Comhairle Contae Cheatharlach

Plean Forbartha Leabharlann

Carlow County Council

Library Development Plan

2025-2029

COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHEATHARLACH
CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Contents

Foreword — 2

Words we use in this document and their meanings — 4

The Library Development Plan — 4

Summary of the Plan — 8

Context — 10

Who lives in County Carlow? — 10
What does Carlow County Library Service offer? — 14
What is the main purpose of the library service? — 16

Mission, Vision and Values of the Library Service — 20

Action Plan and Goals 2025-2029 — 24

What we are going to do — 24
1. Develop our buildings and collections — 24
2. Serve our communities — 28
3. Improve access to our services — 30
4. Develop our Local Studies, Genealogy and Archive Services — 32
5. Work with other organisations — 34
6. Support reading and literacy — 36

How we are going to do it — 38

Supporting library staff — 38
Investing in technology — 40
Developing marketing and communications — 40
Using data to develop our services in line with needs — 42
Tracking our progress — 42

Appendix 1: Consultation Process — 46
Appendix 2: Strengths and Weaknesses — 48
Appendix 3: Sustainable Development Goals Targets — 50

Foreword

In a time of rapid advances in technology, changing community needs, and an ever-growing amount of information, libraries stand as pillars of knowledge, creativity and social relationships. This Library Development Plan is a blueprint for the future that matches our library services and resources with the demands of the communities we serve. It shows our firm commitment to provide access to information, promote learning, and inspire discovery in a world where knowledge is constantly expanding.

Carlow County Council Library Service is a core part of our community, providing crucial resources and services to people of all ages. Our libraries are important community hubs, giving people access to information, and facilities for lifelong learning, personal growth and cultural development. They are places where people of all ages and backgrounds can connect, learn and grow. Looking to the future, we must invest in and develop our libraries to meet the changing needs of our growing and diverse population.

This Plan outlines our vision for the future of our service and is the result of wide consultation with our community, including library staff, the public, and interested parties. It sets out ambitious goals, including improving our buildings and collections, increasing the use of our services, and expanding our response to reach all sections of the community.

The Plan will act as a roadmap and as our vision for the future. It draws on our history of serving the community while setting ambitious goals for growth and improvement.

A central focus is accessibility – ensuring our services and resources are available to everyone regardless of age, background or ability. We aim to strengthen our role as a community hub, providing not just books and digital media, but also spaces for collaboration, culture and lifelong learning. In a time when access to knowledge is more important than ever, our libraries will continue to be open to all and crucial to our shared future.

We invite you to explore this Plan as we work together to create a library service that meets today's needs and tomorrow's possibilities. This is not just a vision for our libraries but also for the communities they serve – a vision built on inclusion, innovation and a passion for lifelong learning.

We are confident this Plan will guide Carlow County Library Service to continued success, we applaud the library staff for their hard work and dedication in developing it, and we look forward to seeing it put into effect.

Cllr Fergal Browne
Cathaoirleach

Coilín O'Reilly
Chief Executive

John Shortall
County Librarian

Réamhrá

Tráth a bhfuil dul chun cinn gasta sa teicneolaíocht, a bhfuil riachtanais phobail ag athrú, agus a bhfuil méid faisnéise ag fás i gcónaí, is iad leabharlanna croílár eolais, cruthaitheachta agus caidrimh shóisialta. Is treoirphlean don todhchaí é an Plean Forbartha Leabharlann seo ina dtagann ár seirbhísí agus ár n-acmhainní leabharlainne le héilimh na bpobal a bhfreastalaímid orthu. Léirítear leis ár dtiomantas daingean rochtain ar fhaisnéis a sholáthar, foghlaim a chur chun cinn agus fionnachtain a spreagadh i ndomhan ina bhfuil eolas ag méadú i gcónaí.

Is cuid lárnach dár bpobal í Seirbhís Leabharlainne Chomhairle Contae Cheatharlach, a soláthraíonn acmhainní agus seirbhísí ríthábhachtacha do dhaoine de gach aois. Is moil phobail thábhachtacha iad ár leabharlanna, ina dtugtar rochtain do dhaoine ar fhaisnéis agus ar áiseanna le haghaidh foghlaim ar feadh an tsaoil, forás pearsanta agus forbairt chultúrtha. Is áiteanna iad inar féidir le daoine de gach aois agus de gach cúlra teacht le chéile, foghlaim agus fás. Ag féachaint chun cinn amach anseo, ní mór dúinn infheistíocht a dhéanamh inár leabharlanna agus iad a fhorbairt chun freastal ar riachtanais athraitheacha ár ndaonra éagsúil atá ag fás.

Leagtar amach sa Phlean seo ár bhfís le haghaidh thodhchaí ár seirbhíse agus is toradh é ar chomhairliúchán leathan lenár bpobal, lena n-áirítear foireann na leabharlainne, an pobal, agus páirtithe leasmhara. Leagtar amach ann spriocanna uaillmhianacha, lena n-áirítear feabhas a chur ar ár bhfoirgnimh agus ar ár mbailiúcháin, úsáid ár seirbhísí a mhéadú, agus ár bhfreagairt a leathnú chun teacht ar gach cuid den phobal. Feidhmeoidh an Plean mar threochlár agus mar fhís againn le haghaidh na todhchaí. Baineann sé leas as ár stair maidir le freastal ar an bpobal agus spriocanna uaillmhianacha á leagan síos againn le haghaidh fáis agus feabhsaithe.

Is í an inrochtaineacht príomhfhócas na hoibre – a chinntiú go bhfuil ár seirbhísí agus ár n-acmhainní ar fáil do gach duine beag beann ar aois, ar chúlra nó ar chumas. Tá sé mar aidhm againn ár ról mar mhol pobail a neartú, ina soláthraítear ní hamháin leabhair agus meáin dhigiteacha, ach spásanna le haghaidh comhoibrithe, cultúir agus foghlaim ar feadh an tsaoil freisin. Tráth a bhfuil rochtain ar eolas níos tábhachtaí ná riamh, leanfaidh ár leabharlanna de bheith oscailte do chách agus ríthábhachtach dár dtodhchaí comhroinnte.

Tugaimid cuireadh duit an Plean seo a iniúchadh agus muid ag obair le chéile chun seirbhís leabharlainne a chruthú a chomhlíonann riachtanais an lae inniu agus féidearthachtaí an lae amárach. Ní fís dár leabharlanna amháin atá anseo ach fís do na pobail a bhfreastalaíonn siad orthu chomh maith – fís atá bunaithe ar chuimsiú, ar nuálaíocht agus ar phaisean don fhoghlaim ar feadh an tsaoil.

Táimid muiníneach go dtreoróidh an Plean seo Seirbhís Leabharlainne Chontae Cheatharlach chun rath leanúnach, molaimid foireann na leabharlainne as a gcuid oibre crua agus a ndúthracht agus iad á fhorbairt, agus táimid ag tnúth le feiceáil conas a chuirtear i bhfeidhm é.

An Clr Fergal Browne
Cathaoirleach

Coilín O'Reilly
Príomh-Fheidhmeannach

John Shortall
Leabharlannaí Contae

Words we use in this document and their meanings

We, us, our	Carlow County Council Library Service.
Collections	The books, audio books, DVDs, newspapers, archives and all other material held by the library service.
Resources	Money, staff, buildings, etc. used to provide the library service.
Spydus	Spydus is the library computer sytem used in all of our branches. Its most important functions are managing our collections and memberships.

The Library Development Plan

Under the law, public libraries in Ireland must prepare and publish a Library Development Plan every five years. Carlow County Council Library Service is publishing this Library Development Plan which will run from 2025 to 2029.

To prepare for this we used several national and local policies, including the current county-wide library strategy ***The Library Is the Place*** and the ***Carlow County Development Plan 2022-2028***.

We held a consultation to gather people's views in late 2023. The consultation included online surveys for local school representatives, local community organisations and the public, as well as library staff and team leads in Carlow County Council. We held four focus groups with library users across the county, nine one-to-one interviews with interested parties inside and outside the service, and four online focus groups with library service staff.

(See Appendix 1 for details of the level of response to the consultation.)

Alongside the consultation, we studied:

- **Data from the National Oversight and Audit Commission that can be used for comparison.**
- **Data for Carlow from the nationwide Library Management System (Spydus).**
- **Data that is publicly available, such as data on the reading behaviour of people in Ireland, and data on book purchases.**

The working group preparing the Plan discussed the feedback from the consultation and the findings from the data study at four meetings in early 2024. This Plan is a summary of the decisions the working group made. It will guide the Carlow County Council Library Service to 2029.

Na focail a úsáidimid sa doiciméad seo agus a mbríonna

Muid, sinn, ár	Seirbhís Leabharlainne Chomhairle Contae Cheatharlach.
Bailiúcháin	Na leabhair, na closleabhair, na DVDanna, na nuachtáin, na cartlanna agus gach ábhar eile atá i seilbh na seirbhíse leabharlainne.
Acmhainní	Airgead, foireann, foirgnimh, etc. a úsáidtear chun an tseirbhís leabharlainne a sholáthar.
Spydus	Is é Spydus an ríomhchóras leabharlainne a úsáidtear inár mbrainsí go léir. Is iad a chuid feidhmeanna is tábhachtaí ná bainistiú ár mbailiúchán agus ár mballraíochtaí.

An Plean Forbartha Leabharlann

Faoin dlí, ní mór do leabharlanna poiblí in Éirinn Plean Forbartha Leabharlann a ullmhú agus a fhoilsiú gach cúig bliana. Tá Seirbhís Leabharlainne Chomhairle Contae Cheatharlach ag foilsiú an Phlean Forbartha Leabharlann seo a bheidh i bhfeidhm ó 2025 go 2029.

Chun ullmhú chuige sin, bhaineamar úsáid as roinnt beartas náisiúnta agus áitiúil, lena n-áirítear an straitéis leabharlainne reatha ar fud an chontae, ***Is í an Leabharlann an Áit***, agus ***Plean Forbartha Contae Cheatharlach 2022-2028***.

Reáchtálamar comhairliúchán chun tuairimí daoine a bhailiú ag deireadh 2023. Áiríodh leis an gcomhairliúchán suirbhéanna ar líne d'ionadaithe scoile áitiúla, d'eagraíochtaí pobail áitiúla agus don phobal, chomh maith le foireann leabharlainne agus ceannairí foirne i gComhairle Contae Cheatharlach. Reáchtálamar ceithre ghrúpa fócais le húsáideoirí leabharlainne ar fud an chontae, naoi n-agallamh aghaidh ar aghaidh le páirtithe leasmhara laistigh den tseirbhís agus lasmuigh di, agus ceithre ghrúpa fócais ar líne le baill foirne na seirbhíse leabharlainne.

(Féach Aguisín 1 le haghaidh sonraí faoin leibhéal freagartha ar an gcomhairliúchán.)

Chomh maith leis an gcomhairliúchán, rinneamar staidéar ar na nithe seo a leanas:

- **Sonraí ón gCoimisiún Náisiúnta Maoirseachta agus Iniúchóireachta ar féidir iad a úsáid le haghaidh comparáide.**
- **Sonraí do Cheatharlach ón gCóras Bainistíochta Leabharlann ar fud na tíre (Spydus).**
- **Sonraí atá ar fáil go poiblí, amhail sonraí ar iompar léitheoireachta daoine in Éirinn, agus sonraí ar cheannacháin leabhar.**

Phléigh an grúpa oibre a bhí ag ullmhú an Phlean an t-aiseolas ón gcomhairliúchán agus na torthaí ón staidéar sonraí ag ceithre chruinniú go luath in 2024. Is achoimre é an Plean seo ar na cinntí a rinne an grúpa oibre. Treoróidh sé Seirbhís Leabharlainne Chomhairle Contae Cheatharlach go dtí 2029.

Three-quarters of all Irish adults say they read for pleasure. The Arts Council's *Arts Insight* report (2023) found that 73% of adults said they had read for pleasure within the past 12 months. Mostly they had read fiction (41%), followed by a biography or autobiography (23%). Of people surveyed, 4% said they were in a book club, and a similar number said they had attended an event connected with books or writing in a public library. Although 34% of adults in this survey said they had visited a public library to read or borrow books in the past 12 months, national data suggests only about 14% of the population are library members. It may be that some people gave the answer they thought was most acceptable.

Data from all over Ireland shows that about 65% of adults in households with 9-year-old children reported they 'used' the library. This matches international data showing that:

- **higher levels of education,**
- **having children in the household, and**
- **the household being in an urban rather than a rural location**

all increase the likelihood that a person uses a public library.

This data motivates us to ensure our Plan gives everyone access to the library service. Making sure that people in rural areas and people with lower levels of education can access the service are key commitments. We can build on the positive attitude to reading for pleasure shown in research.

The use of public libraries in Ireland is still recovering after Covid. **Figure 1** below shows the major impact that library closures in 2020 and 2021 had on the number of library visits nationwide, and how this gradually recovered. The number of items each person borrowed also fell in 2020. Although there was a fall in library visits there was an increase in the use of digital library services. Library use in County Carlow matched these nationwide trends.

2023 data for Carlow suggests that library use may have finally recovered to pre-Covid levels. Despite the change in use of digital library services prompted by Covid, data shows that growth in items borrowed in Carlow since 2021 has been much greater for books than for digital items.

Digital growth is in audiobooks rather than eBooks, which reflects national and international trends (Nielsen BookScan data shows that sales of audiobooks in Ireland grew by 41% in 2021).

Recent Nielsen Book Data, which covers 70% of sales in Irish shops, shows that:

- **book sales increased by about 10% from 2019 to 2022**
- **there was a slight fall of 2% from 2022 to 2023**
- **the top ten Irish bestsellers made up about 6% of all book sales in 2023.**

FIGURE 1

Library visits per head of population (national average)

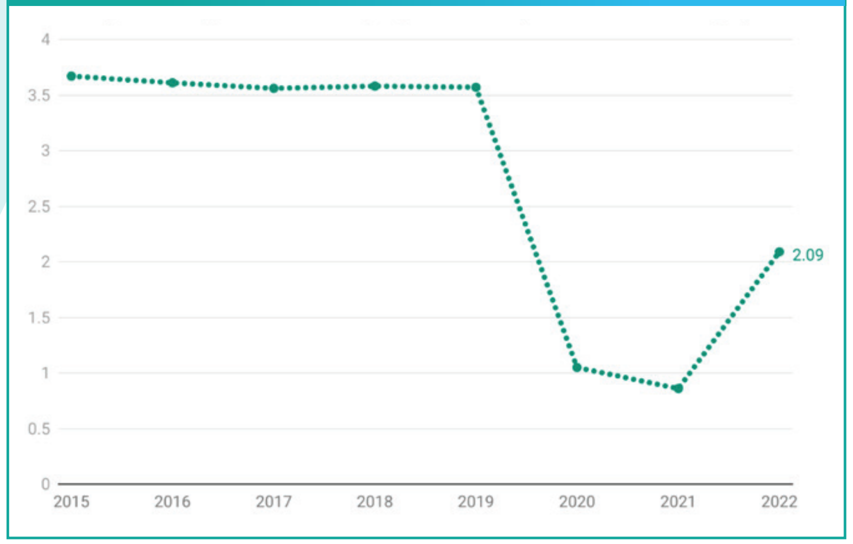


Chart: Ann Swift Consulting · source: NOAC • Created with Datawrapper

Deir trí cheathrú de dhaoine fásta na hÉireann go léann siad le haghaidh pléisiúir. Fuarthas amach i dtuarascáil na Comhairle Ealaíon (2023) Léargas ar na hEalaíona go ndúirt 73% de dhaoine fásta gur léigh siad le haghaidh pléisiúir laistigh de na 12 mhí seo caite. Den chuid ba mhó, léigh siad ficsean (41%), agus ina dhiaidh sin léigh siad beathaisnéis nó dírbheathaisnéis (23%). As na daoine a ndearnadh suirbhé orthu, dúirt 4% go raibh siad i gclub leabhar, agus dúirt líon comhchosúil gur fhreastail siad ar imeacht a bhain le leabhair nó le scríbhneoireacht i leabharlann phoiblí. Cé go ndúirt 34% de dhaoine fásta sa suirbhé sin gur thug siad cuairt ar leabharlann phoiblí chun leabhair a léamh nó a fháil ar iasacht le linn na 12 mhí seo caite, tugtar le fios sna sonraí náisiúnta nach bhfuil ach thart ar 14% den daonra ina mbaill den leabharlann. B'fhéidir gur thug daoine áirithe an freagra a cheap siad a bheith b'inghlactha.

Léirítear i sonraí ó gach cearn d'Éirinn gur thuairiscigh thart ar 65% de dhaoine fásta i dteaghlaigh ina raibh leanaí 9 mbliana d'aois gur 'úsáid' siad an leabharlann. Tá sé sin ag teacht le sonraí idirnáisiúnta lena léirítear go méadaíonn:

- **leibhéil níos airde oideachais,**
- **leanaí a bheith sa teaghlach, agus**
- **agus an teaghlach a bheith i suíomh uirbeach seachas suíomh tuaithe**

an dóchúlacht go n-úsáidfidh duine leabharlann phoiblí.

Spreagann an fhaisnéis sin muid chun a chinntiú go dtugann ár bPlean rochtain do chách ar an tseirbhís leabharlainne. Is gealltanais thábhachtacha iad a chinntiú gur féidir le daoine i gceantair thuaithe agus le daoine a bhfuil leibhéil oideachais níos ísle acu rochtain a fháil ar an tseirbhís. Is féidir linn cur leis an dearcadh dearfach i leith léitheoireachta le haghaidh pléisiúir a léiríodh sa taighde.

Tá úsáid leabharlann poiblí in Éirinn fós ag téarnamh i ndiaidh Covid. Léirítear i Léaráid 1 thíos an tionchar mór a bhí ag dúnadh leabharlann in 2020 agus in 2021 ar líon na gcuairteanna leabharlainne ar fud na tíre, agus an chaoi ar tháinig téarnamh de réir a chéile air sin. Laghdaigh líon na n-earraí a fuair gach duine ar iasacht in 2020 freisin. Cé gur tháinig laghdú ar líon na gcuairteanna ar an leabharlann, bhí méadú ar úsáid seirbhísí leabharlainne digiteacha. Bhí úsáid na leabharlann i gContae Cheatharlach ag teacht leis na treochtaí náisiúnta sin.

Tugtar le fios i sonraí 2023 do Cheatharlach go bhféadfadh úsáid na leabharlann a bheith téarnaithe ar deireadh go dtí leibhéil réamh-Covid. In ainneoin an athraithe ar úsáid seirbhísí leabharlainne digiteacha mar gheall ar Covid, léirítear i sonraí go bhfuil fás i bhfad níos mó tagtha ar líon na leabhar a fhaightear ar iasacht i gCeatharlach ó 2021 ná mar atá ar earraí digiteacha.

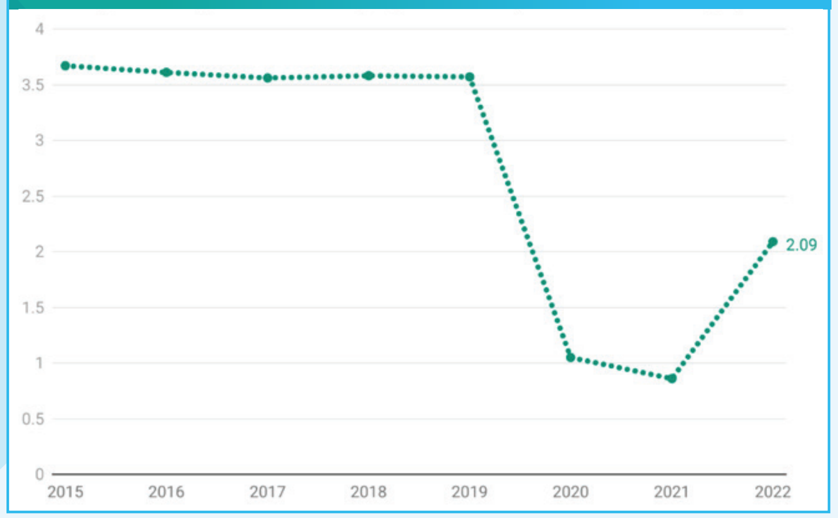
Tá fás digiteach i gclosleabhair seachas ríomhleabhair, rud a léiríonn treochtaí náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta (léirítear i sonraí Nielsen BookScan gur fhás díolachán closleabhar in Éirinn faoi 41% in 2021).

Léirítear i Sonraí Leabhar Nielsen le déanaí, a chlúdaíonn 70% de dhíolachán i siopaí na hÉireann an méid seo a leanas:

- **mhéadaigh díolachán leabhar faoi thart ar 10% ó 2019 go 2022**
- **tháinig laghdú beag 2% air ó 2022 go 2023**
- **b'ionann na deich leabhar shárdhíola in Éirinn agus thart ar 6% de dhíolachán leabhar ar fad in 2023.**

LÉARÁID 1

Cuairteanna leabharlainne in aghaidh gach duine den daonra (meán náisiúnta)



Cairt: Ann Swift Consulting · Foinse: An Coimisiún Náisiúnta Maoirseachta agus Iniúchóireachta • Cruthaithe le Datawrapper

Summary of the Plan

Over recent years Carlow County Council Library Service has improved the services we offer to Carlow communities by investing in key areas including:

- **developing our collections of books and other items**
- **improving information technology and online services**
- **refurbishing library buildings**
- **carrying out conservation works to heritage buildings**
- **introducing the 'My Open Library Service' in Muinebheag, Borris and Tullow libraries**

We know that we need to develop and improve our library offering to meet the needs of communities.

During the lifetime of the Plan, we will work towards:

1. Improving our physical facilities and collections.
2. Increasing the use of our services by reaching beyond the four branch libraries to connect with people in familiar and local places.
3. Providing a library service that meets the needs of the whole community, ensuring equal access for everyone.
4. Improving people's knowledge of our Local History Service and how to access it.
5. Making our resources available to the wider community in ways that fit with our core purpose.
6. Growing our support for child and adult literacy.

To achieve these aims we need to build on existing strengths within the library service: strong infrastructure, motivated staff, strong community partnerships and funding commitments from Carlow County Council. This Plan is not a standalone programme, and collaboration will be key to its success. We will act in partnership with other Council departments, national agencies and local groups. Our goals are closely linked to the County Carlow Local Economic and Community Plan 2023–2029* and play an important role in supporting social and economic strategies.

Our mission statement describes Carlow Library Service as a community resource, open and welcoming to all. We hope that over the next five years this Plan will help us to develop our service to meet the needs of the local population and become part of everyday life for the people of Carlow.

**County Carlow Local Economic and Community Plan* (2023–29), Socio-Economic Statement

Achoimre ar an Bplean

Le blianta beaga anuas, tá feabhas curtha ag Seirbhís Leabharlainne Chomhairle Contae Cheatharlach ar na seirbhísí a chuirimid ar fáil do phobail Cheatharlach trí infheistíocht a dhéanamh i réimsí tábhachtacha lena n-áirítear:

- **ár mbailiúcháin leabhar agus earraí eile a fhorbairt**
- **feabhas a chur ar theicneolaíocht faisnéise agus ar sheirbhísí ar líne**
- **athchóiriú foirgneamh leabharlainne**
- **oibreacha caomhnaithe a dhéanamh ar fhoirgnimh oidhreachta**
- **Seirbhís Mo Leabharlainne Oscailte a thabhairt isteach i leabharlanna Mhuine Bheag, na Buiríse agus na Tulaí**

Tuigimid go gcaithfimid ár dtairiscint leabharlainne a fhorbairt agus a fheabhsú chun freastal ar riachtanais na bpobal.

**Plean Áitiúil Eacnamaíochta agus Pobail ChontaeCheatharlach* (2023–29), Ráiteas Socheacnamaíoch

Le linn shaolré an Phlean, oibreoimid i dtreo na nithe seo a leanas:

1. Feabhsú ár n-áiseanna fisiceacha agus ár mbailiúchán.
2. Úsáid ár seirbhísí a mhéadú trí theagmháil a dhéanamh lasmuigh de na ceithre leabharlann bhrainse chun nascadh le daoine in áiteanna aitheanta agus áitiúla.
3. Seirbhís leabharlainne a sholáthar a chomhlíonann riachtanais an phobail ar fad, agus cothroime rochtana do chách á cinntiú.
4. Eolas daoine ar ár Seirbhís Staidéar áitiúil agus conas rochtain a fháil uirthi a fheabhsú.
5. Ár n-acmhainní a chur ar fáil don phobal i gcoitinne ar bhealaí atá oiriúnach dár bpríomhchuspóir.
6. Ár dtacaíocht do litearthacht leanaí agus daoine fásta a mhéadú.

Chun na haidhmeanna sin a bhaint amach ní mór dúinn cur leis na láidreachtaí atá againn cheana féin laistigh den tseirbhís leabharlainne: bonneagar láidir, foireann spreagtha, comhpháirtíochtaí láidre pobail agus gealltanais mhaoinithe ó Chomhairle Contae Cheatharlach. Ní clár neamhspleách é an Plean seo, agus beidh comhoibriú ríthábhachtach chun a rath a bhaint amach. Gníomhóimid i gcomhpháirtíocht le ranna eile de chuid na Comhairle, le gníomhaireachtaí náisiúnta agus le grúpaí áitiúla. Tá dlúthbhaint ag ár spriocanna le Plean Áitiúil Eacnamaíochta agus Pobail Chontae Cheatharlach, 2023–2029* agus tá ról tábhachtach acu i dtaca le straitéisí sóisialta agus eacnamaíocha a thacú.

Déantar cur síos inár ráiteas misin ar sheirbhís leabharlainne Cheatharlach mar acmhainn phobail, atá oscailte agus fáilteach do chách. Tá súil againn go gcuideoidh an Plean seo linn ár seirbhís a fhorbairt thar na cúig bliana atá romhainn chun freastal ar riachtanais an phobail áitiúil agus chun go mbeidh sé mar chuid de shaol laethúil mhuintir Cheatharlach.

Context

Who lives in County Carlow?

The population of County Carlow in the 2022 Census was about 62,000. The population is evenly split between people in urban and rural areas. There are 44 primary and 11 post-primary schools in the county, two institutions of higher education, as well as Carlow College and the Southeast Technological University.

County Carlow was the local authority with the ninth-largest growth in population between the 2016 and 2022 Census. Recent population growth is mainly in and around Carlow Town and Tullow. The county's population is expected to increase by 19% by 2040, which is the second-highest rate of increase of any county in Ireland.

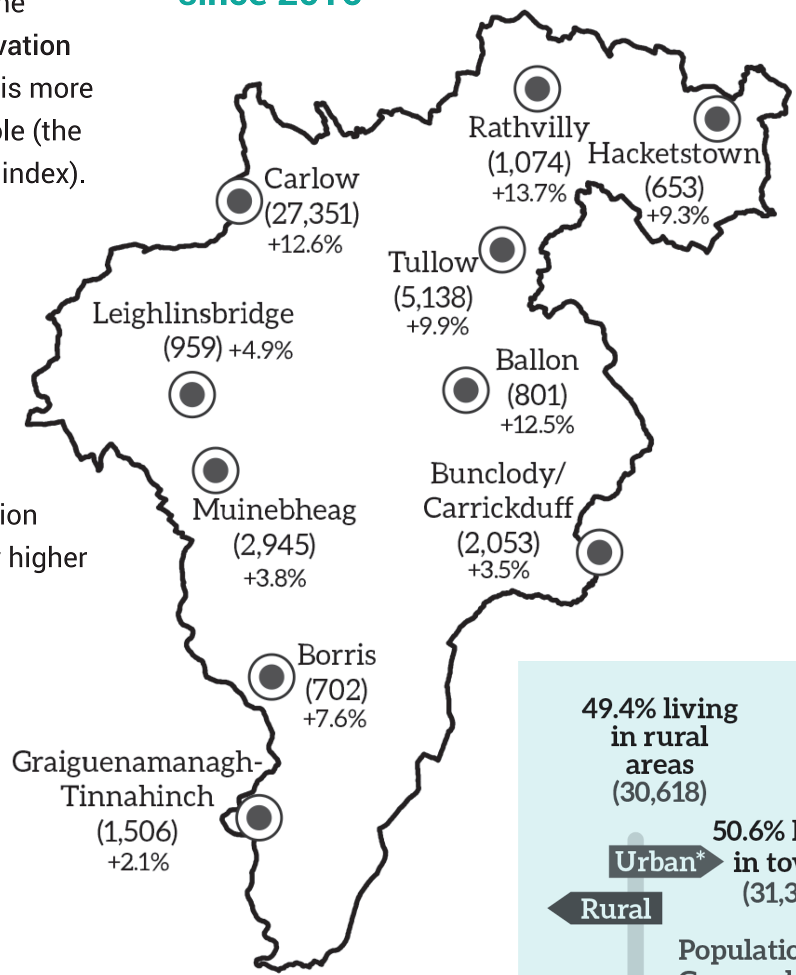
In many ways, the population of Carlow matches the picture for the whole country. But the **Pobal HP Index of Affluence and Deprivation** shows that County Carlow, as a whole, is more disadvantaged than the State as a whole (the county registers a score of -3.7 on this index). Participation in the labour force is also lower than the national rate, and the amount of households that get most of their income from social welfare (18.6%) is the third-highest among the 31 local authority areas. County Carlow also has a lower proportion of residents with a third-level qualification than the national picture, and a slightly higher proportion of early school leavers.

Despite this, there are fewer DEIS schools at either primary or post-primary level than across the country. About 20% of people living in and around Tullow Town have a nationality other than Irish, while across the county, the average is about 10%.

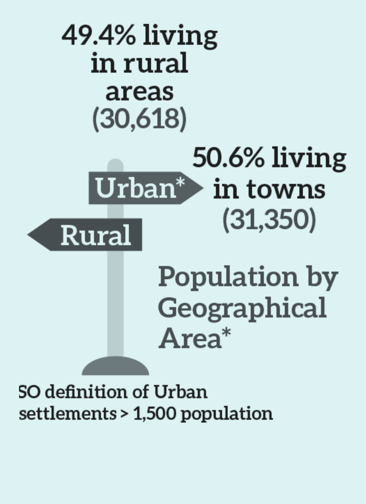
This means the Library Plan must meet the needs of a community that is

- **rapidly growing**
- **becoming more diverse**
- **in some parts classed as disadvantaged.**

Settlement population in 2022 and change since 2016



Population in 2022
61,968
+5,036 (+8.8%) from 2016
+7,356 (+13.4%) from 2011



Comhthéacs

Cé hiad na daoine a bhfuil cónaí orthu i gContae Cheatharlach?

B'ionann daonra: 62,000 (2022)

B'ionann daonra Chontae Cheatharlach i nDaonáireamh 2022 agus thart ar 62,000 duine. Tá an daonra roinnte go cothrom idir daoine i gceantair uirbeacha agus daoine i gceantair thuaithe. Tá 44 bunscoil agus 11 iar-bhunscoil sa chontae, dhá institiúid ardoideachais, chomh maith le Coláiste Cheatharlach agus Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta an Oirdheiscirt.

Ba é Contae Cheatharlach an t-údarás áitiúil ina raibh an naoú fás daonra ba mhó idir Daonáireamh 2016 agus Daonáireamh 2022. Tá fás daonra le déanaí den chuid is mó i dtimpeallacht Bhaile Cheatharlach agus na Tulaí. Táthar ag súil go dtiocfaidh méadú 19% ar dhaonra an chontae faoi 2040, sin an dara ráta is airde d'ardú in aon chontae in Éirinn.

Ar go leor bealaí, is ionann daonra Cheatharlach agus an cás sa tír ar fad. Ach léirítear in Innéacs **HP Pobal maidir le Saibhreas agus Díothacht go bhfuil Contae Cheatharlach**, ina iomláine, faoi níos mó míbhuntáiste ná an Stát ina iomláine (tá scór -3.7 ag an gcontae ar an innéacs sin). Tá rannpháirtíocht sa lucht saothair níos ísle ná an ráta náisiúnta freisin, agus is é líon na dteaghlach a fhaigheann an chuid is mó dá n-ioncam ó leas sóisialach (18.6%) an tríú ceann is airde i measc na 31 limistéar údaráis áitiúil. Tá cion níos ísle de chónaitheoirí a bhfuil cáilíocht tríú leibhéal acu i gContae Cheatharlach ná mar atá sa chuid eile den tír, agus cion beagán níos airde de luathfhágálaithe scoile. Is é sin ráite, tá níos lú scoileanna DEIS ag leibhéal na bunscoile nó na hiar-bhunscoile ná mar atá ar fud na tíre. Tá náisiúntacht seachas Éireannach ag thart ar 20% de na daoine atá ina gcónaí i dtimpeallacht Bhaile na Tulaí, agus ar fud an chontae, is é an meán ná thart ar 10%.

Ciallaíonn sé sin go gcaithfidh an Plean Leabharlainne freastal ar riachtanais phobail atá

- **ag fás go tapa**
- **ag éirí níos éagsúla**
- **rangaithe mar phobal faoi mhíbhuntáiste i gceantair áirithe.**

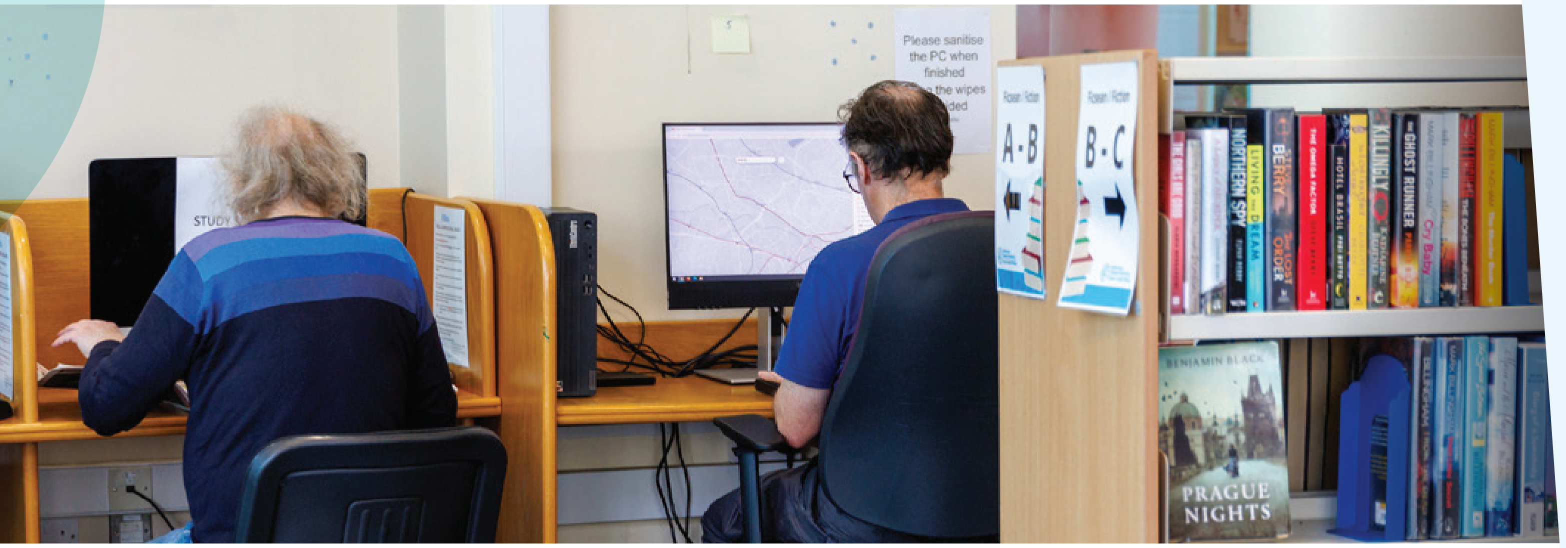
Tullow Library

Muinebheag Library

Borris Library

Carlow Library

What does Carlow County Council Library Service offer?



Leabharlann Chontae Ceatharlach
Carlow County Library

Carlow Central Library and Headquarters - facilities and services:

- Information
- Community space
- Reading materials for adults and children
- IT facilities
- Events
- Genealogy Service
- Local History Department
- County Archive

The county library service opened in 1930 in two rooms, one of which was in the Courthouse. Over the years, the library moved to 30 Dublin Street (1944) and then the Assembly Rooms in Dublin Street (1976). In 1998 Carlow County Library Headquarters and Central Library opened in Presentation Building, the site of the former Presentation Convent. The library occupies part of the original convent with a new extension to the rear.

Carlow County Council Libraries are free, democratic and welcoming places for all. There are libraries in Carlow, Tullow, Muinebheag and Borris. We aim to provide a well-resourced public library service that supports the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of our members and communities. The library is a place to read, meet, research, learn, play, relax, participate, work and enjoy.

Cad atá le cur ar fáil ag Seirbhís Leabharlainne Chomhairle' Chontae Cheatharlach?

Osclaíodh seirbhís leabharlainne an chontae sa bhliain 1930 in dhá sheomra, ceann acu i dTeach na Cúirte. Thar na blianta, bogadh an leabharlann go 30 Sráid Bhaile Átha Cliath (1944) agus ansin go dtí na Seomraí Tionóil i Sráid Bhaile Átha Cliath (1976). Sa bhliain 1998, osclaíodh Ceanncheathrú Leabharlann agus Lárleabharlann Chontae Cheatharlach i bhFoirgneamh na Toirbhirte, suíomh shean-Chlochar na Toirbhirte. Tá an leabharlann suite i gcuid den chlochar bunaidh agus tá síneadh nua curtha léi ar chúl.

Lár Leabharlann Cheatharlach - áiseanna agus seirbhísí:

- Eolas
- Ábhair léitheoireachta do dhaoine fásta agus do leanaí
- Spás pobail
- Imeachtaí
- Áiseanna TF
- An Rannóg Staire Áitiúil
- an tSeirbhís Ginealaigh
- Cartlann an Chontae

Is áiteanna saor in aisce, daonlathacha agus fáilteacha iad Leabharlanna Chomhairle Contae Cheatharlach do chách. Tá leabharlanna i gCeatharlach, sa Tulach, i Muine Bheag agus sa Bhuiríos. Tá sé mar aidhm againn seirbhís leabharlainne poiblí a bhfuil dea-acmhainní aici a sholáthar a thacaíonn le folláine shóisialta, eacnamaíoch agus chultúrtha ár mball agus ár bpobal. Is áit í an leabharlann le léamh, le bualadh le daoine, le taighde a dhéanamh, le foghlaim, le súgradh, le scíth a ligean, le páirt a ghlacadh, le hoibriú agus le taitneamh a bhaint aisti.

What is the main purpose of the Library Serivce?

A public library is a unique organisation which, in Ireland, has developed continually over the past 100 years. Today, the public library has a complex role that goes beyond providing free access to books, although that is still one of its main purposes. The current National Library Strategy* lists nine goals for public libraries, and only the first deals specifically with reading and literacy.

Our consultation has shown that our community expects their library service to perform many important roles.

1. In line with the National Strategy, they see **lending books and other material** as a key part of a library's purpose to support reading and literacy.

2. They also emphasise the library as **a place where the community can come together,** whether through organised events, or as a place to 'drop in'. Older people see the benefits of the library as a physical space, closely connected with the helpful staff who work there. Younger people are looking for study or reading space. Some people emphasise the importance of branch libraries to the vibrancy of our town and village centres.

3. A third key role is to **improve life opportunities for everyone.** A number of aspects are important here including:
   - **a.** Free access to the library collections
   - **b.** Access to information about specific topics such as health
   - **c.** Access to online training, free Wi-Fi and photocopying facilities

   To fulfil this role, our libraries must be accessible to everyone, and both staff and community members spoke of equality and inclusion as top priorities.

4. People feel we can contribute strongly to **nurturing the county's identity and to placemaking.** This applies through our role as guardian of materials of local interest, but also through taking part in nationwide projects such as the Decade of Centenaries, Creative Ireland, Healthy Ireland and Age Friendly Ireland. The library service is part of the County Council Culture Team and works with the Arts, Heritage, Museum, and Community sections of the Council.

5. Finally, our community – especially people working in local organisations – sees the library as **an important part of Carlow's community as a whole.** They see it as a trusted 'neutral' space – both physical and virtual – not 'owned' by any particular sector and in which everyone has a stake. We want to use these attributes in the interests of the wider community.

Our community believes that our library service fulfils many different roles. As the National Strategy states, a public library is **'at the heart of reading and literacy development within the county'** and we will continue to use most of our resources to achieve this aim. But we also have other roles. Throughout the consultation people emphasised the importance to the community of our physical library spaces, and providing welcoming and accessible libraries is a key part of our purpose.

The services we provide in libraries, the helpful staff, and the community engagement that can happen there underpin many other aspects of our purpose. Recently, public libraries have become important as virtual spaces as well as 'bricks-and-mortar' environments. Our digital services and our work as a partner in community projects are part of this 'virtual' library. These projects combine our expertise and networks with those of community partners for shared goals such as literacy, creativity, heritage, local history, and skills for life.

**The Library is the Place: Information, Recreation, Inspiration* (https://www.librariesireland.ie/the-library-is-the-place)

Cad é príomhchuspóir na seirbhíse leabharlainne?

Is eagraíocht uathúil í leabharlann phoiblí atá, in Éirinn, tar éis forbairt go leanúnach le 100 bliain anuas. Sa lá atá inniu ann, tá ról casta ag an leabharlann phoiblí a théann níos faide ná rochtain saor in aisce a sholáthar ar leabhair, cé go bhfuil sé sin ar cheann dá príomhchuspóirí fós. Liostaítear naoi sprioc le haghaidh leabharlanna poiblí sa Straitéis Náisiúnta Leabharlann* reatha, agus ní bhaineann ach an chéad cheann go sonrach le léitheoireacht agus le litearthacht.

Léiríodh inár gcomhairliúchán go bhfuil súil ag ár bpobal go gcomhlíonfaidh a seirbhís leabharlainne go leor róil thábhachtacha.

1. I gcomhréir leis an Straitéis Náisiúnta, measann siad gur cuid lárnach de chuspóir leabharlainne é leabhair agus ábhar eile a thabhairt ar iasacht chun tacú le léitheoireacht agus le litearthacht.

2. Cuireann siad béim freisin ar an leabharlann mar áit inar féidir leis an bpobal teacht le chéile, bíodh sé trí imeachtaí eagraithe, nó mar áit le 'bualadh isteach'. Aithníonn daoine scothaosta buntáistí na leabharlainne mar spás fisiceach, a bhaineann go dlúth leis an bhfoireann chabhrach a oibríonn ann. Tá daoine óga ag lorg spás staidéir nó léitheoireachta. Cuireann daoine áirithe béim ar an tábhacht a bhaineann le leabharlanna brainse do bheocht lár ár mbailte agus ár sráidbhailte.

3. Is é an tríú ról lárnach deiseanna saoil a fheabhsú do gach duine. Tá roinnt gnéithe tábhachtach anseo, lena n-áirítear:
   a. Rochtain saor in aisce ar bhailiúcháin na leabharlainne
   b. Rochtain ar fhaisnéis faoi ábhair shonracha amhail sláinte
   c. Rochtain ar oiliúint ar líne, Wi-Fi saor in aisce agus áiseanna fótachóipeála

   Chun an ról sin a chomhlíonadh, ní mór go mbeadh rochtain ag gach duine ar ár leabharlanna, agus labhair an fhoireann agus daoine den phobal araon faoi chomhionannas agus faoi chuimsiú mar phríomhthosaíochtaí.

4. Mothaíonn daoine gur féidir linn cur go mór le cothú fhéiniúlacht an chontae agus le comhfhorbairt áite. Baineann sé sin lenár ról mar chaomhnóirí ábhar a bhfuil spéis áitiúil iontu, ach freisin trí pháirt a ghlacadh i dtionscadail ar fud na tíre amhail Deich mBliana na gCuimhneachán, Éire Ildánach, Éire Shláintiúil agus Aoisbhá Éireann. Tá an tseirbhís leabharlainne mar chuid d'Fhoireann Cultúir na Comhairle Contae agus oibríonn sí leis na rannóga Ealaíon, Oidhreachta, Músaeim, agus Pobail sa Chomhairle.

5. Ar deireadh, aithníonn ár bpobal – go háirithe daoine atá ag obair in eagraíochtaí áitiúla – an leabharlann mar chuid thábhachtach de phobal Cheatharlach ina iomláine. Féachann siad uirthi mar spás 'neodrach' iontaofa – fisiceach agus fíorúil araon – nach bhfuil 'faoi úinéireacht' ag aon earnáil ar leith agus ina bhfuil leas ag gach duine. Ba mhaith linn na tréithe sin a úsáid ar mhaithe leis an bpobal i gcoitinne.

Creideann ár bpobal go gcomhlíonann ár seirbhís leabharlainne go leor róil éagsúla. Mar a deirtear sa Straitéis Náisiúnta, tá leabharlann phoiblí 'i gcroílár fhorbairt na léitheoireachta agus na litearthachta laistigh den chontae' agus leanfaimid orainn ag úsáid an chuid is mó dár n-acmhainní chun an aidhm sin a bhaint amach. Ach tá róil eile againn freisin. Le linn an chomhairliúcháin, leag daoine béim ar an tábhacht a bhaineann lenár spásanna leabharlainne fisiceacha don phobal, agus is cuid lárnach dár gcuspóir é leabharlanna fáilteacha agus inrochtana a sholáthar.

Tá na seirbhísí a chuirimid ar fáil i leabharlanna, an fhoireann chabhrach agus an rannpháirtíocht leis an bpobal is féidir a dhéanamh ann mar bhonn agus mar thaca faoi go leor gnéithe eile dár gcuspóir. Le déanaí, tá leabharlanna poiblí tar éis éirí tábhachtach mar spásanna fíorúla chomh maith le timpeallachtaí atá 'suite i bhfoirgneamh'. Tá ár seirbhísí digiteacha agus ár gcuid oibre mar chomhpháirtí i dtionscadail phobail mar chuid den leabharlann 'fhíorúil' sin. Sna tionscadail sin tugtar ár saineolas agus ár líonraí le chéile le saineolas agus líonraí comhpháirtithe pobail ar mhaithe le spriocanna comhroinnte amhail litearthacht, cruthaitheacht, oidhreacht, stair áitiúil, agus scileanna don saol.

**Is í an Leabharlann an Áit: Faisnéis, Caitheamh Aimsire, Inspioráid* (https://www.librariesireland.ie/the-library-is-the-place)

What are the Mission, Vision and Values of the Library Service?

Mission

To improve the lives of people and communities in Carlow by removing barriers to information and knowledge, providing equal access to welcoming places, and sharing our unique resources to support the work of others.

Vision

A well-resourced library service that is part of everyday life for everyone in Carlow, is committed to excellence, and contributes positively to the life of our communities.

Values

1 Equality and inclusion:

We value equality, diversity and inclusion both within our library service and in how we engage with our communities. We aim to be fully inclusive of all voices and viewpoints. Developing a tolerant, diverse, fair, inclusive and respectful library service and workplace is at the core of our values. We are committed to encouraging these values within our staff, our approach to customers, our collections and systems, and our outreach and events. We want staff and customers to be part of a fully inclusive community and to feel able to help us identify and remove barriers to inclusion.

2 Welcome:

The concept of welcome is an important part of our commitment to equality and inclusion. Our customers have told us how important the physical library spaces are to them as places to spend time, either alone or with others. Ensuring people feel welcome in these places is an important part of the service we provide, and our users have told us how important our staff are in this. Over the five years of this Plan, we will support our staff to provide this positive, welcoming environment for all visitors.

3 Community:

Public libraries play an important role in serving their local communities. Libraries connect people through their services and resources, offering accessible facilities suitable to all. We will continue to work with, and for, our local communities, developing our services based on public need. This community focus will strengthen the role of our branches as central hubs for the people of Carlow.

4 Trustworthiness:

We will continue to be a trusted and impartial place at the centre of our communities, a refuge for all and a safe environment where everyone can gather, learn, enjoy and confidently access information that is reliable and credible.

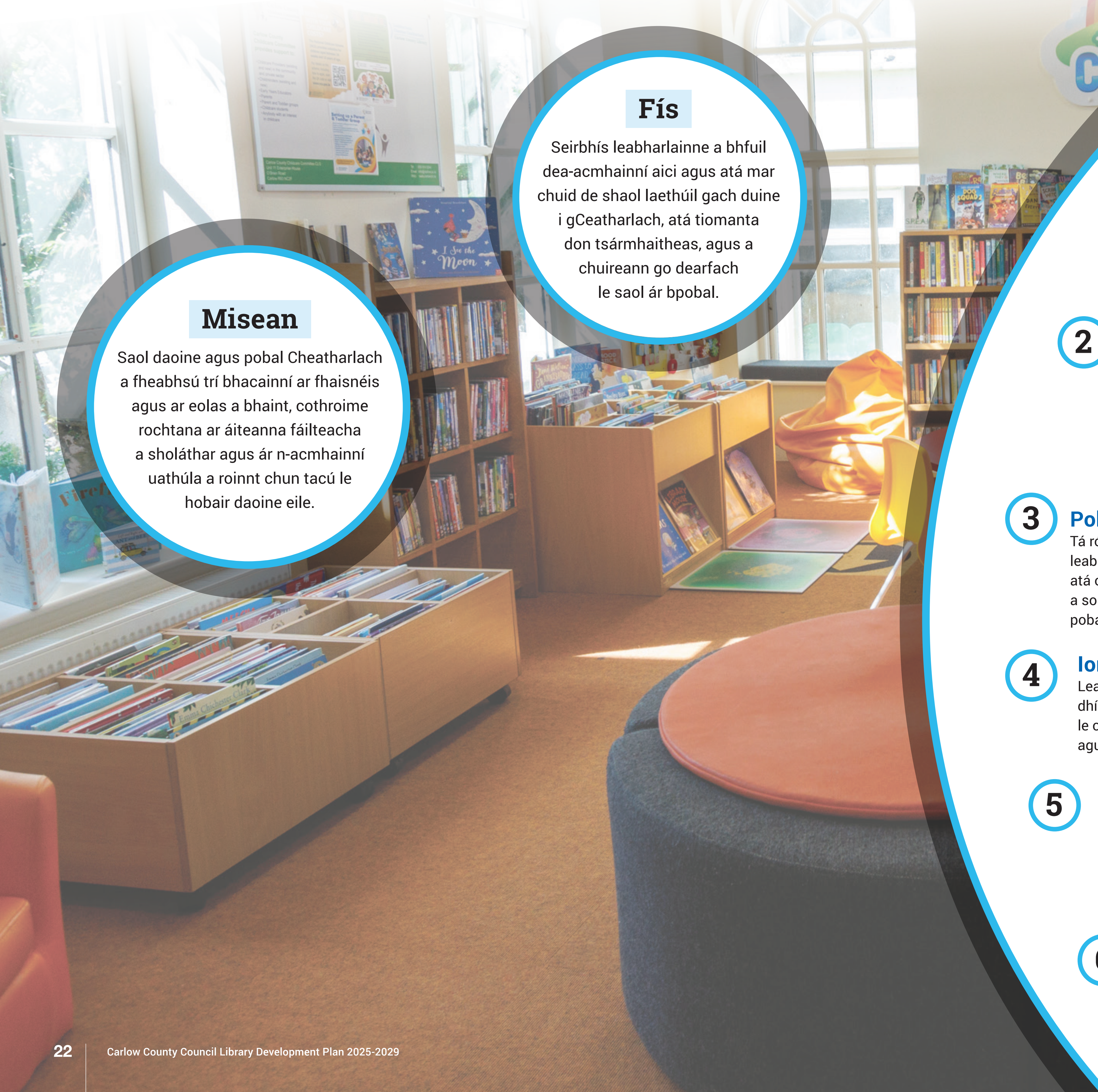
5 Excellence:

We work to achieve the highest possible standards by setting high expectations and continuously working to improve our services. Our focus on excellence as a core value inspires us to work together towards a shared goal. A commitment to excellence means we must invest in our services and buildings. In particular, staff development including customer service and other skills are essential to this value.

6 Accessibility:

We will work towards equal access to our collections, buildings, facilities, services and infrastructure so that everyone can take advantage of and enjoy the opportunities provided by the library service.

Cad iad misean, fís agus luachanna na Seirbhíse Leabharlainne?



Fís

Seirbhís leabharlainne a bhfuil dea-acmhainní aici agus atá mar chuid de shaol laethúil gach duine i gCeatharlach, atá tiomanta don tsármhaitheas, agus a chuireann go dearfach le saol ár bpobal.

Misean

Saol daoine agus pobal Cheatharlach a fheabhsú trí bhacainní ar fhaisnéis agus ar eolas a bhaint, cothroime rochtana ar áiteanna fáilteacha a sholáthar agus ár n-acmhainní uathúla a roinnt chun tacú le hobair daoine eile.

Luachanna

1 Comhionannas agus cuimsiú:

Tá meas againn ar chomhionannas, ar éagsúlacht agus ar chuimsiú laistigh dár seirbhís leabharlainne agus sa chaoi a dtéimid i dteagmháil lenár bpobail. Tá sé mar aidhm againn a bheith lánchuimsitheach do gach guth agus do gach dearcadh. Tá forbairt seirbhíse leabharlainne agus ionaid oibre atá caoinfhulangach, éagsúil, cothrom, cuimsitheach agus measúil i gcroílár ár luachanna. Táimid tiomanta do na luachanna sin a spreagadh laistigh dár bhfoireann, inár gcur chuige i leith custaiméirí, inár mbailiúcháin agus inár gcórais, agus inár bhfor-rochtain agus inár n-imeachtaí. Ba mhaith linn go mbeadh baill foirne agus custaiméirí mar chuid de phobal lánchuimsitheach agus go mbraithfidís go bhfuil siad in ann cabhrú linn bacainní ar chuimsiú a shainaithint agus a bhaint.

2 Fáilte:

Is cuid thábhachtach dár dtiomantas don chomhionannas agus don chuimsiú coincheap na fáilte. Tá ár gcustaiméirí tar éis a rá linn cé chomh tábhachtach is atá na spásanna leabharlainne fisiceacha dóibh mar áiteanna chun am a chaitheamh, bíodh sé ina n-aonar nó le daoine eile. Is cuid thábhachtach den tseirbhís a chuirimid ar fáil a chinntiú go mbraitheann daoine go bhfuil fáilte rompu sna háiteanna sin, agus tá ár n-úsáideoirí tar éis a rá linn cé chomh tábhachtach is atá ár bhfoireann chuige sin. Thar thréimhse cúig bliana an Phlean seo, tacóimid lenár bhfoireann an timpeallacht dhearfach, fháilteach sin a sholáthar do gach cuairteoir.

3 Pobal:

Tá ról tábhachtach ag leabharlanna poiblí maidir le freastal ar a bpobail áitiúla. Ceanglaíonn leabharlanna daoine lena chéile trína seirbhísí agus a n-acmhainní, agus áiseanna inrochtana atá oiriúnach do chách á gcur ar fáil. Leanfaimid orainn ag obair lenár bpobail áitiúla agus ar a son, agus ár seirbhísí á bhforbairt bunaithe ar riachtanas an phobail. Neartóidh an fócas pobail sin ról ár mbrainsí mar mhoil lárnacha do mhuintir Cheatharlach.

4 Iontaofacht:

Leanfaimid orainn mar áit iontaofa agus neamhchlaonta i gcroílár ár bpobal, mar dhídean do chách agus mar thimpeallacht shábháilte inar féidir le gach duine teacht le chéile, foghlaim, taitneamh a bhaint aisti agus rochtain a fháil ar fhaisnéis iontaofa agus inchreidte go muiníneach.

5 Sármhaitheas:

Oibrímid chun na caighdeáin is airde is féidir a bhaint amach trí ionchais arda a leagan síos agus trí oibriú i gcónaí chun ár seirbhísí a fheabhsú. Spreagtar muid oibriú le chéile i dtreo sprioc chomhroinnte mar gheall ar ár bhfócas ar shármhaitheas mar chroíluach againn. Ciallaíonn tiomantas don tsármhaitheas go gcaithfimid infheistíocht a dhéanamh inár seirbhísí agus inár bhfoirgnimh. Go háirithe, tá forbairt foirne, lena n-áirítear seirbhís do chustaiméirí agus scileanna eile, bunriachtanach don luach sin.

6 Inrochtaineacht:

Oibreoimid i dtreo cothroime rochtana ar ár mbailiúcháin, ár bhfoirgnimh, ár n-áiseanna, ár seirbhísí agus ár mbonneagar ionas gur féidir le gach duine leas a bhaint as na deiseanna a chuireann an tseirbhís leabharlainne ar fáil agus taitneamh a bhaint astu.

Action Plan and Goals 2025-2029

What we are going to do...

Our Plan is based on six priority areas where we will focus our actions over the next five years.

1. Develop our buildings and collections

Our users and community have told us that the quality of library facilities is very important to them. While they see the loan of books and other material as core to the library service, they place equal emphasis on the library as a place for people to go and meet each other. This matches the nationwide consultation for the National Library Strategy. But, while the appearance and physical condition of libraries across the country was seen as a key strength for the national library service, in our local consultation this was seen as a particular weakness. We would like to fix this over the five years of the Plan.

Proposed Children and Families Section of Presentation Building / An Chuid Leanaí agus Teaghlaigh atá beartaithe d'Fhoirgneamh na Toirbhirte

We believe this will have positive effects in other areas, for example by:

- **Allowing us to hold more events, which we know brings new and diverse groups into the library service**
- **Improving the accessibility of our library spaces for everyone, with better bathroom facilities and more user-friendly spaces**
- **Providing extra study space, ensuring students can use the library alongside other users rather than in conflict with them.**

Our consultation also showed problems with some of the collections, particularly newly published or popular books and audiobooks. We will try to fix this by finding out where there is particular pressure on the collection, and increasing the amount spent in these areas.

Plean Gníomhaíochta agus Spriocanna 2025-2029

Cad atáimid chun a dhéanamh...

Tá ár bPlean bunaithe ar shé réimse tosaíochta ina ndíreoimid ár ngníomhartha thar an chéad chúig bliana eile.

1. Ár bhfoirgnimh agus ár mbailiúcháin a fhorbairt

Dúirt ár n-úsáideoirí agus ár bpobal go bhfuil cáilíocht na n-áiseanna leabharlainne an-tábhachtach dóibh. Cé go measann siad go bhfuil iasacht leabhar agus ábhar eile mar chroílár na seirbhíse leabharlainne, cuireann siad an bhéim chéanna ar an leabharlann mar áit do dhaoine dul ann agus bualadh lena chéile. Tá sé sin ag teacht leis an gcomhairliúchán náisiúnta maidir leis an Straitéis Náisiúnta Leabharlann. Ach, cé gur measadh gur príomhláidreacht le haghaidh na seirbhíse leabharlainne náisiúnta cuma agus riocht fisiceach na leabharlann ar fud na tíre, measadh gur laige ar leith a bhí ann sin inár gcomhairliúchán áitiúil. Ba mhaith linn é sin a réiteach thar thréimhse cúig bliana an Phlean.

View of planned redevelopment of Presentation Building / Pictiúr d'athfhorbairt phleanáilte Fhoirgneamh na Toirbhirte

Creidimid go mbeidh éifeachtaí dearfacha aige sin i réimsí eile, mar shampla trí:

- **Ligean dúinn níos mó imeachtaí a reáchtáil, rud a thugann grúpaí nua agus éagsúla isteach sa tseirbhís leabharlainne, dar linn**
- **Inrochtaineacht ár spásanna leabharlainne a fheabhsú do chách, lena n-áirítear áiseanna seomra folctha níos fearr agus spásanna níos soláimhsithe**
- **Spás staidéir breise a chur ar fáil, rud a chinnteoidh gur féidir le mic léinn an leabharlann a úsáid taobh le húsáideoirí eile seachas a bheith i gcoimhlint leo.**

Léiríodh inár gcomhairliúchán fadhbanna le cuid de na bailiúcháin freisin, go háirithe leabhair nuafhoilsithe nó leabhair a bhfuil tóir orthu agus closleabhair. Déanfaimid iarracht é sin a réiteach trí fháil amach cá bhfuil brú ar leith ar an mbailiúchán agus tríd an méid a chaitear sna réimsí sin a mhéadú.

Goals

a **Presentation Building Capital Project** – Obtain funding to continue the **Presentation Building Capital Project** and provide a modern, fit-for-purpose facility for the communities of Carlow Town and County. (Planning has been obtained, and this project is ready to go once funding is available).

b **Maintenance** – Continue a maintenance programme to manage and develop our library buildings and protect their heritage .

c **Climate Goals** –

a. Support the National Climate Objectives and contribute to achieving the aims of the *Carlow Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2025-2029*.

b. Work toward the best possible energy efficiency in our libraries, to contribute to the required energy reduction of 50% and carbon reduction of 51%.

c. Measure and report on energy performance through the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland programme. We report on our organisation's overall energy performance and greenhouse gas emissions.

d. Change our library vehicle from fossil fuel to a green power source.

d **Requests** – Look at how people use the library collection, particularly at which items are often requested, to find out what is particularly popular and where demand is greater than supply.

e **Collection Development Policy** – Update our policy on developing our collection to match what users need.

f **Climate Collection** – Support customers by developing a **Climate Collection** in line with Sustainable Development Goal 13.3, which aims to improve education, raise awareness, and build capacity to combat climate change and its impacts. We want to educate, engage and inspire communities by providing information through materials, programmes and conversations about the climate crisis. We will also hold workshops, talks and seminars throughout the county.

g **Amount Spent Per Person** – Work to reach the national target of €4 spend per person on the library collection. In 2022, the amount spent on the library collection nationwide was €1.89 per person and in County Carlow spend was €1.57. Over the five years of this Plan, we will work toward the national target of €4, particularly on the parts of the collection that are under pressure.

h **Class Resources** – Provide novels to school classes and evaluate the results. We are trialling this in Tullow library with local schools and, if successful, we may extend the project.

i **Irish Language** – Spend a minimum of 2% of the annual book budget on the Irish language collection to provide choice, diversity and suitability.

Spriocanna

a **Tionscadal Caipitil Fhoirgneamh na Toirbhirte** – Maoiniú a fháil chun leanúint leis an Tionscadal Caipitil Fhoirgneamh na Toirbhirte agus áis nua-aimseartha, oiriúnach don chuspóir a sholáthar do phobail Bhaile agus Chontae Cheatharlach. (Tá cead pleanála faighte, agus tá an tionscadal sin réidh le tosú a luaithe a bheidh maoiniú ar fáil).

b **Cothabháil** – Leanúint le clár cothabhála chun ár bhfoirgnimh leabharlainne a bhainistiú agus a fhorbairt agus a n-oidhreacht a chosaint.

c **Spriocanna Aeráide** –

a. Tacú leis na Cuspóirí Náisiúnta Aeráide agus cur le haidhmeanna Phlean Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide 2025–2029 de chuid Údarás Áitiúil Cheatharlach a bhaint amach

b. Oibriú i dtreo na héifeachtúlachta fuinnimh is fearr is féidir inár leabharlanna, chun cur leis an laghdú fuinnimh 50% agus leis an laghdú carbóin 51% atá riachtanach.

c. Feidhmíocht fuinnimh a thomhas agus a thuairisciú trí chlár Údarás Fuinnimh Inmharthana na hÉireann. Tugaimid tuairisc ar fheidhmíocht fuinnimh fhoriomlán agus astaíochtaí gás ceaptha teasa ár n-eagraíochta.

d. Ár bhfeithicil leabharlainne a athrú ó úsáid breosla iontaise go húsáid foinse cumhachta glaise.

d **Iarratais** – Féach ar an gcaoi a n-úsáideann daoine bailiúchán na leabharlainne, go háirithe cé na hearraí a iarrtar go minic, chun iad siúd a shainaithint a bhfuil an-tóir orthu agus cá bhfuil an t-éileamh níos mó ná an soláthar.

e **Beartas Forbartha Bailiúcháin** – Ár mbeartas a nuashonrú maidir lenár mbailiúchán a fhorbairt chun freastal ar riachtanais úsáideoirí.

f **Bailiúchán Aeráide**– Tacú le custaiméirí trí Bhailiúchán Aeráide a fhorbairt i gcomhréir le Sprioc Forbartha Inbhuanaithe 13.3, a bhfuil sé mar aidhm aici oideachas a fheabhsú, feasacht a mhúscailt agus acmhainn a thógáil chun dul i ngleic leis an athrú aeráide agus lena thionchair. Ba mhian linn oideachas a chur ar phobail, teagmháil a dhéanamh leo agus iad a spreagadh trí fhaisnéis a sholáthar le hábhair, cláir agus comhráite faoin ngéarchéim aeráide. Reáchtálfaimid ceardlanna, cainteanna agus seimineáir ar fud an chontae chomh maith.

g **Méid Caite in aghaidh an Duine**– Obair a dhéanamh chun an sprioc náisiúnta de €4 a chaitheamh in aghaidh an duine ar bhailiúchán na leabharlainne a bhaint amach. Sa bhliain 2022, caitheadh €1.89 in aghaidh an duine ar bhailiúchán na leabharlainne ar fud na tíre agus caitheadh €1.57 in aghaidh an duine i gContae Cheatharlach. Thar thréimhse cúig bliana an Phlean seo, oibreoimid i dtreo na sprice náisiúnta €4, go háirithe ar na codanna den bhailiúchán atá faoi bhrú.

h **Acmhainní Ranga** – Úrscéalta a chur ar fáil do ranganna scoile agus na torthaí a mheas. Táimid ag baint triail as sin i leabharlann na Tulaí le scoileanna áitiúla agus, má éiríonn leis, féadfaimid an tionscadal a leathnú.

i **An Ghaeilge** – 2% ar a laghad de bhuiséad bliantúil na leabhar a chaitheamh ar bhailiúchán na Gaeilge chun rogha, éagsúlacht agus oiriúnacht a sholáthar.

2. Serve our Communities

Our community has told us libraries are important to them as physical places to visit. But not everyone is familiar with their local library or thinks of the library as a place 'for them'. Some people don't find it practical to get to the library in person. People tell us our branches are very welcoming, and many value the help of staff. We want to encourage more people into our libraries to experience that welcome for themselves. We have a growing range of digital services for people who find it hard to get to their local library due to lack of transport or for other reasons, but not everyone is aware of the many services on offer.

Over the five years of this Plan we will focus on connecting with people who are less familiar with our services or who find our branches hard to reach. Building on our existing marketing and communications, we will reach out to sectors that can help us connect with particular groups of users.

Goals

a **Mobile Service** – Carry out a feasibility study on the need for a mobile library service to reach parts of the county without a service.

b **Nursing Homes** – Create a way for people in nursing homes to get library books without the need to visit a library. This would be separate to any mobile library service.

c **Schools** – Get more involved with schools to introduce children and young people to the library services. This work is already underway, mainly at local branch level, where relationships between the branch and schools in their area is particularly important. Over the Plan, we will guide local branches on ways to increase school participation, through activities like the Library Ninja reading challenge. This will help ensure all schools can get the same support from their local branch, although support must also be sensitive to local needs and within local resources.

d **Marketing** – Develop a marketing and communications plan to increase the use of the library service, building on existing strengths (see Appendix 2). A key goal is making sure potential customers know about the services we offer, including the digital service, the opportunity to borrow from the nationwide collection, and the number of items which can be borrowed at one time.

e **Increase Membership** – Increase the number of library members and active library users, with the goal of meeting the target from the National Library Strategy of 30% membership during the lifetime of the Plan (in 2022, the national figure was 14% and for Carlow 12%). Our research shows that it is useful to group our audiences by age, and that each age group uses the library differently. We will base our advertising, marketing and communications, and displays on this research. We will also ensure new members know about the range of services on offer.

f **Opening Hours** – We will review our opening hours regularly in order to improve our service to the public.

g **Outreach** – Attend community events outside of library branches to promote the library service to new audiences.

2. Freastal ar ár bpobail

Tá ár bpobal tar éis a rá linn go bhfuil leabharlanna tábhachtach dóibh mar áiteanna fisiceacha le cuairt a thabhairt orthu. Ach ní bhíonn gach duine eolach ar a leabharlann áitiúil nó ní cheapann siad gur áit í an leabharlann 'dóibh féin'. Ní cheapann daoine áirithe go bhfuil sé praiticiúil dul chuig an leabharlann go pearsanta. Deir daoine linn go bhfuil ár mbrainsí an-fháilteach, agus is mór ag go leor acu cabhair na foirne. Ba mhaith linn níos mó daoine a spreagadh chun teacht isteach inár leabharlanna chun an fháilte sin a mhothú dóibh féin. Tá réimse méadaitheach seirbhísí digiteacha againn do dhaoine a bhfuil deacracht acu dul chuig a leabharlann áitiúil mar gheall ar easpa iompair nó ar chúiseanna eile, ach níl gach duine ar an eolas faoi na seirbhísí iomadúla atá ar fáil.

Thar thréimhse cúig bliana an Phlean seo díreoimid ar nascadh le daoine nach bhfuil chomh heolach ar ár seirbhísí nó a bhfuil sé deacair dóibh teacht ar ár mbrainsí. Déanfaimid teagmháil le hearnálacha a chabhróidh linn nascadh le grúpaí úsáideoirí ar leith, rud a chuirfidh lenár margaíocht agus lenár gcumarsáid atá ann cheana féin.

Spriocanna

a **Seirbhís Taistil** – Déan staidéar féidearthachta ar an ngá atá le seirbhís leabharlainne soghluaiste chun teacht ar chodanna den chontae nach bhfuil seirbhís ar fáil iontu.

b **Tithe Altranais** – Bealach a chruthú do dhaoine i dtithe altranais leabhair leabharlainne a fháil gan a bheith orthu cuairt a thabhairt ar leabharlann. Bheadh sé sin ar leithligh ó aon seirbhís leabharlainne taistil.

c **Scoileanna** – Níos mó rannpháirtíochta a bheith againn le scoileanna chun leanaí agus daoine óga a chur ar an eolas i dtaobh na seirbhísí leabharlainne. Tá an obair sin ar bun cheana féin, go príomha ar leibhéal an bhrainse áitiúil, áit a bhfuil tábhacht ar leith leis an gcaidreamh idir an brainse agus scoileanna ina gceantar. Le linn an Phlean, treoróimid brainsí áitiúla maidir le bealaí chun rannpháirtíocht scoile a mhéadú, trí ghníomhaíochtaí amhail dúshlán léitheoireachta Ninja na Leabharlainne. Cabhróidh sé sin lena chinntiú go bhfaighidh gach scoil an tacaíocht chéanna óna brainse áitiúil, cé go gcaithfidh an tacaíocht a bheith íogair i dtaobh riachtanais áitiúla agus laistigh d'acmhainní áitiúla freisin.

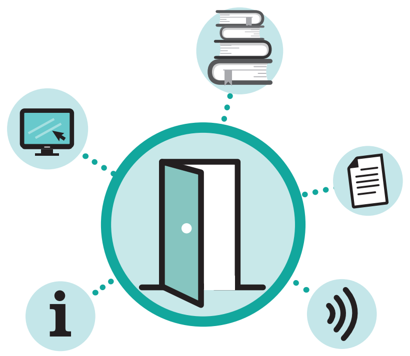
d **Margaíocht** – Plean margaíochta agus cumarsáide a fhorbairt chun úsáid na seirbhíse leabharlainne a mhéadú, rud a chuireann leis na láidreachtaí atá ann cheana féin (féach Aguisín 2). Sprioc lárnach is ea a chinntiú go bhfuil a fhios ag custaiméirí ionchasacha faoi na seirbhísí a chuirimid ar fáil, lena n-áirítear an tseirbhís dhigiteach, an deis earraí a fháil ar iasacht ón mbailiúchán náisiúnta, agus líon na n-earraí is féidir a fháil ar iasacht ag an am céanna.

e **Ballraíocht a Mhéadú** – Líon na mball leabharlainne agus úsáideoirí gníomhacha na leabharlainne a mhéadú, agus é mar aidhm an sprioc ón Straitéis Náisiúnta Leabharlann a bhaint amach, is é sin 30% den bhallraíocht le linn shaolré an Phlean (in 2022, ba é 14% an figiúr náisiúnta agus 12% an figiúr i gCeatharlach). Léirítear inár dtaighde go bhfuil sé úsáideach ár lucht féachana a ghrúpáil de réir aoise, agus go n-úsáideann gach aoisghrúpa an leabharlann ar bhealach difriúil. Bunóimid ár bhfógraíocht, ár margaíocht agus ár gcumarsáid, agus ár dtaispeántais ar an taighde sin. Cinnteoimid freisin go mbeidh baill nua ar an eolas faoin raon seirbhísí atá ar fáil.

f **Uaireanta Oscailte** – déanfaimid athbhreithniú ar ár n-uaireanta oscailte go rialta chun ár seirbhís don phobal a fheabhsú.

g **For-rochtain** – Freastal ar imeachtaí pobail lasmuigh de bhrainsí leabharlainne chun an tseirbhís leabharlainne a chur chun cinn do lucht féachana nua.

3. Improve access to our services



Our branch network will offer trusted and welcoming facilities that encourage community participation and are accessible and suitable for everyone. This offering includes:

- **the collections**
- **the provision of information**
- **access to online training**
- **services such as printing, photocopying and public Wi-Fi**

We aim to reach groups who experience disadvantage and continually review how we can better meet different and changing needs.

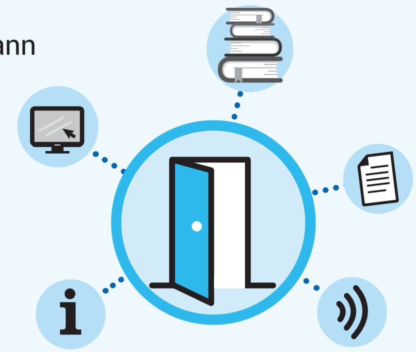
Goals

a **Neurodiversity** – Develop services to support neurodivergent people and their families. We will continue to work with the Sensory Services Advisory Group to promote and improve services already in place and explore opportunities for new supports and services.

b **Irish Language** – Promote the Irish language by working with our partner organisations to support festivals, talks and cultural events. We will also support training opportunities for staff, to support use of the Irish language and encourage its development.

c **New Communities** – Consult representatives of new communities in County Carlow or agencies working with them to find out what they need from a library service. We provide books and other materials in multiple languages and offer online language courses. Under Priority 1, Develop Our Buildings and Collections, we have the opportunity to develop the collection in line with need. In the short term, our priority is to provide information about how to access the library services in many languages other than English or in image form. We will distribute these through the libraries and across the local authority.

3. Feabhas a chur ar rochtain ar ár seirbhísí



Cuirfidh ár líonra brainse áiseanna iontaofa agus fáilteacha ar fáil a spreagann rannpháirtíocht phobail agus atá inrochtana agus oiriúnach do chách. Áirítear leis an tairiscint sin:

- **na bailiúcháin**
- **soláthar faisnéise**
- **rochtain ar oiliúint ar líne**
- **seirbhísí amhail priontáil, fótachóipeáil agus Wi-Fi poiblí**

Tá sé mar aidhm againn chun teacht ar ghrúpaí atá faoi mhíbhuntáiste agus déanaimid athbhreithniú leanúnach ar an gcaoi a bhféadfaimis freastal ar riachtanais éagsúla agus athraitheacha ar bhealach níos fearr.

Spriocanna

a **Néara-éagsúlacht** – Seirbhísí a fhorbairt chun tacú le daoine néara-éagsúil agus a dteaghlaigh. Leanfaimid orainn ag obair leis an nGrúpa Comhairleach um Sheirbhísí Céadfacha chun seirbhísí atá i bhfeidhm cheana féin a chur chun cinn agus a fheabhsú agus chun deiseanna a iniúchadh le haghaidh tacaíochtaí agus seirbhísí nua.

b **An Ghaeilge** – An Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn trí oibriú lenár gcomhpháirtithe chun tacú le féilte, cainteanna agus imeachtaí cultúrtha. Tacóimid le deiseanna oiliúna do bhaill foirne freisin, chun tacú le húsáid na Gaeilge agus a forbairt a spreagadh.

c **Pobail Nua** – Dul i gcomhairle le hionadaithe ó phobail nua i gContae Cheatharlach nó ó ghníomhaireachtaí atá ag obair leo chun a fháil amach cad atá de dhíth orthu ó sheirbhís leabharlainne. Cuirimid leabhair agus ábhair eile ar fáil i dteangacha éagsúla agus cuirimid cúrsaí teanga ar líne ar fáil. Faoi Thosaíocht 1, Ár bhFoirgnimh agus Ár mBailiúcháin a Fhorbairt, tá an deis againn an bailiúchán a fhorbairt de réir mar is gá. Sa ghearrthréimhse, is é an tosaíocht atá againn ná faisnéis a chur ar fáil faoi conas rochtain a fháil ar sheirbhísí na leabharlainne i mórán teangacha seachas Béarla nó i bhfoirm íomhá. Déanfaimid iad sin a dháileadh trí na leabharlanna agus ar fud an údaráis áitiúil.

4. Develop our Local Studies, Genealogy and Archive Services

The Local History Department is dedicated to preserving the history of the county and promoting its study. We collect and organise materials relating to Carlow and its people and preserve them for future generations. A good Local Studies Department is a vital part of any library service. We work to make our collections available to the wide range of people who use our services, for example, school groups, post-primary students, third-level students, family researchers and local history researchers from the local area and from overseas.

The Local History facility also offers a genealogist advice service and a range of resources for family research. Our collections assist researchers, as they document people, property and places in Carlow.

Goals

a **Collection Development** – Continue to acquire publications of local interest about the social, economic, political, geographical and sporting life of Carlow. This will include books, journals, newspapers, maps, photographs, directories, prints and drawings.

b **Promotion** – Promote our collections and programmes and explore new ways to show them to a wider audience, for example, through social media and artificial intelligence.

c **Public Access** – Explore digitisation to make our collections more accessible. (Digitisation means converting text, pictures or sound into a digital form that a computer can use.) We will create a staged plan to digitise our Archive. A trial project to digitise one collection is scheduled to start in 2025 and work will continue over the five years of the Plan.

d **Conservation** – We hired an expert to do a conservation report on the Archive and Archival Collection in 2024. During the five years of the Plan, we will carry out the recommendations of this conservation report where possible.

e **Genealogy Service** – Continue to operate our genealogy advice service and acquire genealogical sources to help with family research. We will start to charge a small fee for the research service.

4. Ár Seirbhísí Staidéar Áitiúil, Ginealaigh agus Cartlainne a Fhorbairt

Tá an Rannóg Staire Áitiúla tiomanta do stair an chontae a chaomhnú agus a staidéar a chur chun cinn. Bailímid agus eagraímid ábhair a bhaineann le Ceatharlach agus a mhuintir agus caomhnaímid iad do na glúnta atá le teacht. Is cuid ríthábhachtach d'aon seirbhís leabharlainne Rannóg mhaith Staidéar Áitiúil. Oibrímid chun ár mbailiúcháin a chur ar fáil don raon leathan daoine a úsáideann ár seirbhísí, mar shampla, grúpaí scoile, daltaí iar-bhunscoile, daltaí tríú leibhéal, taighdeoirí teaghlaigh agus taighdeoirí staire áitiúla ón gceantar áitiúil agus ón gcoigríoch.

Cuireann an tsaoráid Staire Áitiúla seirbhís comhairle ginealeolaí agus raon acmhainní le haghaidh taighde teaghlaigh ar fáil freisin. Cuidíonn ár mbailiúcháin le taighdeoirí agus iad ag taifeadadh daoine, maoine agus áiteanna i gCeatharlach.

Spriocanna

a **Forbairt Bailiúcháin** – Leanúint de bheith ag bailiú foilseachán a bhfuil spéis áitiúil iontu faoi shaol sóisialta, eacnamaíoch, polaitiúil, geografach agus spóirt Cheatharlach. Áireofar leis sin leabhair, irisí, nuachtáin, léarscáileanna, grianghraif, eolairí, priontaí agus líníochtaí.

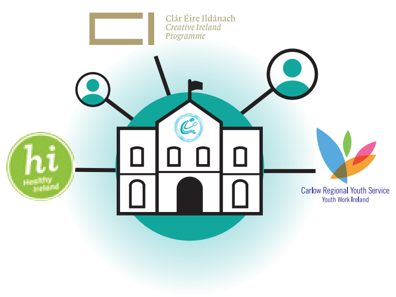
b **Cur Chun Cinn** – Ár mbailiúcháin agus ár gcláir a chur chun cinn agus iniúchadh a dhéanamh ar bhealaí nua chun iad a thaispeáint do lucht féachana níos leithne, mar shampla, trí na meáin shóisialta agus trí intleacht shaorga.

c **Rochtain Phoiblí** – Iniúchadh a dhéanamh ar dhigitiú chun ár mbailiúcháin a dhéanamh níos inrochtana. (Ciallaíonn digitiú téacs, pictiúir nó fuaim a thiontú go foirm dhigiteach is féidir le ríomhaire a úsáid.) Cruthóimid plean céimnithe chun ár gCartlann a dhigitiú. Tá sé beartaithe tionscadal trialach a thosú in 2025 chun bailiúchán amháin a dhigitiú agus leanfaidh an obair ar aghaidh thar thréimhse cúig bliana an Phlean.

d **Caomhnú** – D'fhostaíomar saineolaí chun tuarascáil chaomhnaithe a dhéanamh ar an gCartlann agus ar an mBailiúchán Cartlainne in 2024. Le linn thréimhse cúig bliana an Phlean, cuirfimid moltaí na tuarascála caomhnaithe sin i bhfeidhm nuair is féidir.

e **Seirbhís Ginealaigh** – Leanúint lenár seirbhís comhairle ginealaigh a oibriú agus foinsí ginealaigh a fháil chun cabhrú le taighde teaghlaigh. Tosóimid ag gearradh táille bheag as an tseirbhís taighde.

5. Work with other organisations



While one of our core purposes is to support reading and literacy, a public library service is also a national and community asset that often supports other policy programmes.

The goodwill that many in the community feel towards us and our

- **branches and staff**
- **expertise**
- **networks across the county**
- **welcoming and stigma-free environments**

can be used to support the work of others.

Examples are projects with Healthy Ireland and Creative Ireland, and locally, projects include work with the County Arts Office, the Children and Young People's Services committee and many others. While supporting these projects is important to our role, it is sometimes difficult to plan for them. Requests for this type of support generally come from outside the library service, sometimes at short notice. There are extra challenges when the library does not have its full staff, which has often happened, particularly following the economic crisis in 2009.

For the five years of the Plan, we will keep supporting the work of national and local partners. In line with our own priority goals, we will focus particularly on working together on events and projects that bring communities who are not typical library users into our libraries.

Often the library is one of several partners in a project. We can also use our expertise, networks and impartiality in the interests of the community by facilitating county-wide networks, such as the Right to Read network. In this way, we can increase the number of people the library service reaches, understand more about what people need and encourage them into the service. This also ensures we support the widest possible range of projects in a way that best uses the library's key assets.

Goals

a **Working together** – Continue our partnership work across the local authority including with the Heritage and Arts Offices, the Local Enterprise Office and other Council departments.

b **Flexibility** – Make sure we keep resources available for the rollout of national projects. Continue to support the Creative Ireland and Right to Read programmes, and respond to new policies or programmes.

c **Partnership** – Make working together a core principle of the Plan. Follow our model of setting up advisory groups to design new services (most recently our services for people with disabilities), or linking in with others who have knowledge and expertise of particular issues or audiences.

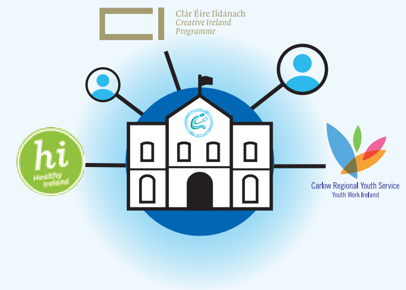
5. Oibriú le heagraíochtaí eile

Cé go bhfuil tacaíocht do léitheoireacht agus do litearthacht ar cheann dár bpríomhchuspóirí, is sócmhainn náisiúnta agus pobail í seirbhís leabharlainne poiblí freisin a thacaíonn go minic le cláir bheartais eile.

Is féidir an dea-thoil atá ag go leor sa phobal i leith ár

- **mbrainsí agus ár bhfoirne**
- **ár saineolas**
- **ár líonraí ar fud an chontae**
- **ár dtimpeallachtaí fáilteacha agus saor ó stiogma**

a úsáid chun tacú le hobair daoine eile.



Is samplaí iad tionscadail le Sláinte Éireann agus Éire Ildánach, agus go háitiúil, áirítear leis na tionscadail obair le hOifig Ealaíon an Chontae, coiste na Seirbhísí do Leanaí agus do Dhaoine Óga agus go leor eile. Cé go bhfuil sé tábhachtach dár ról tacú leis na tionscadail sin, bíonn sé deacair pleanáil a dhéanamh dóibh uaireanta. Is gnách go dtagann iarratais ar an gcineál sin tacaíochta ó lasmuigh den tseirbhís leabharlainne, agus uaireanta bíonn siad faoi ghearrfhógra. Bíonn dúshláin bhreise ann nuair nach mbíonn foireann iomlán ag na leabharlanna, rud a tharla go minic, go háirithe i ndiaidh na géarchéime geilleagraí in 2009.

Le linn thréimhse cúig bliana an Phlean, leanfaimid orainn ag tacú le hobair chomhpháirtithe náisiúnta agus áitiúla. I gcomhréir lenár spriocanna tosaíochta féin, díreoimid go háirithe ar oibriú le chéile ar imeachtaí agus ar thionscadail a thugann pobail nach úsáideoirí tipiciúla leabharlainne iad isteach inár leabharlanna.

Is minic a bhíonn an leabharlann ar cheann de roinnt comhpháirtithe i dtionscadal. Is féidir linn ár saineolas, ár líonraí agus ár neamhchlaontacht a úsáid freisin ar mhaithe leis an bpobal trí líonraí uile-chontae a éascú, amhail líonra an Ceart chun Léamh. Ar an mbealach sin, is féidir linn líon na ndaoine a shroicheann an tseirbhís leabharlainne a mhéadú, tuiscint níos fearr a fháil ar a bhfuil de dhíth ar dhaoine agus iad a spreagadh isteach sa tseirbhís. Cinntíonn sé sin freisin go dtacaímid leis an raon tionscadal is leithne is féidir ar bhealach a bhaineann an úsáid is fearr as príomhshócmhainní na leabharlainne.

Spriocanna

a **Ag obair le chéile** – Leanúint lenár gcomhpháirtíocht ar fud an údaráis áitiúil, lena n-áirítear leis na hOifigí Oidhreachta agus Ealaíon, an Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil agus rannóga eile de chuid na Comhairle.

b **Solúbthacht** – Cinntiú go gcoinnímid acmhainní ar fáil chun tionscadail náisiúnta a chur i bhfeidhm. Leanúint de thacaíocht a thabhairt do chláir Éire Ildánach agus an Ceart chun Léamh, agus freagairt a thabhairt do bheartais nó do chláir nua.

c **Comhpháirtíocht** – Comhoibriú a chur mar chroíphrionsabal den Phlean. Ár samhail a leanúint maidir le grúpaí comhairleacha a bhunú chun seirbhísí nua a dhearadh (le déanaí ár seirbhísí do dhaoine faoi mhíchumas), nó nascadh le daoine eile a bhfuil eolas agus saineolas acu ar shaincheisteanna nó ar lucht féachana ar leith.

6. Support reading and literacy

Under the National Library Strategy*, public libraries are given the job of being 'at the heart of reading and literacy development within the community'. Carlow library service takes an active part in national literacy campaigns and programmes such as **Right to Read** and the annual **Ireland Reads National Day of Reading**. We will continue to take part in these national projects over the course of this Plan, as well as supporting the new national '**Skills for Life' programme**.

The library service has a track record of introducing new projects that support literacy for people of all ages. For example, the library service's own '**Story Streets**' project was recently adopted for a national Children's Fund library project that supports disadvantaged families and children. Carlow library service is leading this project. We also developed the **Literacy-Friendly County Carlow** project, to encourage businesses, services and the public to become more literacy aware. The successful follow-up project – the **Literacy Ambassador programme** – was recently adopted by other local authorities.

Libraries have always been at the heart of encouraging reading and literacy for families and children. In 2021, the government published its *Adult Literacy for Life strategy*, which names public libraries as an important partner in adult literacy. *The National Library Strategy* commits library services to run activities supporting Adult Literacy for Life.

Although we don't currently have local literacy data, the fact that County Carlow has a slightly higher number of early school leavers than other counties may mean that literacy in the county is below the national average. So, over the five years of this Plan, we will increase our support for both child and adult literacy in the following ways.

**The Library is the Place: Information, Recreation, Inspiration,* (https://www.librariesireland.ie/the-library-is-the-place)

Goals

a **Story Streets** – Expand the Story Streets project in Carlow in line with the recent Children's Fund grant, and lead the rollout of the project throughout the country.

b **Literacy-Friendly County Carlow** – Develop the 'Towards a Literacy-Friendly County Carlow' project, working with other Carlow County Council departments.

c **Young Adult literacy** – Explore ways to support literacy for young people aged 12 to 16 years who do not get that support elsewhere in the community. Data shows that our library service has strong reach in this age group and is well placed to support suitable programmes and projects.

d **Skills for Life** – Support the new national Skills for Life programme from the *National Library Strategy*.

6. Tacú le léitheoireacht agus le litearthacht

Faoin Straitéis Náisiúnta Leabharlann*, tugtar an cúram do leabharlanna poiblí a bheith 'i gcroílár fhorbairt na léitheoireachta agus na litearthachta laistigh den phobal'. Glacann seirbhís leabharlainne Cheatharlach páirt ghníomhach i bhfeachtais agus i gcláir litearthachta náisiúnta amhail an Ceart chun Léamh agus Lá Náisiúnta na Léitheoireachta bliantúil de chuid Éire ag Léamh. Leanfaimid orainn ag glacadh páirte sna tionscadail náisiúnta sin le linn ré an Phlean seo, chomh maith le tacú leis an gclár náisiúnta nua 'Scileanna don Saol'.

Tá cuntas teiste ag an tseirbhís leabharlainne maidir le tionscadail nua a thabhairt isteach a thacaíonn le litearthacht do dhaoine de gach aois. Mar shampla, glacadh tionscadal na seirbhíse leabharlainne féin, 'Sráideanna Scéalta', le déanaí le haghaidh tionscadal leabharlainne náisiúnta de chuid Chiste na Leanaí a thacaíonn le teaghlaigh agus le leanaí faoi mhíbhuntáiste. Tá seirbhís leabharlainne Cheatharlach i gceannas ar an tionscadal sin. Chomh maith leis sin, d'fhorbraíomar tionscadal Chontae Cheatharlach atá Oiriúnach do Litearthacht, chun gnólachtaí, seirbhísí agus an pobal a spreagadh chun a bheith níos feasaí ar litearthacht. Ghlac údaráis áitiúla eile an tionscadal leantach rathúil – clár an Ambasadóra Litearthachta – le déanaí.

Bhí leabharlanna i gcónaí i gcroílár spreagadh na léitheoireachta agus na litearthachta do theaghlaigh agus do leanaí. D'fhoilsigh an rialtas a straitéis um Litearthacht Aosach ar feadh an tSaoil in 2021, ina n-ainmnítear leabharlanna poiblí mar chomhpháirtí tábhachtach maidir le litearthacht aosach. Leis an Straitéis Náisiúnta Leabharlann tá seirbhísí leabharlainne tiomanta do ghníomhaíochtaí a reáchtáil a thacaíonn le Litearthacht Aosach ar Feadh an tSaoil.

Cé nach bhfuil sonraí litearthachta áitiúla againn faoi láthair, d'fhéadfadh go mbeadh litearthacht sa chontae faoi bhun an mheáin náisiúnta toisc go bhfuil an líon luathfhágálaithe scoile beagán níos airde i gContae Cheatharlach ná i gcontaetha eile. Mar sin, thar thréimhse cúig bliana an Phlean seo, méadóimid ár dtacaíocht do litearthacht leanaí agus do litearthacht aosach araon ar na bealaí seo a leanas.

**Is í an Leabharlann an Áit: Faisnéis, Caitheamh Aimsire, Inspioráid* (https://www.librariesireland.ie/the-library-is-the-place)

Spriocanna

a **Sráideanna Scéalta** – Tionscadal Shráideanna Scéalta i gCeatharlach a leathnú i gcomhréir leis an deontas a fuarthas ó Chiste na Leanaí le déanaí, agus rolladh amach an tionscadail ar fud na tíre a threorú.

b **Contae Cheatharlach atá Oiriúnach do Litearthacht** – An tionscadal 'I dTreo Chontae Cheatharlach atá Oiriúnach do Litearthacht' a fhorbairt, agus muid ag oibriú le ranna eile de chuid Chomhairle Contae Cheatharlach.

c **Litearthacht Aosach Óg** – Iniúchadh a dhéanamh ar bhealaí chun tacú le litearthacht do dhaoine óga idir 12 agus 16 bliana d'aois nach bhfaigheann an tacaíocht sin in áit eile sa phobal. Léirítear i sonraí go bhfuil teagmháil láidir ag ár seirbhís leabharlainne leis an aoisghrúpa sin agus go bhfuil sí in ann tacú le cláir agus tionscadail oiriúnacha.

d **Scileanna don Saol** – Tacaigh leis an gclár náisiúnta nua Scileanna don Saol ón Straitéis Náisiúnta Leabharlann.

How we are going to do it

To achieve the actions set out in this Plan we need to have supports in place. These range from staff and resources to marketing and research.

Supporting library staff

The strongest message coming through our consultation was the value that the community and our users place on the customer service they receive in the library. While our range of digital services is increasing, it is clear that much of a library service's usefulness and the goodwill towards it arises from the staff. In particular, our commitment to equal access rests on the approach of staff.

- **Acknowledging the importance of our staff to the delivery of our service, for the five years of the Plan we will invest in and support their continued professional development and upskilling in areas arising from changing community needs.**

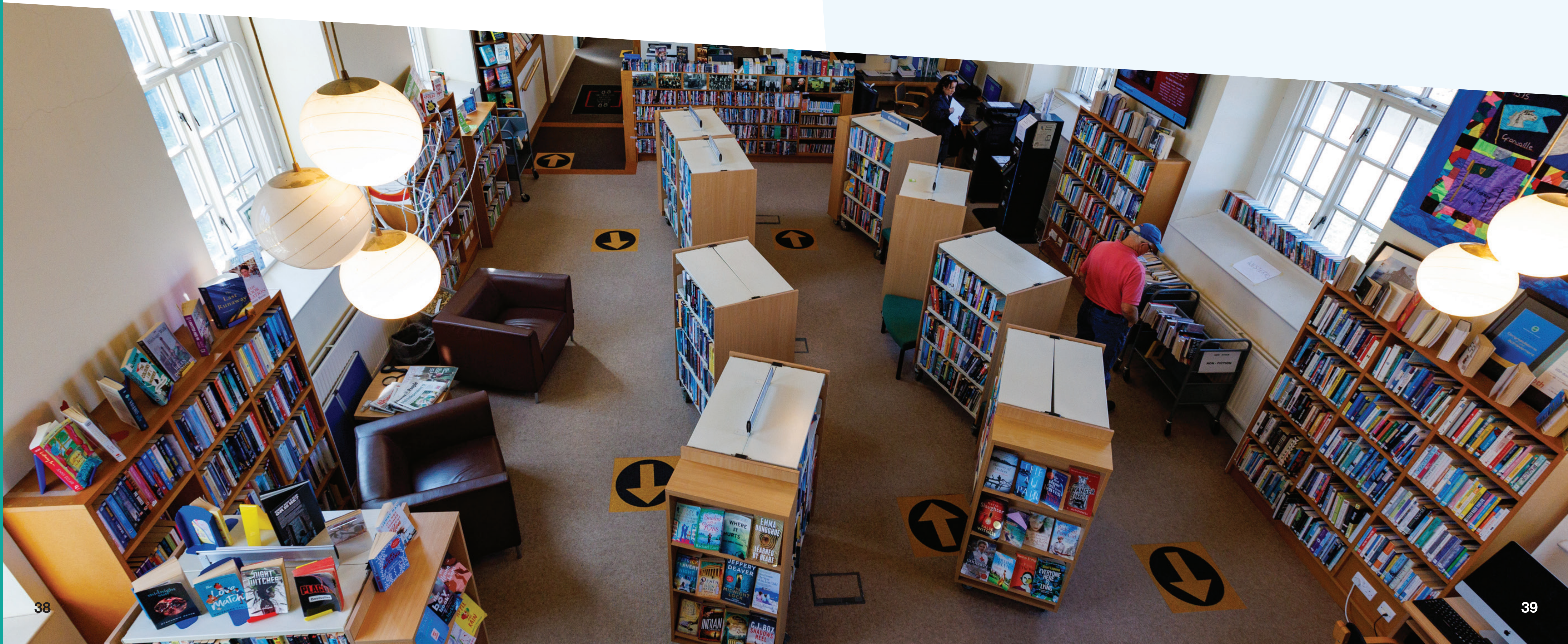
Conas a dhéanfaimid é

Chun na gníomhartha atá leagtha amach sa Phlean seo a bhaint amach, ní mór dúinn tacaíochtaí a bheith i bhfeidhm. Clúdaítear leis sin foireann agus acmhainní mar aon le margaíocht agus taighde.

Tacaíocht a thabhairt d'fhoireann leabharlainne

Ba é an teachtaireacht ba láidre ón gcomhairliúchán sin ná an luach a chuireann an pobal agus ár n-úsáideoirí ar an tseirbhís do chustaiméirí a fhaigheann siad sa leabharlann. Cé go bhfuil ár raon seirbhísí digiteacha ag méadú, is léir go dtagann cuid mhór d'úsáideacht agus dea-thoil seirbhís leabharlainne i leith na seirbhíse sin ón bhfoireann. Go háirithe, braitheann ár dtiomantas do chothroime rochtana ar chur chuige na foirne.

- **Agus tábhacht ár bhfoirne maidir le seachadadh ár seirbhíse á haithint, déanfaimid infheistíocht ina forbairt ghairmiúil leanúnach agus ina huasoiliúint i réimsí a eascraíonn as riachtanais athraitheacha an phobail agus tugaimid tacaíocht dóibh sin le linn thréimhse cúig bliana an Phlean.**



Investing in technology

We recognise the central role of technology in our services and also in how staff present and administer our most important services.

With this in mind:

- **This Plan prioritises the development of technology that helps to improve the quality of services offered in our branches, for both staff and users.**
- **We will examine how best we can develop our network and services through careful use of our funding and budget.**
- **We will maintain a network of technological services that are effective, efficient and responsive to the needs of the public of County Carlow.**

Developing marketing and communications

Our users tell us we could improve our marketing and communications. In particular, while our book-lending role is well known, awareness of some of our other services is low. One key strength is our social media activity, and this is a strong basis on which to build. But this is only one of several marketing channels and it may not be suitable for all audiences. We have already laid some of the groundwork for improved marketing and communications; for example, since 2021 we ask new members to consent to email marketing.

- **As part of this Plan, we will develop and provide the resources for a Marketing and Communications strategy to support our work.**

Infheistiú i dteicneolaíocht

Glacaimid leis an ról lárnach atá ag an teicneolaíocht inár seirbhísí agus sa chaoi a gcuireann an fhoireann ár seirbhísí is tábhachtaí i láthair agus i bhfeidhm freisin.

Agus é sin san áireamh:

- **Tugann an Plean seo tús áite d'fhorbairt teicneolaíochta a chabhraíonn le feabhas a chur ar cháilíocht na seirbhísí a chuirtear ar fáil inár mbrainsí, don fhoireann agus d'úsáideoirí araon.**
- **Scrúdóimid an bealach is fearr is féidir linn ár líonra agus ár seirbhísí a fhorbairt trí úsáid chúramach a bhaint as ár maoiniú agus ár mbuiséad.**
- **Coinneoimid líonra seirbhísí teicneolaíochta atá éifeachtach, éifeachtúil agus freagrúil do riachtanais phobal Chontae Cheatharlach.**

Margaíocht agus cumarsáid a fhorbairt

Deir ár n-úsáideoirí linn gur féidir linn ár margaíocht agus ár gcumarsáid a fheabhsú. Go háirithe, cé go bhfuil aithne mhaith ar ár ról mar iasachtóirí leabhar, tá feasacht íseal ar chuid dár seirbhísí eile. Príomhláidreacht ar leith is ea ár ngníomhaíocht ar na meáin shóisialta, agus is bunús láidir é sin ar a bhféadfaimid tógáil. Níl ann ach ceann amháin de roinnt bealaí margaíochta agus b'fhéidir nach mbeidh sé oiriúnach do gach lucht féachana. Tá cuid den ullmhúchán déanta againn cheana féin le haghaidh margaíocht agus cumarsáid fheabhsaithe; mar shampla, ó 2021 i leith iarrann muid ar bhaill nua toiliú a thabhairt le haghaidh margaíocht ríomhphoist.

- **Mar chuid den Phlean seo, forbróimid agus soláthróimid na hacmhainní le haghaidh straitéis Margaíochta agus Cumarsáide chun tacú lenár gcuid oibre.**

Using data to develop our services in line with needs

In 2022 Libraries Ireland introduced a new national library management system. This contains valuable information about the level and type of library service use in Carlow and nationwide. There is also data from other sources for visitor numbers, BorrowBox, etc. At present it is not possible to link the datasets to develop a full view of each library user, but we can still learn a lot from the data we have. When developing this Plan we reviewed some of this data for Carlow, and further research is underway.

- **As part of this Plan, we will continue to use the data in library systems to ensure our service responds to the needs of users.**

Tracking our progress

A Steering Group will track progress on this Plan. The Group comprises senior staff who prepared the Plan, the Director of Service for libraries, and Elected Members. They will identify whether the Plan needs revising to ensure goals remain on track. The Group will report to the local authority Strategic Planning Committee twice a year, and to the full Council once a year.

We will carry out the Plan using an Action Plan for each year, detailing how we will work towards each goal over the five years of the Plan.

Úsáid a bhaint as sonraí chun ár seirbhísí a fhorbairt i gcomhréir le riachtanais

Thug Leabharlanna Éireann córas bainistíochta leabharlainne náisiúnta nua isteach in 2022. Tá faisnéis luachmhar ann faoi leibhéal agus cineál úsáide na seirbhísí leabharlainne i gCeatharlach agus ar fud na tíre. Tá sonraí ó fhoinsí eile ann freisin maidir le líon na gcuairteoirí, BorrowBox, etc. Faoi láthair ní féidir na tacair sonraí a nascadh chun léargas iomlán a fhorbairt ar gach úsáideoir leabharlainne, ach is féidir linn go leor a fhoghlaim fós ó na sonraí atá againn. Agus an Plean seo á fhorbairt againn, rinneamar athbhreithniú ar roinnt de na sonraí sin do Cheatharlach, agus tá tuilleadh taighde ar siúl.

- **Mar chuid den Phlean seo, leanfaimid orainn ag úsáid na sonraí i gcórais leabharlainne lena chinntiú go bhfreagraíonn ár seirbhís do riachtanais úsáideoirí.**

Ár ndul chun cinn a rianú

Déanfaidh Grúpa Stiúrtha monatóireacht ar dhul chun cinn an Phlean seo. Tá baill foirne shinsearacha a d'ullmhaigh an Plean, Stiúrthóir na Seirbhíse le haghaidh leabharlanna, agus Comhaltaí Tofa sa Ghrúpa. Aithneoidh siad cibé acu is gá an Plean a athbhreithniú chun a chinntiú go bhfanfaidh na spriocanna ar an mbóthar ceart. Tuairisceoidh an Grúpa do Choiste Pleanála Straitéisí an údaráis áitiúil faoi dhó sa bhliain, agus don Chomhairle iomlán uair sa bhliain.

Cuirfimid an Plean i bhfeidhm trí úsáid a bhaint as Plean Gníomhaíochta do gach bliain, ina sonraítear conas a oibreoimid i dtreo gach sprice thar thréimhse cúig bliana an Phlean.

A3

Appendix 1: Consultation Process

To prepare the Plan we held an independent consultation process from November 2023 to February 2024, as follows:

1. Desk research to establish the context
2. Five online surveys to:
   - Interested parties inside the library service
   - Interested parties outside the library service
   - Staff
   - Schools
   - General public
3. Four online meetings with staff
4. Nine interviews with a mix of interested parties inside and outside the library service (online and in person)
5. Four in-person focus groups (Music Generation, active retirement, one Education and Training Board class of young people, one family resource centre)
6. Study of data from the National Oversight and Audit Commission
7. Study of data from Spydus.

Figure 2 (below) shows the breakdown of responses to the surveys (we hosted the general public survey on the Council's online consultation webpage, and distributed paper copies in all library branches).

Response Rates to the Library Plan Consultation

All responses were sought either by online survey (external and internal stakeholders), or by web link (schools, staff, general public). The general public were also offered a hard copy response option.

FIGURE 2	SENT	REPLIED	RESPONSE RATE
Internal stakeholders	24	15	60%
External stakeholders	29	20	69%
Staff	20	14	70%
Primary schools	44	18	41%
Post primary schools	11	4	36%
General Public		85	

Chart: Ann Swift Consulting

Aguisín 1: Próiseas Comhairliúcháin

Chun an Plean a ullmhú, reáchtálamar próiseas comhairliúcháin neamhspleách ó mhí na Samhna 2023 go mí Feabhra 2024, mar seo a leanas:

1. Taighde deisce chun an comhthéacs a bhunú
2. Cúig shuirbhé ar líne chuig na páirtithe seo a leanas:
   - Páirtithe leasmhara laistigh den tseirbhís leabharlainne
   - Páirtithe leasmhara lasmuigh den tseirbhís leabharlainne
   - Foireann
   - Scoileanna
   - An Pobal i gcoitinne
3. Ceithre chruinniú ar líne le baill foirne
4. Naoi n-agallamh le meascán de pháirtithe leasmhara laistigh den tseirbhís leabharlainne agus lasmuigh di (ar líne agus go pearsanta)
5. Ceithre ghrúpa fócais duine le duine (Music Generation, scor gníomhach, rang amháin de dhaoine óga de chuid an Bhoird Oideachais agus Oiliúna, ionad acmhainní teaghlaigh amháin)
6. Staidéar ar shonraí ón gCoimisiún Náisiúnta Maoirseachta agus Iniúchóireachta
7. Staidéar ar shonraí ó Spydus.

Léirítear i Léaráid 2 thíos miondealú ar na freagraí ar na suirbhéanna (rinneamar an suirbhé poiblí i gcoitinne a óstáil ar shuíomh gréasáin comhairliúcháin ar líne na Comhairle, agus dháileamar cóipeanna páipéir i ngach brainse leabharlainne).

Rátaí freagartha ar chomhairliúchán an phlean leabharlainne

Iarradh na freagairtí uile trí shuirbhé ar líne (páirtithe leasmhara seachtracha agus inmheánacha), nó trí nasc gréasáin (scoileanna, foireann, an pobal i gcoitinne). Tairgeadh rogha freagartha cóipe crua don phobal i gcoitinne freisin.

LÉARÁID 2	MÉID A SEOLADH	MÉID A FREAGRAÍODH	RÁTA FREAGARTHA
Páirtithe leasmhara inmheánacha	24	15	60%
Páirtithe leasmhara seachtracha	29	20	69%
Foireann	20	14	70%
Bunscoileanna	44	18	41%
Iar-bhunscoileanna	11	4	36%
An Pobal i gcoitinne		85	

Cairt: Ann Swift Consulting

Appendix 2:
Strengths and Weaknesses

Members of the public, stakeholders and staff identified the following strengths and weaknesses of the service:

Strengths

- Quality of customer service
- Range of resources – online learning resources, or reading and curriculum support
- Library-run events
- Proactive and innovative approach
- Leadership and openness to working in partnership with others
- Social media promotion
- Function of library branches as community hubs an important part of the community ecosystem across the county
- The service is particularly successful among younger age groups. Five- to fourteen-year-olds made up 34% of all active borrowers in 2022, and EduRoam data shows Carlow in the top ten library services nationwide (among 20 to 24-year-olds)

Weaknesses

- Overall appearance and physical condition of library facilities
- Quality of marketing and communication activity – could do more to promote the range of services on offer
- Website and app
- Lack of toilet facilities
- Limited access to popular or newly published books
- Lack of space
- Inadequate study and reading spaces
- Accessibility of online resources

Aguisín 2:
Láidreachtaí agus Laigí

Shainaithin daoine den phobal, páirtithe leasmhara agus baill foirne na láidreachtaí agus na laigí seo a leanas sa tseirbhís:

Láidreachtaí

- Cáilíocht na seirbhíse do chustaiméirí
- Raon acmhainní – acmhainní foghlama ar líne, nó tacaíocht léitheoireachta agus curaclaim
- Imeachtaí a reáchtálann an leabharlann
- Cur chuige réamhghníomhach agus nuálach
- Ceannaireacht agus oscailteacht chun oibriú i gcomhpháirtíocht le daoine eile
- Cur chun cinn na meáin shóisialta
- Tá feidhm na mbrainsí leabharlainne mar mhoil phobail ina cuid thábhachtach den éiceachóras pobail ar fud an chontae
- Tá an tseirbhís rathúil go háirithe i measc aoisghrúpaí níos óige. B'ionann leanaí idir cúig bliana d'aois agus ceithre bliana déag d'aois agus 34% de na hiasachtaithe gníomhacha go léir in 2022, agus léirítear i sonraí EduRoam go bhfuil Ceatharlach i measc na ndeich seirbhís leabharlainne is fearr ar fud na tíre (i measc daoine idir 20 agus 24 bliain d'aois)

Laigí

- Cuma fhoriomlán agus riocht fisiceach áiseanna na leabharlainne
- Cáilíocht na gníomhaíochta margaíochta agus cumarsáide – d'fhéadfaí níos mó a dhéanamh chun an raon seirbhísí atá ar fáil a chur chun cinn
- Suíomh gréasáin agus aip
- Easpa áiseanna leithris
- Rochtain theoranta ar leabhair mhóréilimh nó ar leabhair nuafhoilsithe
- Easpa spáis
- Spásanna staidéir agus léitheoireachta neamhimleor
- Inrochtaineacht acmhainní ar líne

Appendix 3:
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

This table shows how our priorities and goals support the SDGs

SDG Target	Library Priorities	Goals	Library Programme
1.4 Equal rights to ownership, basic services, technology and economic resources	**2** Service our communities **3** Improve access to our services	Goals **2 a-g** Goals **3 a-c**	
1.5 Build resilience to environmental, economic and social disasters	**1** Develop our buildings and collections	Capital project **1a** Building maintenance **1b** Climate Goals **1c**	
1B Create pro-poor and gender-sensitive policy frameworks	**2** Improve access to our services **5** Work with other organisations	New communities **3c** Goals **5 a-c**	
2.1 Universal access to safe and nutritious food	**1** Develop our buildings and collections	Climate Goals **1c** Climate collection **1f**	LEAF project
3.4 Reduce mortality from non-communicable diseases and promote mental health	**1** Develop our buildings and collections	Collection Development **1e**	Healthy Ireland at your Library
3.5 Prevent and treat substance abuse	**1** Develop our buildings and collections	Collection Development **1e**	Healthy Ireland at your Library
3.7 Universal access to sexual and reproductive care, family planning and education	**1** Develop our buildings and collections	Collection Development **1e**	Healthy Ireland at your Library
4.2 Equal access to quality pre-primary education	**2** Serve our communities **6** Support reading and literacy	Outreach **2g** Story Streets **6a**	Right to Read
4.3 Equal access to affordable technical, vocational and higher education	**1** Develop our buildings and collections **6** Support reading and literacy	Collection Development **1e** Skills for Life **6D**	Eduroam, Skills for life
4.4 Increase the number of people with relevant skills for financial success	**1** Develop our buildings and collections **6** Support reading and literacy	Collection Development **1e** Skills for Life **6D**	Skills for life
4.6 Universal literacy and numeracy	**6** Support reading and literacy	Goals **6 a-d**	Right to Read
4.7 Education for sustainable development and global citizenship	**1** Develop our buildings and collections	Climate Goals **1c** Climate collection **1f**	LEAF project
5.5 Ensure full participation in leadership and decision-making	**2** Serve our communities **3** Improve access to our services **5** Work with other organisations	Serve our communities **2 a-g** Goals **3 a-c** Goals **5 a-c**	
5B Promote empowerment of women through technology	**2** Serve our communities **3** Improve access to our services **5** Work with other organisations	Goals **2 a-g** Goals **3 a-c** Goals **5 a-c**	
6B Support local engagement in water and sanitation management	**1** Develop our buildings and collections	Climate Goals **1c** Climate collection **1f**	LEAF project

Aguisín 3:
Spriocanna Forbartha Inbhuanaithe (SFInna)

Léirítear sa tábla seo conas a thacaíonn ár dtosaíochtaí agus ár spriocanna leis na Spriocanna Forbartha Inbhuanaithe

SPRIOC SFI	Tosaíochtaí Leabharlainne	Spriocanna	Clár Leabharlainne
1.4 Cearta comhionanna maidir le húinéireacht, seirbhísí bunúsacha, teicneolaíocht agus acmhainní eacnamaíocha	**2** Freastal ar ár bpobail **3** Feabhas a chur ar rochtain ar ár seirbhísí	Spriocanna **2 a-g** Spriocanna **3 a-c**	
1.5 Athléimneacht a chothú i gcoinne tubaistí comhshaoil, eacnamaíocha agus sóisialta	**1** Ár bhfoirgnimh agus ár mbailiúcháin a fhorbairt	Tionscadal caipitil **1a** Cothabháil foirgneamh **1b** Spriocanna aeráide **1c**	
1B Creataí beartais atá fabhrach do na boicht agus atá íogair ó thaobh inscne de a chruthú	**2** Feabhas a chur ar rochtain ar ár seirbhísí **5** Oibriú le heagraíochtaí eile	Pobail nua **3c** Spriocanna **5 a-c**	
2.1 Rochtain uilíoch ar bhia sábháilte agus cothaitheach	**1** Ár bhfoirgnimh agus ár mbailiúcháin a fhorbairt	Spriocanna aeráide **1c** Bailiúchán aeráide **1f**	Tionscadal LEAF (Tionscadal Litearthachta agus Oideachais Bia)
3.4 Básmhaireacht ó ghalair neamhthógálacha a laghdú agus sláinte mheabhrach a chur chun cinn	**1** Ár bhfoirgnimh agus ár mbailiúcháin a fhorbairt	Forbairt Bailiúchán **1e**	Éire Shláintiúil ag do Leabharlann
3.5 Mí-úsáid substaintí a chosc agus a chóireáil	**1** Ár bhfoirgnimh agus ár mbailiúcháin a fhorbairt	Forbairt Bailiúchán **1e**	Éire Shláintiúil ag do Leabharlann
3.7 Rochtain uilíoch ar chúram gnéis agus atáirgthe, ar phleanáil clainne agus ar oideachas	**1** Ár bhfoirgnimh agus ár mbailiúcháin a fhorbairt	Forbairt Bailiúchán **1e**	Éire Shláintiúil ag do Leabharlann
4.2 Cothroime rochtana ar oideachas réamh-bhunscoile ardchaighdeáin	**2** Freastal ar ár bpobail **6** Tacú le léitheoireacht agus le litearthacht	For-rochtain **2g** Sráideanna Scéalta **6a**	An Ceart chun Léamh
4.3 Cothroime rochtana ar oideachas teicniúil, gairmoideachais agus ardoideachais atá inacmhainne	**1** Ár bhfoirgnimh agus ár mbailiúcháin a fhorbairt **6** Tacú le léitheoireacht agus le litearthacht	Forbairt Bailiúchán **1e** Scileanna don Saol **6D**	Eduroam, Scileanna don Saol
4.4 Líon na ndaoine a bhfuil na scileanna ábhartha acu le haghaidh rath airgeadais a mhéadú	**1** Ár bhfoirgnimh agus ár mbailiúcháin a fhorbairt **6** Tacú le léitheoireacht agus le litearthacht	Forbairt Bailiúchán **1e** Scileanna don Saol **6D**	Scileanna don Saol
4.6 Litearthacht agus uimhearthacht uilíoch	**6** Tacú le léitheoireacht agus le litearthacht	Spriocanna **6 a-d**	An Ceart chun Léamh
4.7 Oideachas le haghaidh forbairt inbhuanaithe agus saoránacht dhomhanda	**1** Ár bhfoirgnimh agus ár mbailiúcháin a fhorbairt	Spriocanna aeráide **1c** Bailiúchán aeráide **1f**	Tionscadal LEAF
5.5 Rannpháirtíocht iomlán i gceannaireacht agus i gcinnteoireacht a chinntiú	**2** Freastal ar ár bpobail **3** Feabhas a chur ar rochtain ar ár seirbhísí **5** Oibriú le heagraíochtaí eile	Freastal ar ár bpobail **2 a-g** Spriocanna **3 a-c** Spriocanna **5 a-c**	
5B Cumasú na mban a chur chun cinn trí theicneolaíocht	**2** Freastal ar ár bpobail **3** Feabhas a chur ar rochtain ar ár seirbhísí **5** Oibriú le heagraíochtaí eile	Spriocanna**2 a-g** Spriocanna **3 a-c** Spriocanna **5 a-c**	
6B Tacaigh le rannpháirtíocht áitiúil i mbainistíocht uisce agus sláintíochta	**1** Ár bhfoirgnimh agus ár mbailiúcháin a fhorbairt	Spriocanna aeráide **1c** Bailiúchán aeráide **1f**	Tionscadal LEAF

SDG Target	Library Priorities	Goals	Library Programme
7.3 Double the improvement in energy efficiency	**1** Develop our buildings and collections	Climate Goals **1c**	
8.3 Promote policies to support job creation and growing enterprises	**5** Work with other organisations **6** Support reading and literacy	Goals **5 a-c** Skills for Life **6D**	LEO collaborations, Skills for Life
8.6 Promote youth employment, education and training	**5** Work with other organisations **6** Support reading and literacy	Goals **5 a-c** Young adult literacy **6c** Skills for Life **6D**	Right to Read Skills for Life
9C Universal access to information and communications technology	**2** Serve our communities **3** Improve access to our services	Goals **2 a-g** Goals **3 a-c**	
10.2 Promote universal social, economic and political inclusion	**2** Serve our communities **3** Improve access to our services	Goals **2 a-g** Goals **3 a-c**	
11.4 Protect the world's cultural and natural heritage	**1** Develop our buildings and collections **4** Develop our Loval Studies, Genealogy & Archive Services **5** Work with other organisations	Capital project **1a** Building maintenance **1b** Goals **4 a-e** Goals **5 a-c**	Digitisation project
11.7 Provide access to safe and inclusive green and public spaces	**1** Develop our buildings and collections **2** Serve our communities **3** Improve access to our services	Capital project **1a** Building maintenance **1b** Climate Goals **1c** Goals **2 a-g** Goals **3 a-c**	
12.7 Promote sustainable public procurement practices	**1** Develop our buildings and collections	Climate Goals **1c**	
12.8 Promote universal understanding of sustainable lifestyles	**1** Develop our buildings and collections	Climate Goals **1c** Climate collection **1f**	LEAF project
13.3 Build knowledge and capacity to meet climate change	**1** Develop our buildings and collections	Climate Goals **1c** Climate collection **1f**	
16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions	**2** Serve our communities **5** Work with other organisations	Goals **2 a-g** Goals **5 a-c**	
16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive and representative decision-making	**2** Serve our communities **3** Improve access to our services **5** Work with other organisations	Goals **2 a-g** Goals **3 a-c** Goals **5 a-c**	
16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms	**2** Serve our communities **3** Improve access to our services **5** Work with other organisations	Goals **2 a-g** Goals **3 a-c** Goals **5 a-c**	
17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development	**1** Develop our buildings and collections **5** Work with other organisations	Climate Goals **1c** Climate collection **1f** Goals **5 a-c**	LEAF project
17.17 Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilise and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries	All priorities contribute to this target		

SDG Target	Library Priorities	Goals	Library Programme
7.3 An feabhsú ar éifeachtúlacht fuinnimh a mhéadú faoi dhó	**1** Ár bhfoirgnimh agus ár mbailiúcháin a fhorbairt	Spriocanna aeráide **1c**	
8.3 Beartais a chur chun cinn chun tacú le cruthú post agus le fás fiontar	**5** Oibriú le heagraíochtaí eile **6** Tacú le léitheoireacht agus le litearthacht	Spriocanna **5 a-c** Scileanna don Saol **6D**	Comhoibrithe le hOifigí Fiontair Áitiúla, Scileanna don Saol
8.6 Fostaíocht, oideachas agus oiliúint na hóige a chur chun cinn	**5** Oibriú le heagraíochtaí eile **6** Tacú le léitheoireacht agus le litearthacht	Spriocanna **5 a-c** Litearthacht d'Aosaigh Óga **6c** Scileanna don Saol **6D**	Ceart chun Léamh, Scileanna don Saol
9C Rochtain uilíoch ar theicneolaíocht faisnéise agus chumarsáide	**2** Freastal ar ár bpobail **3** Feabhas a chur ar rochtain ar ár seirbhísí	Spriocanna **2 a-g** Spriocanna **3 a-c**	
10.2 Cuimsiú sóisialta, eacnamaíoch agus polaitiúil uilíoch a chur chun cinn	**2** Freastal ar ár bpobail **3** Feabhas a chur ar rochtain ar ár seirbhísí	Spriocanna **2 a-g** Spriocanna **3 a-c**	
11.4 Oidhreacht chultúrtha agus nádúrtha an domhain a chosaint	**1** Ár bhfoirgnimh agus ár mbailiúcháin a fhorbairt **4** Ár Seirbhísí Staidéar Áitiúil, Ginealaigh agus Cartlainne a Fhorbairt **5** Oibriú le heagraíochtaí eile	Tionscadal caipitil **1a** Cothabháil foirgneamh **1b** Spriocanna **4 a-e** Spriocanna **5 a-c**	Tionscadal Digitithe
11.7 Rochtain a sholáthar ar spásanna glasa agus ar spásanna poiblí atá sábháilte agus cuimsitheach	**1** Ár bhfoirgnimh agus ár mbailiúcháin a fhorbairt **2** Freastal ar ár bpobail **3** Feabhas a chur ar rochtain ar ár seirbhísí	Tionscadal caipitil **1a** Cothabháil foirgneamh **1b** Spriocanna aeráide **1c** Spriocanna **2 a-g** Spriocanna **3 a-c**	
12.7 Cleachtais inbhuanaithe soláthair phoiblí a chur chun cinn	**1** Ár bhfoirgnimh agus ár mbailiúcháin a fhorbairt	Spriocanna aeráide **1c**	
12.8 Tuiscint uilíoch ar stíleanna maireachtála inbhuanaithe a chur chun cinn	**1** Ár bhfoirgnimh agus ár mbailiúcháin a fhorbairt	Spriocanna aeráide **1c** Bailiúchán aeráide **1f**	Tionscadal LEAF
13.3 Eolas agus acmhainn a fhorbairt chun dul i ngleic leis an athrú aeráide	**1** Ár bhfoirgnimh agus ár mbailiúcháin a fhorbairt	Spriocanna aeráide **1c** Bailiúchán aeráide **1f**	
16.6 Institiúidí éifeachtacha, cuntasacha agus trédhearcacha a fhorbairt	**2** Freastal ar ár bpobail **5** Oibriú le heagraíochtaí eile	Spriocanna **2 a-g** Spriocanna **5 a-c**	
16.7 Cinnteoireacht fhreagrúil, chuimsitheach agus ionadaíoch a chinntiú	**2** Freastal ar ár bpobail **3** Feabhas a chur ar rochtain ar ár seirbhísí **5** Oibriú le heagraíochtaí eile	Spriocanna **2 a-g** Spriocanna **3 a-c** Spriocanna **5 a-c**	
16.10 Rochtain phoiblí ar fhaisnéis a chinntiú agus saoirsí bunúsacha a chosaint	**2** Freastal ar ár bpobail **3** Feabhas a chur ar rochtain ar ár seirbhísí **5** Oibriú le heagraíochtaí eile	Spriocanna **2 a-g** Spriocanna **3 a-c** Spriocanna **5 a-c**	
17.14 Feabhas a chur ar chomhtháthú beartais le haghaidh forbairt inbhuanaithe	**1** Ár bhfoirgnimh agus ár mbailiúcháin a fhorbairt **5** Oibriú le heagraíochtaí eile	Spriocanna aeráide **1c** Bailiúchán aeráide **1f** Spriocanna **5 a-c**	Tionscadal LEAF
17.17 Feabhas a chur ar an gComhpháirtíocht Dhomhanda um Fhorbairt Inbhuanaithe, agus comhlánófar é sin le comhpháirtíochtaí ilpháirtithe leasmhara a spreagann agus a roinneann eolas, saineolas, teicneolaíocht agus acmhainní airgeadais, chun tacú le baint amach na Spriocanna Forbartha Inbhuanaithe i ngach tír, go háirithe i dtíortha atá i mbéal forbartha	Cuireann gach tosaíocht leis an spriocsin		

Carlow County Council
Library Development Plan

Comhairle Contae Cheatharlach
Plean Forbartha Leabharlann

2025-2029

Leabharlann Chontae Ceatharlach
Carlow County Library

COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHEATHARLACH
CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL