



Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme



Rialtas Áitiúil Éireann
Local Government Ireland



Culture & Creativity Strategy

2023–2027



Offaly

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Rachel McKenna, Offaly Library Service, Pat Foley

Foreword

It is with great pleasure that we present Offaly's Culture and Creativity Strategy as part of Creative Ireland 2023- 2027 which comes at a very important time in our communities. It is clear to all that the past five years saw a time of great change which challenged all members of society in terms of our priorities and our ability to respond in a timely and innovative way to a series of unexpected challenges.

The ability of our communities to retain and indeed enhance their resilience during these times is in no small measure due to the brave and innovative nature of those communities, backed by a range of supports. The opportunities provided by the Creative Ireland Programme in Offaly allowed for speedy and timely interventions, providing support where projects could thrive and funding to promote engagement for new communities. The range of projects delivered over the past five years has been very impressive and far reaching.

Offaly County Council's Corporate Plan 2019 - 2024 reflects the importance of working with communities to "encourage and support active citizenship, volunteering and community activity". Offaly County Council's Culture and Creativity Team has worked to combine their resources and knowledge to provide a wide ranging programme of activities. The ability of this team to provide flexibility of programming during COVID-19 is a testimony to this readiness to adapt and respond, pivoting support to communities and responding to the new challenges that we face. Indeed, the connection to place and sharing of why this place is special has been, and will continue to be, particularly important as so many other parts of life around us shift with no known certainty. This strategy reflects Offaly's ambitions to build on

the experiences gained during the past five years and to broaden the reach and remit of our Creative Ireland Programme to every part of our county and every one of our citizens. We look forward to seeing the many projects and collaborations arising from Creative Ireland Offaly which will enrich our communities and our sense of belonging.

Offaly – space to grow, space to explore, space to innovate.

Frank Moran,
Cathaoirleach

Anna Marie Delaney,
Chief Executive



STEAM Engagement. Free Play
Lego, Offaly Library Service

1 Creative Ireland 2023–2027

The Creative Ireland Programme is an all-of-government initiative committed to enhancing access to, engagement with, and enjoyment of Ireland’s culture and creativity. Within the broad range of available definitions, creativity is considered as *a set of innate abilities and learned skills; the capacity of individuals and organisations to transcend accepted ideas and norms and by drawing on imagination to create new ideas that bring additional value to human activity.*

The vision of the Creative Ireland Programme 2023–2027 is to mainstream creativity in the life of the nation so that individually and collectively, in our personal lives and in our institutions, we can realise our full creative potential thereby promoting individual, community and national wellbeing.

The Creative Ireland Programme will deliver through collaboration and partnership promoting understanding and appreciation of the value of creativity in all its forms — whether through the arts, culture, heritage, or technology.

The Creative Ireland Programme will prioritise its work around five aspects for the period 2023–2027:

- Creative Youth
- Creative Communities
- Creative Industries
- Creative Health and Wellbeing
- Creative Climate Action and Sustainability

Through the Creative Ireland Programme, *Creative Communities* supports the partnership between the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and Ireland’s local authorities. This partnership enables citizens and communities to explore their culture and creativity at local level and, where appropriate, leverage that creativity to strengthen wellbeing, advance social cohesion and support economic development.

Creative Communities is also innovative in deploying creativity to achieve greater integration across targeted policy priorities. This has delivered new creative engagement initiatives in relation to for example children and young people, older persons, climate action, and local economies. Individuals and communities’ perception about the role and value of culture and creativity as central to our wellbeing in its broadest sense is being enhanced.

The opportunity embraced within the Offaly Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023–2027 is to support people’s participation, inclusion and expression within communities, and further strengthen local creative economies.



Tour of Gloster Folly, Heritage Week 2022. **Photograph:** Rachel McKenna

Clara Literary Festival, Clara Heritage Society

2 Culture and Creativity in Offaly

In 2020, a new brand was launched for Offaly County Council communicating the essence of ‘Space to Grow’ to embody the county’s openness, inclusiveness, quality of life, opportunity, and a sense of pride. With keywords such as innovative, adaptive, transformative, and facilitating, this sentiment and ambition should underpin the Culture and Creative Strategy.

Offaly has a population of almost 78,000. In terms of its enterprise profile, the number of active businesses in Offaly is 4,367, which employ 17,546 people. Offaly is a predominantly rural county and as such, a large proportion of the workforce is engaged directly in agriculture or agri-related businesses throughout the county. Importantly, 26% of these businesses operate in less conventional sectors, where emerging business clusters can often be found. These include Med-Tech, FinTech, ICT, and engineering employers such as Integra, Kelpak Medical and McDonald International. Professional services, scientific and technical activities, as well as various public service providers comprise the county’s other key economic pillars.

Offaly is also a growing hub for the Food & Drinks sector, with large employers like Tullamore Distillery, Carroll Meats, Glenisk and the artisan food producers based in Ferbane Food Campus. There are also emerging clusters of green energy technologies, film, creative industries, and design.

In terms of employment and skills, Offaly has a strong heritage of energy production and manufacturing. Employment in ESB and Bord na Móna resulted in generations of skilled fabricators. Many of those employees have gone on to create their own manufacturing businesses. The Brown to Green strategy and Accelerated Decarbonisation presents significant challenges to Offaly, but also opportunities to lead the way in the transition towards a low carbon, digital future.

Tourism is an important sector with county attractions including the many monastic sites, with the Clonmacnoise monastic site being the most visited, the peatland story with Clara and Ferbane raised bog walks, Lough Boora Discovery Park, Georgian Birr and Birr Castle, Gardens and Science Centre. The waterways traverse the county with the Grand Canal and its developing greenway connecting to the Shannon which is such a dominant feature of the west of the county.

In recent years through collaborations and competitive funding schemes, there have been significant advancements in the development of tourism projects such as Greenways and Mountain Bike Trails, Green Energy projects in North Offaly, ambitious public realm and streetscape enhancements, Science and Big Data projects in South Offaly, co-working hubs, and enhanced Wi-Fi and broadband projects throughout the county. Furthermore, a number of innovative projects have been awarded through the Government’s National Just Transition Fund.

Science, Industry and Art

Offaly is home to I-LOFAR. This Irish station is one of the largest radio telescopes in the world. Offaly County Council in partnership with Offaly Innovation & Design Centre CLG has received nearly €500,000 from the Enterprise Ireland Regional Development Fund to develop stream BIRR. This co-working hub leverages the big data generated from the I-LOFAR radio telescope and connects researchers and businesses in sectors using big data. These stream sectors include animation, astronomy, robotics, software, and telecoms. The skills of researchers and businesses will be augmented by training in Data Analytics & Visualisation, and Virtual/Augmented Reality.

Furthermore, LEO Offaly has identified Film, Media and Creative Industries as being of strategic importance for economic development



The Meadow, Birr Workhouse,
Photograph: Tina Claffey

in Offaly. LEO Offaly recognises the importance of a vibrant creative culture within a county, and that the interplay between creativity, community and business can result in direct and indirect economic development. A vibrant film sector can also enhance place-making (making a county more attractive for people to live in, and companies to invest), and can boost tourism and support a range of businesses.

LEO Offaly has supported Film Offaly, providing funding for marketing, workshops, attendance at a film festival, and market research. It has also supported Offline Film Festival's Animation Bursary Programme, providing enterprise and business development mentoring to the animators. The animators are based in stream BIRR. One of the animators, Jack O'Shea won a 2020 IFTA for Best Animation Short. LEO Offaly also liaised with colleagues in Offaly Libraries on the hugely successful ComiCom events, and with Offaly IT on the VEX Robotics Programme.

With an increasing focus on cross-sectoral collaboration, there are opportunities for creativity to enhance Offaly's key enterprise sectors. The Local Enterprise Office in Offaly partners with Offaly IT Department to run the VEX Robotics Programme as one of the objectives of the VEX Robotics is to ensure Offaly's youth have the skills needed for the jobs of the future. To highlight the growing use of robotics, business owners using robotics in their enterprises act as judges at the VEX Robotics Competition. The Business Development Manager at stream BIRR provides support to the VEX Robotics programme and provides a link between activities in stream BIRR and the I-LOFAR Education Centre.

Key Learnings from the First Five Years

Feedback from the Offaly Culture and Creativity Team's high-level review and the public engagement, endorsed the flexible programming, multi-disciplinary projects, collaboration and partnerships, inclusion and community reach which all thrived under the first five years of the Creative Ireland Programme.

The versatility of the programme was highlighted as being able to respond to every

changing circumstance, community needs, and opportunities, especially during the challenging years of the pandemic. This was considered a key strength of the programme. The Place-Making and Place-Based learning provided an important focus for the times we have been living through. The interdisciplinary nature of each project was highly rewarding and was considered very impactful. There was year-on-year wider engagement with community groups exploring their home place and their landscape and heritage through artist-led programmes. This led to the key recommendation for this to form a substantial element of the programming for the next five years. Working with communities in this way led to engagement right across the county, communities, and age groups.

There was an acknowledgement that Creative Ireland introduced a new climate change pillar and integrating the climate and biodiversity crisis into the community programming for the next five years was considered important. The library branch programming has provided anchors throughout the programme with facilitated workshops and engagement open to a wide range of the community.

The Team in Offaly

The Creative Ireland Culture and Creativity Team in Offaly brings together members of staff including the architect section, the arts office, the local enterprise office, the community section, the library service, and the heritage office. The programme is anchored in the Directorate of Housing, Community and Culture which facilitates programme opportunities to extend across the spectrum.

This collaboration of delivering joint projects with the communities across Offaly has been very productive. Offaly is a small council compared to many counties and this has the advantage of high levels of interaction and collaboration amongst the team.

Two members of the Offaly Culture and Creativity team are members of the Laois Offaly Education and Training Board Creative Ireland team. The Laois Offaly ETB was one of the pilot groups funded under the Creative Youth pillar. Working in this group has enabled the sharing of

information on programming for younger people and to maximise opportunities.

The Plan Process – developing the new five-year plan

In preparing this five-year plan, the Offaly Culture and Creativity Team commenced by reviewing the operation and delivery of the first five-year Creative Ireland strategy and cross referencing to the work on the Offaly Heritage Plan 2023-27; the Offaly Libraries Interim Development Plan 2022-23; the development of the Offaly Arts Infrastructure Plan (ongoing) and the development of the Offaly Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan 2022 -27 (ongoing), all set in the context of the work of the new Local Economic and Community Plan (ongoing).

The next step involved inviting communities and artists to participate in open discussions to share the learnings from the last five years and to view opportunities for the next five years. This was an open invitation issued through the Public Participation Network and by direct invitation to those who had been involved with delivering projects. These meetings were scheduled in mid-September for each municipal district with an additional evening zoom meeting. In all, 37 people took part in these discussions. The input of the Strategic Policy Committee at the end of September was then taken on board before drafting the final plan.

The following case studies set out Offaly projects where interdisciplinarity, innovation, and collaboration have been at the core:

Lough Boora Sculpture Park and Birr Courthouse – a Council-led strategic approach

Offaly's Creative Ireland Strategy has, to date, enabled and encouraged a research approach to project planning which is both long-term and developmental. The next five year strategy will draw from the learnings that have informed an ongoing commitment to use creativity as a strategic tool to deliver for the county. The development of Lough Boora Sculpture Park is one such example.

Offaly County Council are committed to explore ways to reach the full potential of the Sculpture Park for local residents and regional, national and international visitors, alike.

Offaly County Council, with their partner organisation Bord Na Móna, acknowledge that the development of Lough Boora Sculpture Park requires multiple partners and stakeholders to enable the change that is required. Thus, the Creative Ireland Strategy provides for the development of a framework that will enable a working partnership between central and local government and our local culture and creative sectors that will support environmental, social, and economic returns that help deliver local authority agendas – from local and regional, to national and international. To this end, Offaly's Creative Ireland programme has supported work within Offaly County Council to research and explore opportunities for cross-sectoral partnerships through tourism, heritage, culture, and industry that will work towards a sustainable model of operation for the Sculpture Park into the future.

Similarly, the Creative Ireland programme has supported a number of strategic community initiatives. Such initiatives feed into the extensive collaborations of groups within the town, for example as part of the Birr Festivals Collective – all activities have the aim of using *“creativity as a catalyst for collaboration and innovation in achieving greater wellbeing, social cohesion, and economic development”* for the town.

In Birr, activities have been supported in the development of the Birr Courthouse project, which is currently under review as a potential creative hub within the town. Community groups have been supported through Creative Ireland in the hosting of events in the outer courtyard to highlight the space and its potential as a creative place. This also feeds into the support provided to the town through the provision of funding for an annual Animation Residency. Work has been taking place over the last five years to establish Birr as a hub for the making of film and animation. The residency which brings national and international animators to live and work in the town for six months, is thus an excellent example of a project that supports



The Geashill Pig by Luke Carson.
Photograph: Pat Foley

“social, cultural and economic returns that help deliver local authority agendas – from local and regional, to national and international”.

The following section sets out three case studies from community-led projects.

Poet Egan and Geashill

Poet Edward Egan was from the Meelaghans, near Geashill and he wrote poetry at the turn of the last century. The Creative Ireland project has facilitated a focus on Poet Egan and his poetry by developing a specific but broad project led by Geashill Tidy Towns. This included a multiannual national schools project working with the contemporary poet John Cummins and publishing a broadsheet of the children’s poetry; the partnership with stone carver Ciaran Byrne who spent a week in the village Green carving a verse of Egan’s poetry into a limestone paving stone and which is now set into the pavement as a streetscape feature in Geashill; working with historian Michael Byrne of Offaly History and researchers Tim and Anne O’Rourke collating and selecting fifty of Egan’s poems along with writing historical notes to provide context for them which were published in 2020. Following a pause for COVID-19, the book was launched with excerpts read at a Heritage Week event in 2022. The Poet Egan project was central to the Pride of Place presentation made by Geashill Tidy Towns in the Creative category in August 2022. This project has played an important role in documenting and featuring the work of the poet while also introducing poetry to a new audience.

The River Brosna Relay - Connecting Communities

The river Brosna flows from Mullingar to the Shannon passing through 7 towns and villages in Westmeath and Offaly. The project started off as a concept of a relay to connect the communities along the length of the river, now this has evolved into a strategic Green Infrastructure approach to physically connect communities along the banks for recreation, amenity. It has also evolved to encompass cultural and natural heritage with the

cultural aspects being handed up and down the river in events and workshops in the communities and on site.

To date, Creative Ireland is supporting this through projects that tap in to the musical and literary creativity of the locality. In addition, Offaly and Westmeath are both supporting the publication of a book on the landscape of the Brosna catchment researched by John Feehan. A feature of the river is the heavy impact of the drainage schemes of the 1950s altering water levels, draining the Brosna callows, and inserting large drainage ditches which means it is not possible to walk the river banks nowadays for any length. As a result, the communities along the Brosna are not connecting by river or bank traffic. A number of people decided to try and change this and a range of collaborative projects have commenced supported by the Creative Ireland programme. These include working with composer Carole Nelson who travelled to many parts of the river in 2021, meeting communities. She then composed the *Brosna Suite* which was performed with members of the Ferbane community in 2021 and as part of the *Clara Literary and Arts Festival* in 2022. In 2022 Carole led a workshop called *A Song for a Bridge* working with the community to mark the old railway bridge crossing the Brosna in Ferbane. The *Clara Literary and Arts Festival* invited representatives from Ballycumber, Pollagh and Ferbane to contribute to their weekend festival in August 2022. This community led, artist collaboration exploring the river is an ongoing project. The feedback from the project has been an opportunity for the artists to improve skills for community workshops and the participants have been able to develop and hone their music and song writing skills. For the community groups, they have had useful experience in putting the ideas together and managing the projects – and that finally the visibility of the heritage of the river has improved.

The Birr Workhouse Burial Ground & The Meadow project led by Offaly Drama Project group

“Everyday life folding into once lived lives, one story becoming another”, The Meadow

“How could we remember the thousands of lost souls who were buried in unmarked graves at the rear of Birr Workhouse?”

This was a question posed by the Offaly Drama group. They wanted to remember them with dignity and provide a long term legacy.

The first decision was to manage the graveyard as a wildflower meadow that will continue growing long after the project is finished. Then in 2020 the group started to engage with composer Tom Lane who worked with the Birr Choral Society on developing a composition that would be sung in the meadow.

Artists Fiona Breen and Caelan Bristow collaborated to design a performance piece that would take the audience on a metaphorical journey through the burial ground. Botanist and member of the Tidy Towns, Fiona Devery, recorded 69 species of wildflowers growing in the meadow. Seed was gathered by hand from close by Birr Castle meadow to increase the variety of species. Photographer Tina Claffey documented the wildflowers in her inimitable style, each tiny flower a new wonder under her lens.

COVID-19 struck mid-project and the project was reconfigured, anchored by Tom Lane's composition as the foundation of a site-specific sound installation to be part of Birr Festival of Voice and Music in August 2021. A call was put out to the community for singers and Tom began to record them remotely. Tom also recorded singers Ann Hogan, John Molloy, and Pascal Kennedy from as far afield as Edinburgh and Hungary. Historians Margaret Hogan and Brian Kennedy were interviewed by Tom Lane and Fiona Breen of the Offaly Drama Project. Brendan Farrell, a very talented soundscape designer joined The Meadow team and his ability to riff between all the elements, music and spoken word was magic to behold.

The result was The Meadow, which took place in the Birr Workhouse burial ground on 21 August 2021. It was a dry summer's day with the audience sitting on square bales. All four performances of The Meadow were booked out.

The wildflower meadow continues to grow and be managed by Offaly County Council with the cutting of the perimeter paths, allowing people access while still respecting the burial ground.



Detail of Saint Manchán's shrine, Boher Church. **Photograph:** Kevin O'Dwyer



Kinnitty Suspension Bridge, conserved 2021. **Photograph:** Rachel McKenna

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The Creative Ireland Vision for Offaly

Offaly County Council's Culture and Creativity Ireland team is committed to delivering a responsive and all-inclusive cultural and creative programme as its vision for County Offaly. We are committed to the vision that every person in Offaly should have the opportunity and supports to realise her or his full creative potential.

The period 2023 – 2027 will retain the strategic focus of a strong Culture and Creativity team, experienced in developing partnerships, cultural opportunity and creative activity that align best with the strategic priorities of Offaly County Council. We will embed a strategic focus on sustainability, positive climate and biodiversity actions, and promote a continued and determined focus on reaching out to include new and socially excluded communities within Offaly.

It is recognised that to position Offaly as a leader in creativity, there is a need to encourage and facilitate activities that foster the cultural economy, support social cohesion, and harness creativity to generate new skills, innovation and experiences. At a time of great change and in recognition of the national focus on the health of towns and town centre living, broad explorations of our 'sense of place' and what is distinctive about Offaly will remain a key focus of our *Creative Communities* engagement.

By 2027, it is envisaged that our communities will be even more enthusiastically engaged with culture and creativity in Offaly; making, consuming and participating in a wide range of creative activities. Innovations in technological tools and digital expression will provide once unimaginable accessibility for our communities to express, showcase and reflect back in various ways the richness of Offaly's cultural life and identity. Ultimately, the Culture and Creativity team in Offaly look forward to the next period of culture created by community enabled by Offaly County Council.

4

How the Creative Ireland Programme Works Principles and Values of Creative Communities

Creative Communities will continue to support local authorities as a wellbeing strategy through:

- **Policy** — Working in partnership across government supporting local authorities to deliver relevant local, regional, and national policies and priorities;
- **Practice** — Flexible, cross-cutting Culture and Creativity Teams providing an agile and adaptable approach central to the delivery of *Creative Communities* as it addresses locally-relevant priorities;
- **Participation** — Providing more opportunities for people to engage with and enjoy culture and creativity at local level in ways that underpin equality of access; and
- **Partnership** — Between central and local government, and Offaly County Council and our local culture and creative sectors.

This approach is based on addressing a shared, strategic agenda while delivering on the challenges and opportunities unique to each local authority area.

The *Creative Communities* partnership will be delivered in line with the following principles and values:

1. Broaden access to, and participation in, cultural and creative activities locally.
2. Use culture and creativity as a catalyst for collaboration and innovation in achieving greater wellbeing, social cohesion, and economic development.
3. Strengthen the capacity of local authorities to integrate culture and creativity across place-making, regeneration, renewal, and the development of more vibrant, creative, and sustainable places.
4. Investing in culture and creativity to support environmental, social, and economic returns that help deliver local authority agendas – from local and regional, to national and international.
5. Build on the agility and integrated approach of Culture and Creativity Teams to sustain further delivery of targeted collaborative programmes.

5 The Strategic Priorities for Offaly County Council

The Offaly Culture and Creativity team has identified five strategic priorities that are specific to the county, the selection of which is based upon a recognition of the areas of focus that have been identified as strategic and that will be developmental, building upon the successes and learnings observed from outcomes of the previous strategy. In this regard, of importance is the long-term impact that will strengthen wellbeing and cohesive support of the community, while enabling creativity and cultural acknowledgement and respect for the place that is Offaly.

The five priorities are:

- Enabling and Empowering Communities
- Building Capacity
- Art, Science, and Industry
- Climate and Biodiversity
- A Sense of Place

Implementation

The implementation of this strategic approach is key. The priorities selected therefore both compliment and add value to existing council strategies aimed at developing “Social, Economic and Culture Impact through Creativity”. As such, this strategy will continue to deliver programming that is cross-departmental and will continue to demonstrate the success of collaborative programming.

Enabling and Empowering Communities

Within this priority, communities are located across a geographical spread of the whole county and across a range of demographics, and communities of interest. The purpose of this priority over the next five years will be to continue to enable communities to recognise the strength they hold by coming

together through creativity. This plan sets out to empower individuals and communities to strive for and achieve ambitious and imaginative projects that stretch their horizons, while at the same time fixing their ideas within their locality and relevancy of their own and the community’s daily lives.

Building Capacity

The concept of this strategy is founded upon the learning gained from the delivery of the previous five-year strategy. There is an acknowledgement within the Culture and Creativity Team that individuals and communities need support in developing their ideas from concept to project delivery. This strategy will therefore allow for the development of phased programming for longer-term developmental projects. Examples of the success of such an approach can be seen in some of the case studies referred to in this strategy, such as the research and publication that led to the conservation of follies and The Brosna Relay project which is linking communities and evolving year-on-year.

Art, Science, and Industry

The area of collaboration in terms of research, concept and synergies across the disciplines of the Arts, Sciences, and Industry continues to grow. Many creatives are adopting new and ambitious trans-disciplinary methodologies and practices. Offaly’s Creative Ireland projects to-date have seen the impact of connectivity between the disciplines, described and demonstrated in the case studies within this document. This priority will expand upon the success of this connectivity and will, therefore, also broaden the socio-economic and cultural potentials of the programme and the potentials of cross-departmental and agencies working within the county of Offaly.



Offaly Library Service Comic Con Day at Tullamore Library

Climate and Biodiversity

The next five years will embed sustainability, positive climate, and biodiversity actions with a determined, continued focus to reach out to include and involve new communities. The strategy will enable continued exploration of existing developmental frameworks, such as Lough Boora Sculpture Park, but will also encourage new ambitious programme initiatives that encourage communities to explore the significance of climate and biodiversity as it relates to their own lives and environments.

At a time of great change and with a national focus on the health of towns and town centre living, the exploration of a wide range of aspects of our sense of place and an understanding of what is distinctive about this will remain as a key focus. The strategy will engage with individuals and communities across a broad range of practices to encourage ambitious and high quality creative projects that are founded on the principles of Place-Making or Place-Based learning, that will impact positively on an awareness of home, place, landscape, and heritage through artist-led programmes, leading to the further development of vibrant, creative, and sustainable places for the benefit of all communities.

6 Implementation by the Offaly Culture and Creativity Team

Offaly has a Culture and Creativity Team in place to guide and oversee implementation of this Strategy.

The Culture and Creativity Teams are the cornerstone of Creative Communities across all 31 local authorities in Ireland. These teams bring together a significant range and level of expertise and, in many cases, include professionals from architecture, archives, the arts, climate action, community, enterprise and environmental development, heritage, information and communication technologies, Irish language, libraries, spatial planning, tourism and more. This depth of technical expertise affords each local authority a level of insight, resources and delivery experience, which few other public or private sector organisations can match.

The role of this team is to:

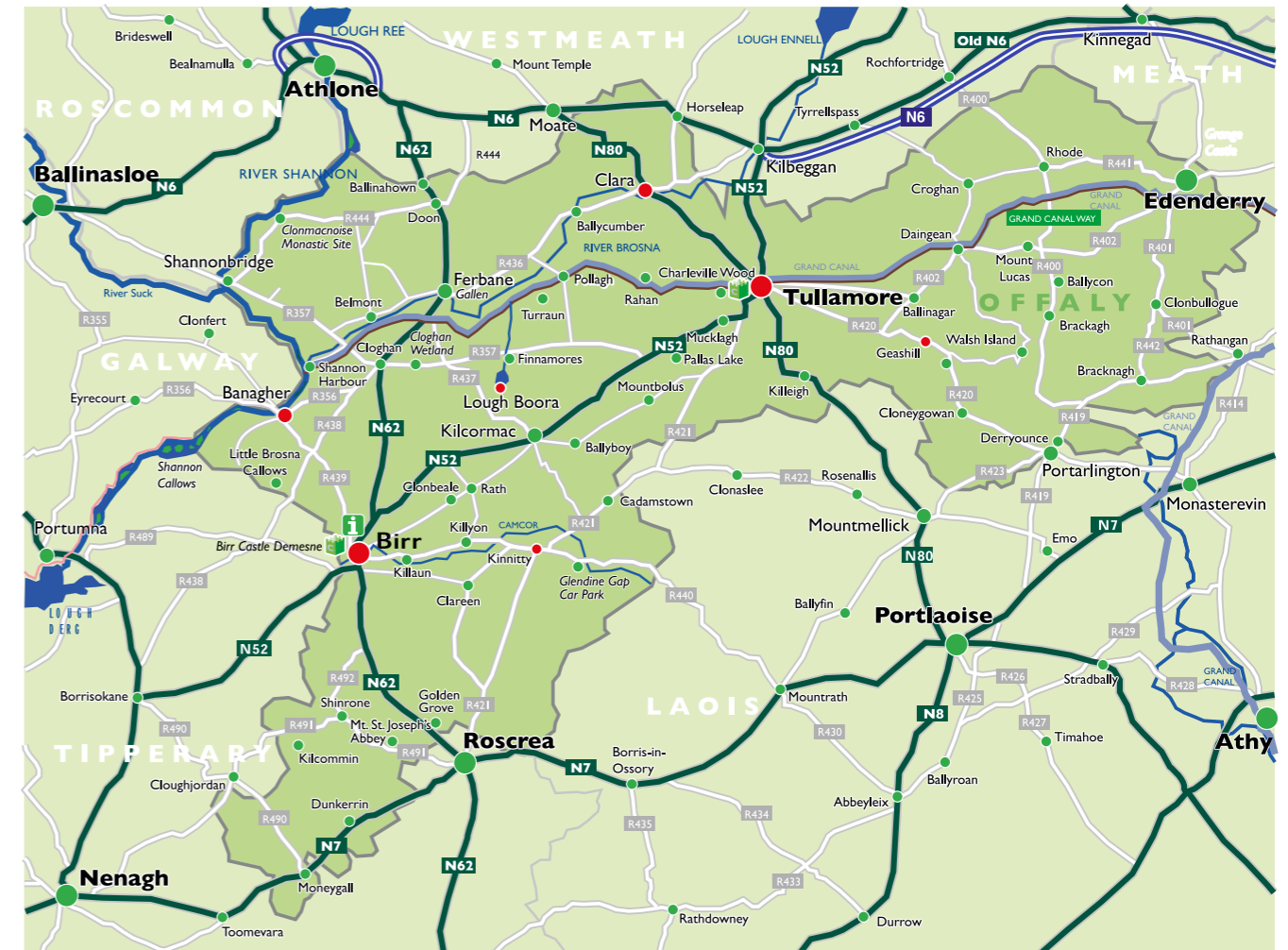
- Provide a collective forum for the ambition of culture and creativity within the local authority;
- Focus on diversity and inclusivity and enable harder to reach communities to participate in cultural and creative activities;
- Build on existing in-house expertise and strategies across areas of wellbeing, social cohesion and economic development to leverage culture and creativity to deliver on targeted local authority agendas;
- Enable a shift in how the cultural and creative sector is valued within and across local authorities and ensure that culture and creativity is embedded across local authority plans, policies and project teams;

- Drive cross-collaborative actions that support change and positive outcomes locally, and potentially between local authorities at regional level; and
- Be innovative and take risks – try new projects and new ways of working.


These structures and processes are a critical success factor that will enable Creative Communities to deliver on strategic priorities for Offaly.


The delivery of the Strategy is led by the Director of Services for Housing, Community and Culture and the members of the Culture and Creativity Team for Offaly include the Director, heritage officer, arts officer, county librarian, architect, local enterprise officer and community and culture administrative officer.


Map of Offaly



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CREATIVE IRELAND

*Inspiring and transforming people,
places and communities through creativity.*