

WORKSHOP 3 – INTERIM REVIEW GROUP

The composition of the Interim Strategic Review Group reflects the diversity of people - from the creative sectors and the public sector agencies - operating across the County.

The purpose of the Interim Strategic Review Group is to inform the draft action plan, and reflect the common themes that emerged from the wider stakeholder engagement process. There are different perspectives, but a lot of common ground among the members of the review group. Feedback is invited again before finalising the Report for publication at a launch event in April.

The revised draft will seek to capture an appropriate balance in content and to provide a strategic plan that the wider stakeholders can support.

The team in the Local Enterprise Office and MCO really appreciate the work everyone put in to phone us, write to us and participate in the discussion at the workshop on 12th February. So the collaborative action has already started!

There are different audiences and uses for the Report, so the decision is to produce **two reports**:

1) A Summary Report on the Strategic Action Plan to communicate the overall aims, objectives and strategic framework for action – to raise awareness of this initiative within the County; and

2) A Detailed Strategic Action Plan Report that also provides the wider policy context and rationale for investment in the development of the creative sectors in Donegal – essentially a baseline of information that can be used to inform policy and development, for example for funding proposals or for potential partnerships in the North West, nationally, and internationally.

An update on the process so far will be sent to all stakeholders on the existing Local Enterprise Office database gathered at the outset of this initiative. The outputs of the three facilitated workshops will be put up on the Local Enterprise Office website, so the ideas for action are open to all to read and get in contact.

Summary of Workshop Outcome

Round Table Introduction

Taking a snapshot of the diverse public and creative sectors interest reflected by the Strategic Review Group members, individuals believed the Action Plan could:

- Support entrepreneurship in Donegal
- Enhance the value placed on the creative sector
- Audit, create a network and support creative sectors
- Positively influence decision makers
- Promote inter-relationships between agencies and policy
- Secure agency support for creative entrepreneurship
- Better profile Donegal creative excellence
- Harness the power of a network
- Support creative talent, student and skills in Donegal
- Support links to education
- Provide a starting place to inform a longer term delivery mechanism
- Encourage people to get involved and make it happen
- Enhance NW regional development and leverage opportunities
- Engage the diaspora and international connections

High Level Actions Agreed:

- Gaps identified and feedback received was presented by Eve-Anne Cullinan, MCO. The detail of the discussion to be incorporated into the Detailed Strategic Action Plan Report.
- The group agreed there was general support for the Strategic Action Plan initiative and agreed the 'learnings' presented in the Draft Action Plan should be adopted as Key Principles, with some edits as agreed at the meeting. This will be reflected in the revised Action Plan.
- Michael Tunney is to liaise with key stakeholders in agencies to develop opportunities for key partnerships and inter-agency actions.
- Attendees from the creative sectors agreed to further consider best ways to communicate and engage the sector widely and enable sector 'champions' to represent the sector in potential future partnerships.
- It was agreed that a structured approach to progress initial actions was required. Long term impact and developing the ideas for clusters is critical to a common purpose and gaining support on the ground from local people.

However, there should be a phased approach to establishing delivery mechanisms, so the early publication of the Action Plan in itself is one step in the process of delivery. The priority focus was what could be done now to enable start up actions to map, audit and engage the sector.

- The **Interim Strategic Review Group** can continue to help shape the priority actions – facilitated by the Local Enterprise Office - to provide a simple structure that is fit for purpose and realistic about what next steps could be done to progress opportunities.
- The **Mapping and Audit** is a priority action and needs financial and human resources pooled from the agencies - to inform longer term engagement, delivery mechanisms and partnerships. However the mapping is just one step in widely engaging public sector agencies and the creative sector in the longer term ideas for action. An event based approach to gathering the information at opportunities identified over the next 6 months can be harnessed to capture data.

Next Steps:

1. MCO to distil the feedback into the next Draft Action Plan for circulation to the Interim Strategic Review Group before publication at a launch in April.
2. The Local Enterprise Office to facilitate the establishment of a Creative Partnership focussed on pooling inter-agency and creative sector resources to deliver the proposed 7 projects for action.
3. The Creative Partnership to develop how the Mapping and Audit project could be delivered in collaboration with the Arts, Culture, Planning and Enterprise divisions of Donegal County Council, the Western Development Commission; LYIT; and Údarás na Gaeltachta.
4. The creative sectors can get on board by contributing their data to the Mapping at a series of events planned, harnessing the opportunity of existing festivals to:
 - Raise awareness of the initiative in the County
 - Engage the creative sector in the initiative
 - Effectively capture creative sector information for the mapping and audit project
5. The creative sector volunteers will explore how best to set up a sector-led Creative Network. Sector ‘champions’ would provide leadership through representation on the Creative Partnership, communication with the sector, facilitate news and information exchange through their networks.

6. A simple on-line platform is needed to share information – i.e. to update the sector on the initiative and to gather data for the Mapping and Audit project. The hosting and resourcing of a creative directory is to be resolved as part of the project for action.
7. Potential existing festivals to promote the initiative and start mapping:

Month	Event
March	LEO Enterprise Week
April	LYIT: DICE Northwest (Design / Innovation / Creativity / Enterprise)
June	The Allingham Project: DELVE (Demonstrate, Explore, Link, Vision & Evidence) Sea Sessions Surf and Music Festival
July	Earagail Arts Festival
September	Heritage Week
October	Donegal Bay and Bluestacks Festival
November	Allingham Festival Guth Gafa International Documentary Festival