that is unprecedented in the history of the State as it approaches its centenary in 2022.

The projects identified under the *Investing in our Culture, Language and Heritage* will support the ambition of the Creative Ireland Programme. This ambitious investment plan will incorporate the renovation and redevelopment of our National Cultural Institutions in Dublin and Cork. It will also include investments in natural heritage and biodiversity, National Parks and Nature Reserves, inland waterways including the Ulster Canal, National Monument Sites, and built heritage in urban and rural locations. In line with commitments made in the *20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030*, investment in our national language will see supports for

Gaeltacht and Island communities including new community and enterprise investment underpinning the language planning process, new marine infrastructure and the enhancement of language supports across the country including an Irish Language Hub in Dublin City Centre and a network of Irish Language and Cultural Centres nationwide.

A key priority for the Department is the **Creative Ireland Programme**, the culture-based project, aligned with “Culture 2025 - Éire Ildánach”, which is designed to build on the legacy of the 2016 Centenary Programme to promote individual, community and national wellbeing. The core proposition is that engagement with and participation in arts and culture drives personal and collective creativity with significant implications for individual and societal wellbeing and achievement. This will take place in tandem with the continuation of the Commemorative Programme as we move through the latter half of the *Decade of Commemorations* leading to the centenary of the founding of the State, and 175th Anniversary of the Great Famine in 2022.

We will also continue to work to develop Ireland's international reputation as a hub of cultural and artistic excellence and, together with the bodies under our aegis (Appendix 1), will work across the heritage, arts, culture and creative sectors, to ensure that they continue to make a significant contribution to Irish life, contributing to tourism and supporting job retention and growth.

Of particular importance in regard to celebrating our natural and cultural resources will be the development during 2018 of a new National Heritage Plan for public consultation - *Heritage Ireland 2030* - and the roll-out of projects under the Department's strategic partnerships with Fáilte Ireland which will facilitate significant investment in the development of the visitor experience of our National Parks and the built and archaeological heritage throughout the country.

Another key priority for the Department is the implementation of the *National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021* which sets out a wide range of actions for the conservation of our rich resource of nature.

A renewed focus on our built heritage will see new programmes of investment, including a Historic Structures Fund, to be rolled out in 2018, as well as new investment initiatives in recreational infrastructure and in our canals' network.

In addition, we will continue to drive and support the implementation of the *20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030* and provide support for the Irish language while also supporting employment in Gaeltacht areas. The sustainable development of island communities will also be a priority for the Department, as will working to increase the level of North/South cooperation across the range of activities for which we have responsibility.

In parallel with the above we will continue to work with other Government Departments and agencies to support the delivery of the *Programme for Partnership Government* and whole of Government Strategies especially in the areas of economic development, gender equality, climate change, the ongoing challenge of responding to Brexit and the ongoing programme of Public Sector Renewal.

Delivery, Monitoring and Review

This Statement of Strategy will provide the basis for the organisation and management of the Department over the coming three years. The assignment of responsibilities will be reflected in the Framework of Assignments and our strategic priorities will inform and guide the annual business planning process. The targeted actions identified through this business planning will dictate the setting of individual and team objectives which through the operation of the Performance Management and Development System. Progress on delivery of priorities will be subject to regular review and we will publish an Annual Report reflecting the progress achieved in delivering on the strategic priorities set out in this Statement of Strategy.

The Department will participate in the Organisational Capability Review, as part of the Civil Service Renewal Plan, scheduled to commence in the second half of 2018. The Review will examine our internal capacity for strategy, leadership and delivery. A key output of the process will be an action plan which will provide for the implementation of any identified improvements to our organisational structures and processes for the enhanced delivery of our strategic objectives.

Risk Management

A particular challenge for all public sector bodies is the identification and management of emerging challenges and opportunities and especially those factors that may jeopardise the delivery of objectives. During 2018 the Department is engaging in a review of its risk management policies and practices to ensure that an effective risk management system will be maintained at all levels within the Department in line with the *2016 Guidance on Risk Management* produced by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

At a strategic level, the Department, as co-sponsors of two of the six North-South Implementation Bodies established under the Good Friday Agreement - An Foras Teanga and Waterways Ireland - has identified potential adverse impacts from Brexit as being of particular significance for the delivery of our High Level Goals.

Potential Brexit-related challenges have also been identified in relation to a number of other important areas for which the Department is responsible, including protection of natural heritage, the operations of Waterways Ireland, promotion of the film industry and supporting the heritage and cultural tourism sectors.

Our Mission

To promote, nurture and develop Ireland's arts, culture and heritage; to support and promote the use of the Irish language and to facilitate the development of the Gaeltacht and Islands.

The Mission will be fulfilled through the pursuit of five High Level Goals for the Department as follows:

- **Goal A** – To support and develop engagement with, and in, arts, culture and creativity by individuals and communities thereby enriching individual and community well-being; and to promote Ireland's arts and culture globally.
- **Goal B** - To conserve, protect, manage and present our built and natural heritage for its intrinsic value and as an inspiration to creativity and environmental appreciation as well as a support to local communities, regional economic development and sustainable employment.
- **Goal C** – To support the use of the Irish language throughout Ireland and to strengthen its use as the principal community language of the Gaeltacht.
- **Goal D** – To facilitate the sustainable development of island communities;
- **Goal E** – To promote North-South co-operation, particularly in the context of An Foras Teanga and Waterways Ireland.

The Corporate Affairs Division of the Department will seek to support the achievement of these goals through the provision of an effective and efficient facilities, policies and procedures for management, staff and stakeholders.

Each of these goals is explored in more detail in Part 3 where the specific strategies and actions which will contribute to the achievement of these goals are set out. In working to achieve these goals, we will:

- Support the achievement of relevant National Strategic Objectives set out in the National Planning Framework and the associated National Development Plan¹ as part of *Project Ireland 2040*;
- Deliver on the ambitions set out in *Investing in our Culture, Language and Heritage*;
- Cultivate Irish artistic and creative talent and enhance Ireland's reputation as a hub of artistic excellence;
- Realise Ireland's full creative potential through mainstreaming creativity in the life of the nation;
- Improve access to the arts, the collections of the National Cultural Institutions and regional arts through investment in physical and digital infrastructure and supports;
- Support a respectful and inclusive programme of commemorations over the second half of the Decade of Centenaries;
- Support the development and expansion of the film and television production sector;
- Support the development of governance in the Arts and Culture sector and the provision of equality of access and opportunity for all;
- Drive the implementation of the *National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021*;
- Protect, restore and conserve our natural habitats and species;
- Protect, conserve and sustainably manage our archaeological and built heritage for future generations;
- In accordance with Government decision, support the protection and management of our heritage by addressing the impacts of climate change through the development by 2020 of two Sectoral Adaptation Plans, for Biodiversity and the Built & Archaeological Heritage;
- Protect and enhance our built and natural heritage as an important contributor to national health, wellbeing, enjoyment and sustainable economic growth through investment in our National Parks and Monuments;
- Increase public awareness of the immense inherent value of Ireland's heritage and stakeholder buy-in to its protection through the publication of a new National Heritage Plan - *Heritage Ireland 2030* - and development of stakeholder structures to oversee its implementation;
- Ensure that Ireland continues to meet its obligations as a State Party to the World Heritage Convention, that existing World Heritage Sites are appropriately conserved and presented and that nominations of new candidate sites are supported and advanced;

¹ See in particular National Strategic Outcome s 3 & 7

- Adhere to our national, EU and international commitments and avoid any reputational and financial damage to Ireland;
- Protect and sustainably manage our built heritage for current and future generations including by improving skills capacity, fostering high-quality heritage tourism and enhancing relationships with our EU heritage partners;
- Prepare and adapt our built heritage to increase its resilience in the face of climate change and protect it from potential adverse impacts;
- Support the Irish language, both inside and outside the Gaeltacht through the implementation of the *20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030*;
- Support the sustainable development of the Gaeltacht and island communities particularly through job creation, retention of existing employment and enhancements to community, enterprise and marine infrastructure;
- Support the implementation of the language planning process provided for in the Gaeltacht Act 2012 in Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas, Gaeltacht Service Towns and Irish Language Networks;
- Continue to work with our partners in the EU with a view to ending the derogation on the use of the Irish language in the Union by 2022;
- Publish and commence implementation of a Digital Plan for the Irish Language;
- Support the development and operation of the North-South institutions, with a particular emphasis on infrastructural development in the border region;
- Continue to promote Irish and Ulster-Scots language and culture on an all-island basis;
- Provide support for the maintenance and development of our navigable inland waterways, principally for recreational purposes.

1. How We Will Carry Out Our Work

Our Values

We value our relationships with our stakeholders, our customers, and one another. We will demonstrate honesty, integrity, impartiality and fairness in those relationships and will be respectful in our interactions.

We will endeavour to look beyond organisational boundaries to build positive, collaborative, working relationships within the Department and with other Departments, public sector bodies and stakeholders, promoting a 'joined up' approach to managing what we do.

We will give objective, evidence-based, and well-informed policy advice to the Minister, Minister of State and the Government. In particular we will support positive engagement with the Oireachtas, through engagement with relevant committees and responses to individual members, in line with Government commitments.

We will continuously strive to improve the way that we work, the services that we provide and how we communicate what we do, consistent with Government policies in relation to Open Government, the provision of quality services and Customer Service.

We recognise and value the contribution made by our staff in delivering our goals and serving our customers. We will support and develop our staff to assist them in the delivery of their work through participation in Civil Service Renewal and the provision of an appropriately resourced and supportive work environment.

We will focus on achieving better outcomes from resources applied and we will promote a culture of accountability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness in all that we do. We will engage with our stakeholders and customers and we will strive to constantly learn and improve.

Achieving Our Goals will be supported by these Enablers

People

- Provision of an appropriate physical workplace and promotion of a positive working environment.
- Building capacity through workforce planning and further commitment to Learning and Development.
- Effective arrangements for internal coordination and communications across the Department.

Governance

- Effective business planning processes and management of team and individual performance.
- Robust appraisal and evaluation, financial management and procurement policies and procedures to ensure that value for money is secured to the greatest extent possible and sustainable outcomes for the taxpayer are delivered.
- Good practice in corporate governance systems, structures and procedures including adherence to risk management procedures.
- Appropriate alignment of staff structures to ensure responsive and flexible deployment in response to strategic priorities.
- Implementation of the *Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies* in those bodies and agencies funded from our Vote to help ensure clarity of roles, responsibilities and increased accountability.

Technology and Processes

- Enhanced use of Digital and Information and Communications Technologies to improve service delivery/communication, improve records management and make better use of the Department's data and improve accessibility to the Department's services for our customers.

2. Cross Cutting Issues

Programme for a Partnership Government:

Under the programme, the Department has a range of commitments (outlined in Appendix 2), some of which involve collaboration with other Government Departments and state agencies. These have been taken into account, and are reflected in the strategies and actions outlined in this document.

Project Ireland 2040 – National Planning Framework and National Development Plan:

The National Development Plan is designed to meet Ireland’s infrastructure and investment needs over the next 10 years, based on the planning priorities and projected population growth set out in the National Planning Framework –Ireland 2040. *Project Ireland 2040* identifies 10 National Strategic Outcomes including enhanced regional accessibility and improved connectivity: compact, smart growth, access to services and a strong digital economy: empowered rural communities and enhanced amenity and heritage; and climate resilience and sustainable management of environmental resources which are essential to the future development of the country. The resources available under the NDP will be directed to projects which are aligned with these outcomes. Of particular relevance to the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht are the strategic outcomes to:

- Strengthen rural economies and communities; and
- Enhance amenity and heritage.

A capital allocation of almost €1.2 billion is being made available over the next 10 years to support projects aligned with these strategic outcomes. A detailed overview of the projects and programmes to be delivered by the Department over the next 10 years is set out in *Investing in our Culture, Language and Heritage*.

External Engagement

We are responsible for the development of policy and delivery of services and in a range of areas that impact the lives of citizens either directly or through their impact on the environment. We will further develop our capacity to engage with the public both through enhanced delivery of services and the use of appropriate mechanisms to allow for consultation in the development and design of policy and services.

Oireachtas and Cross-Government Initiatives

We will support the Minister and Minister of State in their engagement with the Oireachtas and its Committees in relation to matters under the Department's remit. We will also engage positively with members of the Oireachtas in relation to matters they raise directly with the Department.

We play a key role in a range of cross-Government strategies and initiatives and close co-operation with relevant Departments and bodies will continue, as required. This will include participating in, and supporting the work of interdepartmental Groups and Cabinet Committees. We will work to maintain effective relationships with other Departments and state bodies in order to improve service delivery to the public.

EU and International Affairs

EU and international legislation and initiatives have a significant impact on the policies and programmes for which this Department has responsibility. We will participate in appropriate EU fora which encourage policy formation, sharing of information and development opportunities and which promote the societal and economic benefit of Ireland and the EU as a whole. We will continue to work to meet our EU and International commitments and engage with the European Commission, where necessary, partner Departments and other bodies to assist them in meeting shared obligations.

Equality

Having regard to section 42(2) of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014, human rights and equality issues relevant to the Department have been considered in preparing this document. The Department contributes to a range of Government Strategies and Plans in the Disability and Social Inclusion area.

The main vehicle for the Department's contribution in this area is the Creative Ireland Programme which is the main implementation vehicle for the priorities identified in identified in Culture 2025/Éire Ildánach. The key values underpinning the Programme are:

- The intrinsic value of culture and cultural heritage
- The value of culture and cultural heritage to our lives and our communities

- The right of everyone to participate in the cultural life of the nation
- The importance of the Irish language, our cultural heritage, folklore, games, music and the uniqueness of our Gaeltacht areas and of our islands
- The value of cultural diversity, informed by the many traditions and social backgrounds in Ireland
- The value of culture and cultural heritage as a means of fostering a more sustainable future for Ireland, including through economic and social policy
- The value of culture in presenting Ireland to the world.

The core proposition of this culture-based programme designed to promote individual, community and national wellbeing, is that participation in cultural activity drives personal and collective creativity, with significant implications for individual and societal wellbeing and achievement. Across its 5 pillars Creative Ireland subscribes to the values and high-level principles set out in Culture 2025/Éire Ildánach which aim to:

- Enrich the lives of everyone through engagement in the cultural life of the nation
- Create opportunities for increased citizen participation, especially for those currently excluded

Of particular relevance to the area of Equality are Pillars 1 and 2 of the programme. A key objective of **Pillar 1 Enabling the Creative Potential of Every Child** is that by 2022 every child in Ireland will have access to tuition and participation in art, music, drama and coding. The Department of Education and Skills will be a key partner in implementing this pillar. The Department of Children and Youth Affairs will also be central to the success of this pillar.

Under **Pillar 2 Enabling Creativity in Every Community**, each local authority will be asked to develop a Culture and Creativity Plan, reflecting the overall structure and aims of the national strategy for culture and creativity. Each local authority will be allocated a dedicated budget to support the primary objective of citizen engagement with their Culture and Creativity Plans. The Department of Housing, Planning, and Local Government, and all of our local authorities will be key partners in this pillar.

Corporate Governance of Bodies and Agencies

We will continue to positively engage with the bodies and agencies funded from the Department's Vote and all other relevant stakeholders to implement our goals and strategies and to assist them in achieving their objectives.

During 2018 we have initiated a review of the operation of the 2016 *Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies* in those bodies under the aegis of the Department. This review will be undertaken as part of the suite of initiatives announced by the Minister in 2017 to address issues of governance, management and equality in the Arts and Culture sectors.

Reform and Renewal including Organisational Capability

Review

The Department is fully committed to the on-going programme of change in the Civil Service, which seeks to build capacity to respond to existing and future challenges and improve the performance of the Civil Service and its staff. The Civil Service Renewal Plan provides the framework for much of this work and outlines a vision for the Civil Service and the practical changes required to create a more unified, professional, responsive and open and accountable Civil Service, providing a world-class service to the State and to the people of Ireland. Strong leadership and active participation in the implementation of this programme of change will be a key focus over the period of this Strategy.

Part of the Department's commitment to reform and renewal will be delivered through the Organisational Capability Review due to take place in the latter half of 2018. This review, undertaken jointly by the Department and the Office for Reform and Delivery in the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, will examine the Department's current capacity for strategy, leadership and delivery and will make recommendations on how these areas may be strengthened in future. The Review will engage directly with staff at all grades and in all locations, as well as with external stakeholders, to ensure a balanced view of the current operating environment for the Department.

3.How We Will Achieve Our Goals



GOAL

To support and develop engagement with, and in arts, culture and creativity by individuals and communities thereby enriching individual and community well-being; and to promote Ireland's arts and culture globally

High Level Strategies

- The implementation of 'Culture 2025' policy and the Creative Ireland Programme 2017-2022 and ongoing commemorations programmes in partnership with national and local stakeholders
- Future proofing our national collections to ensure they are available to future generations
- Expanding the opportunities for Ireland's audio-visual sectors
- Supporting our agencies and National Cultural Institutions in providing a high quality cultural offering to the public
- Enhancing the role of local authorities in delivering arts and cultural and commemorative services
- Securing and upgrading a viable network of arts and cultural infrastructure
- Supporting the international presentation of Irish artists globally, including the generation of new opportunities, as part of the Government's international promotion strategy
- Developing and delivering the Government commemoration programme

Outcomes

- Realise Ireland's creative potential through mainstreaming creativity in the life of the nation
- Successful delivery of the Decade of Centenaries Programme and ongoing famine commemorations
- Development and expansion of the film and television production sector
- Cultivate Irish artistic and creative talent and enhance Ireland's reputation as a hub of artistic excellence
- Improved access to the arts, the collections of the National Cultural Institutions and regional arts infrastructure

Indicators

- Implementation of 'Culture 2025' policy
- Implementation of Creative Ireland Programme initiatives and commencement of a programme of major infrastructure development at our National Cultural Institutions
- Stakeholders' and Public response to Decade of Centenaries and Famine Commemoration programmes
- Turnover, activity and employment levels in the audiovisual industry
- Delivery of support schemes and numbers of projects supported
- Number of enhanced collections and exhibition programmes in place and visitor numbers
- Increased career opportunities for Irish artists, as evidenced by contracts secured to present work internationally

GOAL

High Level Strategies

Outcomes

Indicators

To conserve, protect, manage and present our built and natural heritage for its intrinsic value and as an inspiration to creativity and environmental appreciation as well as a support to local communities, regional economic development and sustainable employment.

- Ensuring heritage services are delivered to the customer as effectively as possible, in collaboration with other partners
- Ensuring effective implementation of the appropriate policies, legislation, actions to comply with our EU and national Heritage obligations
- Promoting greater awareness, appreciation and understanding of Ireland's rich heritage for its intrinsic value and as a cultural, educational and recreational amenity for individuals and communities, and also as a valuable resource for business and Ireland's green image
- Improving digital data management
- Building heritage skills capacity to ensure we achieve high standards of planning, management and protection competencies for heritage decision-makers at all levels
- Enhancing our EU heritage relationships

- Built and natural heritage recognised as an important contributor to national health, wellbeing, enjoyment and sustainable economic growth
- Increased public awareness of the immense inherent value of Ireland's heritage and stakeholder buy-in to its protection
- Adherence to our national, EU and international commitments, thereby protecting our reputation and avoiding financial damage
- Appropriate protection of our natural habitats and species
- Protect, conserve and restore our natural habitats and species
- Appropriate and sustainable protection and high-quality regeneration of our built heritage for current and future generations

- Feedback on visitor experience at National Parks, Reserves and Heritage Sites
- Appropriate development of the legislative framework for heritage protection
- Compliance with EU and national legislation as reflected in transposition of directives, making of designation orders and levels of enforcement activities
- The conservation status of habitats and species across the national territory
- Level of protection afforded to protected habitats and species and conservation measures undertaken
- Levels of investment in our built heritage assets for private, social and commercial purposes, including for cultural tourism
- Development of policies and adoption of best practices for building conservation, modern architecture and urban design
- Delivery of key heritage initiatives by the Heritage Council and Waterways Ireland

GOAL

To support the use of the Irish language throughout Ireland and to strengthen its use as the principal community language of the Gaeltacht.

To facilitate the sustainable development of island communities.

High Level Strategies

- Support the Irish language, both inside and outside the Gaeltacht through the implementation of a 5-Year Action Plan for the *20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030*
- Support the sustainable development of the Gaeltacht and island communities particularly through job creation and retention of existing employment
- Continue to work with our partners in the EU with a view to ending the derogation on the use of the Irish language in the EU by 2022
- Continue to support viable communities on our offshore islands through investment in life-line transport services and in community, enterprise and marine infrastructure

Outcomes

- Implementation of the *20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030*, with particular focus on selected key priorities over the coming five years
- Roll-out of the language planning process under the Gaeltacht Act 2012 in conjunction with Údarás na Gaeltachta and Foras na Gaeilge
- Increased supports for jobs in Gaeltacht areas through Údarás na Gaeltachta as the regional development agency for the Gaeltacht
- Enactment of Official Languages (Amendment) Bill 2017
- Ending of the derogation on the use of the Irish Language in the EU on track
- Offshore island communities sustained and developed

Indicators

- Measurable progress achieved across the action areas in the 5-Year Action Plan for the 20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language
- Number of active language planning processes in Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas, Gaeltacht Service Towns and Irish Language Networks
- Number of Irish language speakers as reflected in the Census
- Number of jobs created and maintained in the Gaeltacht
- Agreed annual increments for translation of EU documents achieved
- Population levels on offshore islands and numbers using subsidised transport services

GOAL

To promote North South co-operation, particularly in the context of An Foras Teanga and Waterways Ireland.

High Level Strategies

- Continued engagement with the joint funding Departments in Northern Ireland to support the work of the two North/South Implementation Bodies, An Foras Teanga and Waterways Ireland
- Working with Waterways Ireland to advance its investment programme in critical waterways infrastructure
- Pursuing opportunities with partners in Northern Ireland to enhance co-operation across other areas within our remit, including arts, culture, heritage, commemorations and rural affairs

Outcomes

- Continually develop the North-South institutions, with a particular emphasis on infrastructural development in the border region
- Continue to promote Irish and Ulster-Scots language and culture on an all-island basis
- Continue to maintain and develop the navigable inland waterways, principally for recreational purposes

Indicators

- Number of organisations/activities supported by An Foras Teanga
- Number of capital projects completed
- Percentage of waterways navigable during boating season and numbers using waterways for recreational purposes
- Level of co-operative engagement across other areas of our remit

Appendix 1 – Bodies under the Aegis of the Department

Oifig An Choimisinéara Teanga	www.coimisineir.ie
Údarás na Gaeltachta	www.udaras.ie
National Archives	www.nationalarchives.ie
National Museum of Ireland	www.museum.ie
National Library of Ireland	www.nli.ie
National Gallery of Ireland	www.nationalgallery.ie
Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA)	www.modernart.ie
National Concert Hall	www.nch.ie
Crawford Gallery	www.crawfordartgallery.ie
Chester Beatty Library	www.cbl.ie
Screen Ireland	www.screenireland.ie
Irish Manuscripts Commission	www.irishmanuscripts.ie
Arts Council	www.artscouncil.ie
Heritage Council	www.heritagecouncil.ie

Cross Border Implementation Bodies

Waterways Ireland	www.waterwaysireland.org
An Foras Teanga, which comprises:	
• Foras na Gaeilge	www.forasnagaeilge.ie
• The Ulster Scots Agency	www.ulsterscotsagency

Appendix 2 – Commitments relevant to the Department in the *Programme for Partnership Government*

- Continuation of the current process involving all stakeholders including the NPWS, Government appointed scientists and the TCCA. The Government will do all in its power to facilitate and expedite this process, including providing additional resources, to provide impacted turf cutters with an agreed and reasonable alternative, with the aim of making substantial progress within the lifetime of this Government.
- Publish new legislation to de-designate 46 NHAs within the first 100 days of Government.
- Review the timetable for the implementation of actions relating to NHAs in consultation with the EU.
- Build on the progress already made on SAC's and will continue working to expedite the relocation process.
- Respond to the Western Development Commission's Creative West report within three months.
- Expand the Historic Towns Initiative to include more towns.
- Support the traditional heritage of literature, music, song & dance.
- Continue to commemorate the most significant events in the history of this State, ensuring that these commemorations are inclusive, and enhance our understanding of our shared history, particularly among children and young people, so that they have a meaningful and lasting impact.
- Develop and publish an updated National Heritage Plan that sets out policies for the protection and promotion of our built and natural heritage and responds to challenges within the heritage sector.
- Implement the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Heritage so that Ireland's unique cultural heritage assets, such as hurling, uilleann piping and the Folklore Collection in UCD, are given UNESCO recognition and status.

- Work to progressively increase funding to the arts, including the Arts Council and the Irish Film Board (Screen Ireland), as the economy continues to improve.
- Implement the Arts in Education Charter, which provides an unprecedented opportunity for children and young people to engage in a proactive and meaningful way with arts in education in Ireland.
- Encourage each local authority to strengthen the role of arts, heritage and architectural conservation officers. We will establish stronger links between arts, heritage and architectural conservation officers, the OPW, Fáilte Ireland, the Arts Council, as well as with Local Enterprise Offices, to develop and promote opportunities for arts and cultural tourism.
- Boost supports to regional museums and facilitate increased loans between our National Cultural Institutions and our network of regional museums.
- Work with the Irish Film Board/Screen Ireland to ensure that Ireland is maximised as a location for international film production.
- Prioritise the publication of Culture 2025, the first national cultural policy. It will consider a range of important issues including: supporting artists and creative workers, improving access to culture,

breaking down barriers in areas of social exclusion and disadvantage, and how culture is enriched by greater cultural diversity. The publication of Culture 2025 follows a widespread consultation process with relevant stakeholders.

- Introduce a new small grants scheme to provide essential upgrades to existing regional arts and cultural centres around the country, including regional theatres.
- Support a built heritage investment scheme on an annual basis to support the conservation or heritage structures and the regeneration of urban and rural areas.
- Further encourage strong, mutually beneficial links between the business community and arts organisations. This approach will be based on helping arts organisations to capitalise on sponsorship opportunities, and develop business partnerships and fundraising skills.

- Implement the 20-Year Strategy for the Irish language, increase the number of people using Irish in their daily lives and ensure that Irish becomes a more visible language in today's society, both as a spoken language and also in areas such as signage and literature.
- Increase investment in the Irish language.
- Focus on job creation in the Gaeltacht, through Údarás na Gaeltachta.
- Encourage the attendance by children in Irish-medium pre-schools or naíonraí in Gaeltacht areas.
- Recognise the importance of the status of Irish as a full working language of the EU institutions and work towards ending the derogation, as circumstances allow.

Appendix 3 - Commitments Lead by other Departments to which we will contribute

In addition to those commitments under the *Programme for Partnership Government* for which this Department has primary responsibility we will also participate in, support and, as appropriate, contribute to cross-Departmental initiatives in relation to Brexit, Poverty Reduction, Equality and Environmental protection including the following:

- Government Response to Brexit Contingency Planning coordinated by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
- *The Action Plan for Jobs*
- *The Action Plan for Rural Development*
- *The Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness*
- *The Policy for Gaeltacht Education*
- The provision of an extra €300million in capital funding between Enterprise Ireland and Údarás na Gaeltachta to allow them to provide additional support to Irish owned enterprises.
- The review of the position in relation to the planning code as it relates to turf cutters for domestic use.
- An examination of new incentives to regenerate derelict and underused buildings in urban centres.

Appendix 4 – Key Policy Documents and Publications

- Investing in our Culture, Language and Heritage available at https://www.chg.gov.ie/app/uploads/2018/04/capital_plan_april3-8.pdf
- Culture 2025/ Éire Ildánach available at https://www.chg.gov.ie/app/uploads/2016/07/culture_2025_framework_policy_document.pdf
- National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015–2025 <https://www.chg.gov.ie/app/uploads/2015/07/N-Landscape-Strategy-english-Web.pdf>
- 20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030 available at <https://www.chg.gov.ie/app/uploads/2015/07/20-Year-Strategy-English-version.pdf>
- National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/National%20Biodiversity%20Action%20Plan%20English.pdf>



**An Roinn Cultúir,
Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta**
Department of Culture,
Heritage and the Gaeltacht