

Draft Library
Development
Plan

Dréacht Phlean
Forbartha na
Leabharlanna

2024 – 2028



www.kerrylibrary.ie

Seirbhís de chuid Chomhairle Contae Chiarraí
A service of Kerry County Council



LEABHARLANN CHIARRAÍ KERRY LIBRARY

Statistics 2022



576,577
Items Borrowed



21,247
Registered Library
Members



293,999
Visits



18,769
Opening Hours

www.kerrylibrary.ie

The Kerry Library Strategic Objectives & Action Plan 2024-2028

1	Reading and Literacy Kerry Library will facilitate the provision of reading material to all sectors of the community and place literacy support as a mainstream part of its service offering.
2	Buildings & service provision Kerry Library will provide modern and accessible libraries and will plan to enhance and rejuvenate library public spaces and online resources to reflect the diversity of our communities.
3	Sustainability and Climate Action Kerry Library will actively explore sustainable alternatives and options when developing services and resources in order to meet relevant Climate Action Plan targets and will be a conduit for the provision of trusted information to communities.
4	Local Studies, Archives & Culture Kerry Library will be a repository of the published record of the county and will continue to be the leading institution for local history, academic and genealogical research relating to the county both through its walk in service and online platform.
5	The Digital Offer Kerry Library will develop and expand the use of current and emerging digital technologies to provide high quality and uniform access to online resources to our local communities and the wider diaspora who engage with the library service.
6	Library as a Centre of the Community Kerry Library will continue to engage with relevant partners with a view to mutual promotion and provision of services to the public.
7	Marketing Kerry Library will develop a marketing strategy aimed at encouraging library usage across all sections of the community.
8	Library Team Kerry Library will continue to develop the skill sets of all library staff and engage in continuous professional training in order to be in a position to provide excellence in service to meet the needs of a multi-cultural usership.
9	Measurement and impact Kerry Library will review and evaluate its services and performance metrics to inform future service delivery and development.

Strategic Objective 1: Reading and Literacy

1.	A wide range of books, in various formats, will be available at each service point to support reading as a core provision of the library service.
2.	Continue to facilitate user access to the national book catalogue, book request service and ancillary book distribution and collection service at each library.
3.	Develop literacy, digital, numeracy and communications skills by building and expanding literacy collections for both adult and children.
4.	Implement all four strands of the national Right to Read literacy support programme annually - Spring into Storytime (April), the Summer Stars Children's Reading initiative (June to August), Children's Book Festival (October) and the Family Reading initiative (November/December).
5.	Libraries will partner with relevant organisations to support the national Adult Literacy for Life (ALL) Strategy.
6.	Support the national curriculum by expanding and promoting usage of the Classroom Novels collection, block loans and learning support resources by all schools.
7.	Provide access to targeted resources and programmes for those who are neuro-divergent and with hidden disabilities and those with learning difficulties and complex needs.
8.	Promote the Irish language through the provision of Irish language books, learning supports and conversation opportunities for both adults and children.
9.	Develop services and collections to support new communities.
10.	Enable all library users to have access to either an in person or online book club that is appropriate to age level and reading ability.
11.	Support reading initiatives such as the national Ireland Reads events and author visits and children's storytelling throughout the branch libraries.

Strategic Objective 2: Buildings & Service Provision

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| 12. | Deliver a quality service to all library users based on best practice and approved library standards throughout the library network, mobile libraries and the virtual library to digital users. |
| 13. | Provide optimum opening hours across all library service points and engage in outreach activities with local partners to strengthen and develop service provision at all levels. |
| 14. | Continue to explore alternative and effective methods of service delivery to rural and urban areas and in particular to enhance remote access to quality online resources. |
| 15. | Implement the required obligations under the Public Sector and Human Rights Duty. |
| 16. | Continue to work with the Kerry County Council Facilities Management Section to maintain sustainable library infrastructure to meet community needs while meeting the highest standards of construction, energy efficiency, capital project management and compliance. |
| 17. | Engage with the Department of Rural and Community Development to expand and further develop library infrastructure under the national five-year Libraries Capital Programme for the 2023-2027 period. |
| 18. | Review long-term space requirements for the collection and preservation of future unique Kerry archive acquisitions. |
| 19. | Ensure that the role of the library service is incorporated into the Kerry Local Economic and Community Plan 2023 – 2029. |
| 20. | Work with other government departments and agencies to explore potential additional funding sources for projects, including opportunities for the development of library facilities. |

21.	Ensure that all new library developments embrace the universal design concept and include a separate multipurpose space to accommodate events programming.
22.	Progress the implementation of a <i>My Open Library</i> service in line with the approach identified by the Department of Rural and Community Development.
23.	Review the usage of existing library activity, study and user spaces and implement targeted programme expansions, refurbishments and service developments that meet the identified needs of local communities.
24.	Put a high-level digital infrastructure in place to serve the requirements of a modern public library service.
25.	Review and develop various service strands including those for children with complex and neurodiversity needs, the housebound, teenagers and young adults, the aged and health & wellbeing services.
26.	Build on the success of the rural mobile library service and explore the opportunities to expand the service currently being offered in urban areas.
27.	Facilitate county wide literacy and reading programmes and play a high-level part in the Government 10-year Adult Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Literacy Strategy (2021).
28.	Expand the level of services to teenagers and young adults and encourage their use of libraries by engaging with the education sector, Comhairle na nÓg and youth organisations

Strategic Objective 3: Sustainability and Climate Action

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| 29. | Support the transition to a low carbon environment by reviewing the energy consumption at all library buildings in order to meet the Kerry County Council Climate Action Plan Targets of a 51% reduction in emissions and a 50% improvement in Energy efficiency by 2030. A target of minimum B2 BER Rating has been set nationally for all public buildings. |
| 30. | Plan to replace the existing library vehicle fleet with more fuel-efficient options. |
| 31. | As a trusted source of information in all communities the library service can use its position in society to make a positive impact on the issue of climate literacy and empower communities to make more informed choices for sustainable living as per the national Climate Action Plan. |
| 32. | Provide access to the public to practical resources to support home energy saving, awareness and assessment. |
| 33. | Implement green procurement, sustainability and re-purposing of library materials as far as possible. |
| 34. | Reflect sustainability in the delivery of the library events and exhibitions programme. |
| 35. | Engage with the Kerry County Council Climate Change and Environmental Officers to deliver the Local Authority Climate Action Plan, promote public awareness of climate change and disseminate information via the branch and mobile library network. |

Strategic Objective 4: Local Studies, Archives & Culture

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| 36. | Continue the active collection programme for Kerry local studies and archives material, including an open call for donations of items of Kerry historical significance. |
| 37. | Provide a general range of cultural, historical and genealogical programming across the county. |
| 38. | Kerry libraries will support national events celebrating Ireland's culture including Seachtain na Gaeilge, Cruinniú na nÓg, Bealtaine, Heritage Week and Culture Night. |
| 39. | Continue to implement a digitisation programme for unique Kerry local studies material and ensure the long-term preservation and accessibility of digital assets. |
| 40. | Plan for the accommodation of archives collections and review long-term space requirements for the collection and preservation of future unique Kerry archive material. |
| 41. | Provide access to standard national online genealogical sources together with in-library access to a range of specific online family history databases. |
| 42. | Explore the feasibility for developing an automated retrieval system for the Kerry archives collection. |

Strategic Objective 5: The Digital Offer

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| 43. | Upgrade library connectivity to Gigabit speeds at all branches. |
| 44. | Upgrade WiFi speeds in all libraries to provide a quality high speed service to all users. |
| 45. | Provide suitable ICT hardware and software for public users of digital resources in every library. |
| 46. | Deliver user online training and learner support as part of media literacy & digital inclusion programmes. |
| 47. | Continue to develop the features and functionality of the library website www.kerrylibrary.ie as a 24/7 digital library branch. |
| 48. | Provide both in library and remote access to nationally provided online resources at libraries with sustained promotional campaigns to maximise awareness and usage. |
| 49. | Work with the Connected Hubs and Broadband Connection Points project teams to explore the expansion and improvement of sustainable community engagement with digital library resources, including the development of STEM/STEAM education programmes. |
| 50. | Continue to exploit opportunities that social media, mobile and creative technologies offer for engaging with and delivering services to the public. |

Strategic Objective 6: Library as a Centre of the Community

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| 51. | Strengthen relationships with other services including the Kerry Public Participation Network, Music Generation Kerry and the Kerry County Council Arts, Tourism, Heritage, Museum, Climate Change and Community sections. |
| 52. | Deliver enhanced services through cooperation and partnerships with government departments, relevant local and national organisations and statutory & non-statutory organisations. |
| 53. | Deliver actions and alignments as required in the National Public Library Strategy. |
| 54. | Continue to provide outreach library services, including mobile libraries and digital services, to isolated rural communities who cannot visit branch libraries, including the housebound and those in nursing homes. |
| 55. | Continue to implement the national Right to Read programme which is an integrated and sustained approach in supporting literacy skills in children and adults of all ages and which reflects a common standard across the country. |
| 56. | Libraries will work with the Department of Health, the HSE and the health sector to continue to roll out the national Healthy Ireland at your Library programme through the provision of book stock, online resources and series of public interest health promotion awareness and information events. |
| 57. | Work with Age Friendly Ireland under the auspices of the Age Friendly Libraries recognition process with a view to designating all Kerry libraries as Age Friendly. |
| 58. | Libraries will partner with the Department of Children, Equality Disability, Integration and Youth to fully develop the First Five Little Library initiative supporting all children aged 5 and under to become library members and users. |
| 59. | Actively engage with new partners to plan future projects and programmes that deliver on identified targeted service provision |

Strategic Objective 7: Marketing

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| 60. | Deliver a library marketing strategy that reflects the needs of the diversity of communities around the county and focuses on targeted and increased engagement with minority groups, current non-library users and new communities. |
| 61. | Put in place a local promotional marketing campaign to publicise the varied services offered by Kerry Library focusing on increasing library membership and library usage. |
| 62. | Engage with national initiatives aimed at the promotion of lifelong library usage. |
| 63. | Library staff will avail of sector provided annual training on marketing and communications. |
| 64. | In line with the libraries national strategy, hold an annual Library Open Day to showcase the library offer. |

Strategic Objectives 8 & 9

Actions 65 – 81

These deal with:

- (i) staff training, upskilling and professional library education
- (ii) measurement & evaluation of the Plan over the 5 years

STEPS

- Approved by the Culture, Heritage & Gaeltacht SPC (10 Nov. 2023)
- Presentation to Full Council (20 Nov. 2023)
- Launch Q1, 2024

