



Kilkenny County Council  
Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh

*Kilkenny*

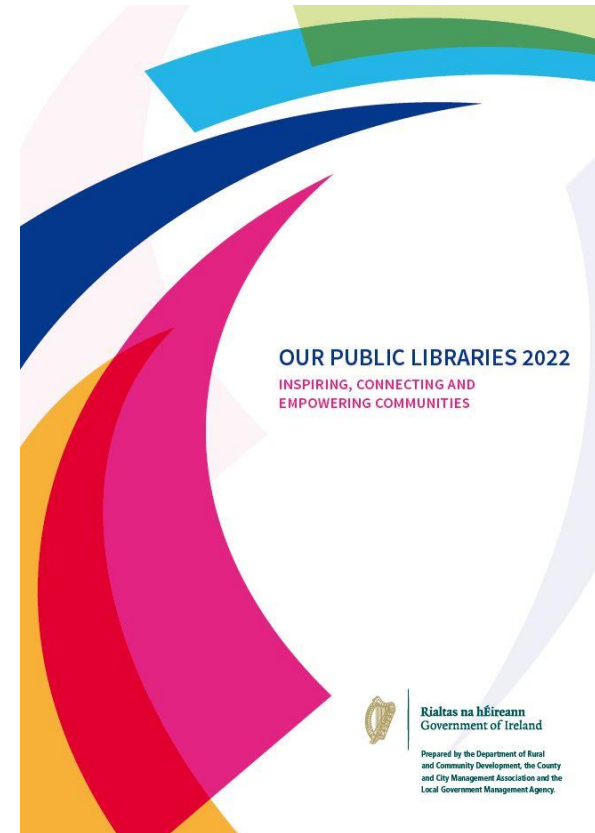
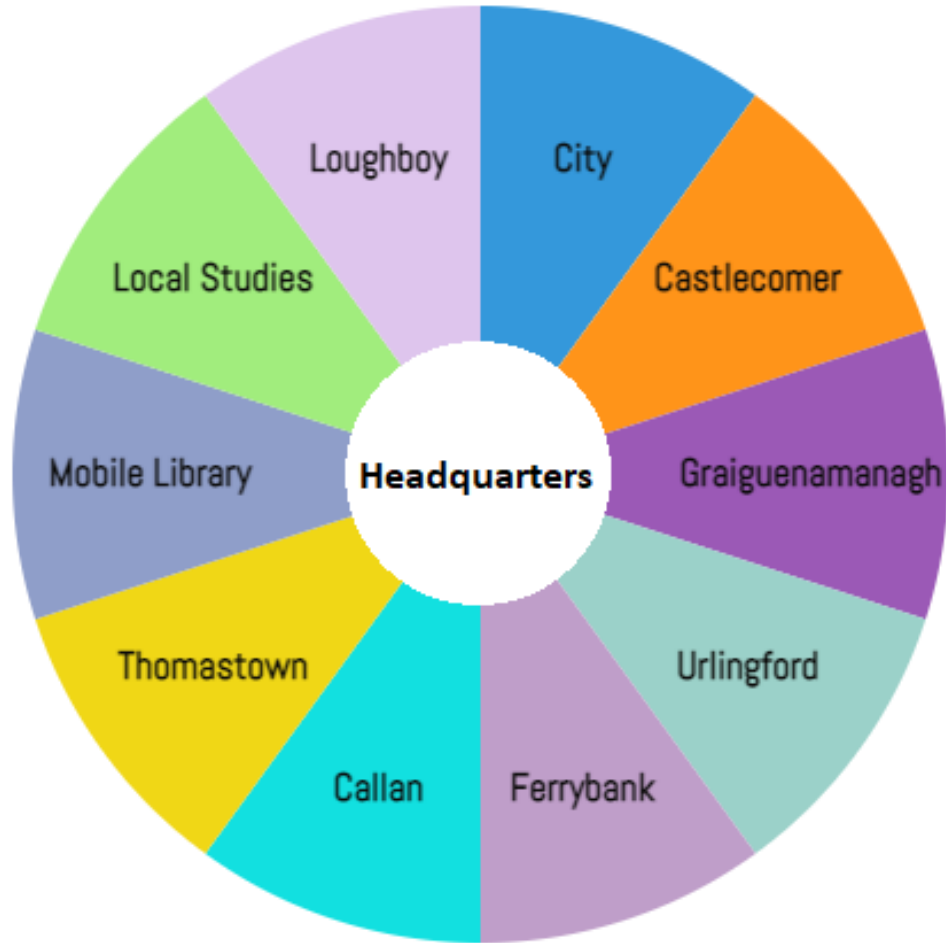
# KILKENNY

Kilkenny County Council Library Service  
Opportunities, Challenges and Sustainability  
April 2022



where medieval meets modern

# Library Services



## Kilkenny County Council Cultural Strategy Arts, Heritage and Libraries 2018–2022



# A level playing field for all

## 2021 Metrics



**125,523**

Books borrowed



**24,516**

eAudiobooks  
borrowed



**16,576**

eBooks borrowed



**66,453**

eNewspapers  
borrowed



**6,968**

Door to Door  
books delivered



**85,847**

Video views

*Thanks for the February Virtual Storytime. It's a lovely resource and will be appreciated here. Also, well done to the Library Service for the ASD resources available on loan to us all. Greatly appreciated.  
Principal Freshford NS*

*I wish to express our sincere thanks to all responsible for organising the delivery of books, which we gratefully received today..... A service like this, in these dark and strange times, is greatly appreciated.  
God bless you all!*

*Christy and Thomas, Callan*

**Free**

**Safe**

**Trusted**

# Value for Money

Local Authority Budget: 93 Million

Spend on Library: 3 million – 3%

The book spend per capita is currently at €1.34

National target: €4

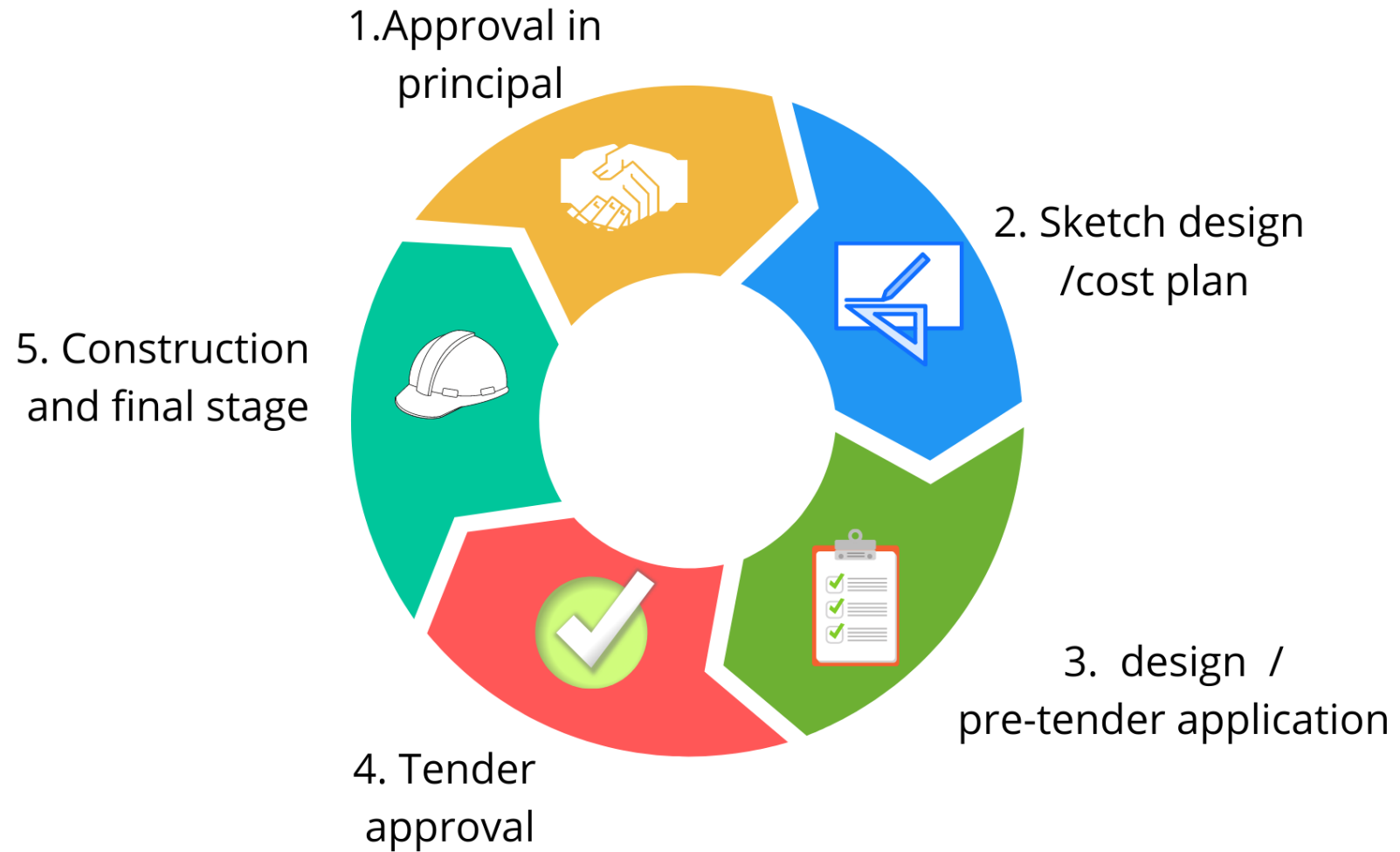
€650,000 to sustain buildings, vehicles, stock, ICT, Programming, Health and Safety and events.



# Infrastructure

Branch	Year built	Square meters	Current update
Callan	1970s	75	Feasibility study to be completed
Castlecomer	1999	297	Internal space revamped
Ferrybank	2012	312	Ongoing maintenance
Graigenamanagh	1988	377	Roof repaired 2021 Windows replaced 2022
Carnegie Library	1910	280	New Library underway
Loughboy	1981	278	Refurbished 2018
Thomastown	1970's	109	New Library planned
Urlingford	1996	140	Essential maintenance underway
Mobile	11 years old		Replacement application to be submitted - 100% funded
Local Studies		Located in HQ	Unsuitable location

# Capital Project Process



# Current Capital Development

## Mayfair



## Thomastown



Current		Q1 2023
280sqm	➔	1500 sqm
1 floor	➔	2 floors
5 staff	➔	9 staff
34.5 hours	➔	48 hours per week
		My Open Library

Current		Q1 2024
109 sqm	➔	685 sqm
1 floor	➔	2 floors
2 staff	➔	4 staff
22 hours	➔	38 hours per week
		My Open Library

Capital investment sharply increases library visits, items borrowed and attendance at events.

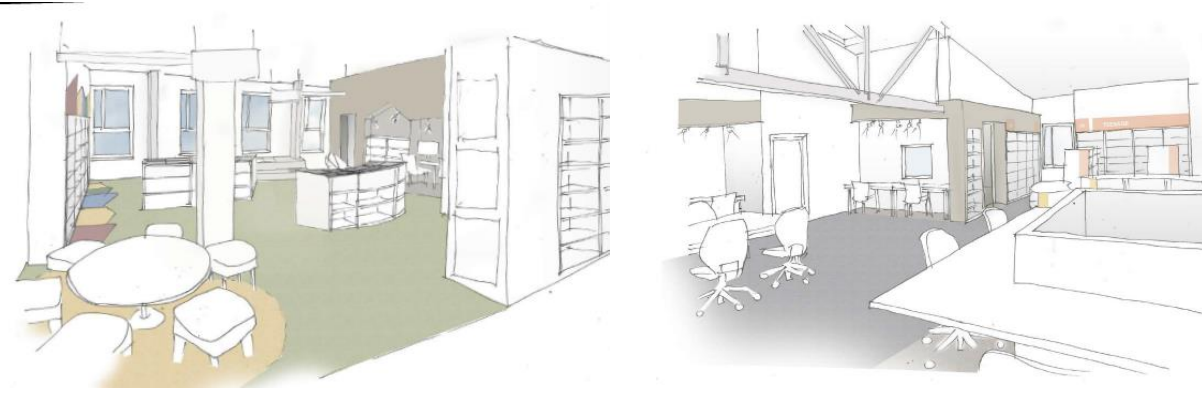
# Where we are at - Mayfair



- Contractor on site & progress
- Monthly meetings with Dept. re progress and finance
- Regular review of expenditure and allocation to ensure spend is on target
- 2022 Quarter 2 : Purchase, catalogue and process new stock
- 2022 Quarter 3 : Change management, plan to vacate Carnegie Library
- 2022 Quarter 4: Fit out and shelving, stock, furniture, ICT, Health and Safety, building handover, marketing and publicity
- 2023 Quarter 1 : Library opens



# Where we are at – Thomastown and Callan



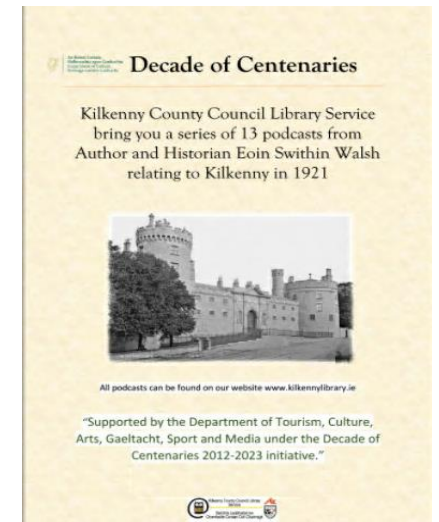
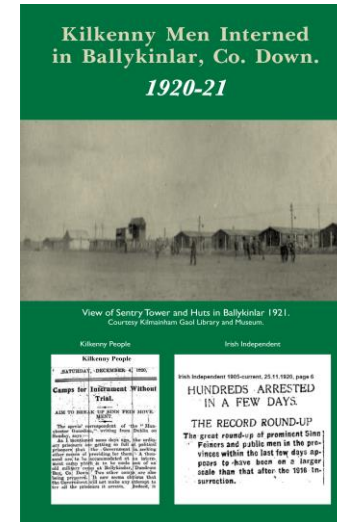
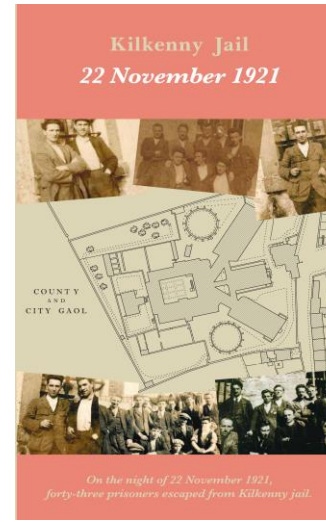
## Thomastown:

- 2022 Quarter 4: Commence Construction
- 2023 Quarter 3 : Completion

## Callan

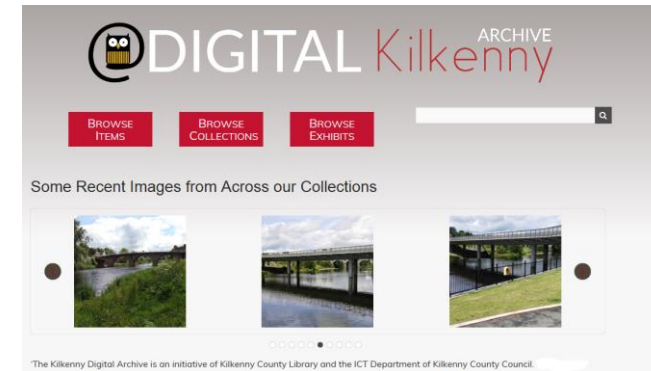
- Feasibility study
- Development of stage 1 application

# Carnegie Library



- Assessment of building in line with conservation requirements

Potential for development of local studies services



# Our Library Service

Increase in costs:

- Stock
- Staff
- Operational cost
- ICT
- My Open Library

Increase in usage:

- Footfall
- Events
- Stock borrowed



A space for our communities

# Programming and Initiatives

Health and Wellbeing



Healthy Ireland  
at your Library

beatainefestival  
celebrating creativity in older age

First5  
LittleLibrary  
An Leabharlann Bheag



OWL  
The Oral, Words and  
Language Programme

Reading and Literacy

Right to Read  
at your Library

Aistear

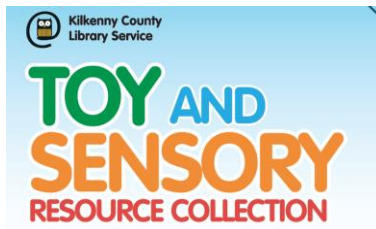
Climate Action



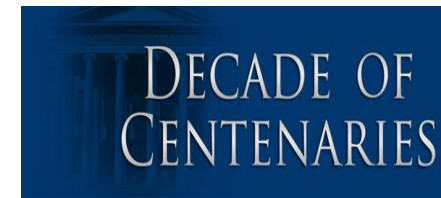
Economic Development



Sensory



Culture and  
Creativity



Digital Access and Digital Literacy

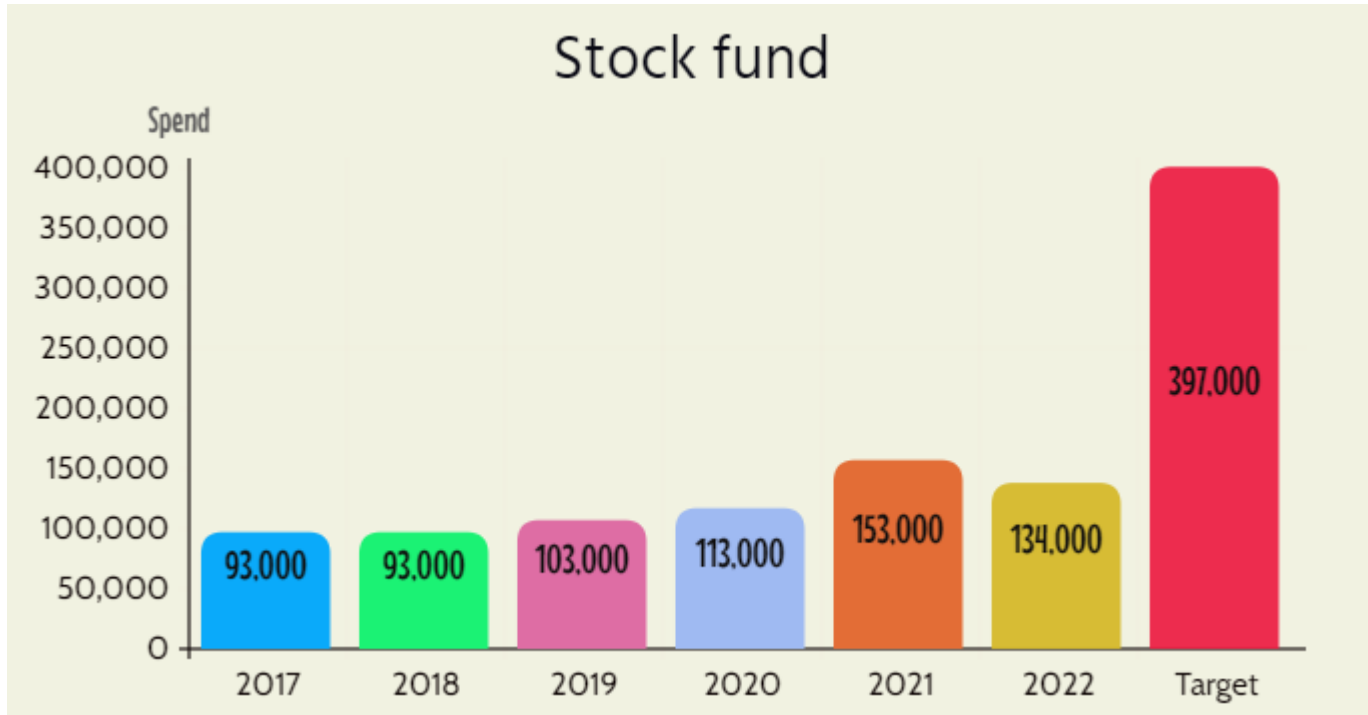


Social Inclusion



New initiatives: Virtual Book Club, Door to Door Service, Slí na Scéalta, Schools Resources, Monthly Podcasts  
Funding we received from Dormant Accounts Fund and Creative Ireland has allowed us to expand our programme to develop our sensory resources, OWLs Literacy programme and online programming.

# Building our collections



Stock budget is invested in:

- Literacy collection
- Local Studies
- Newspapers
- Audiobooks
- Film
- Music
- Suitable stock for all ages

We estimate there will be 50,000 items on shelves in the Mayfair library at any given time.  
There are currently 16,121 in the City Library.

# Workforce

Numbers	Bodies
Existing	39 (FTE 36.57)
Required Numbers	43
<b>Plus:</b>	
Mayfair	+2
Thomastown	+2
Callan	+3
<b>Total:</b>	<b>50</b>

# The Public Library Offer

Excellent Return on Investment



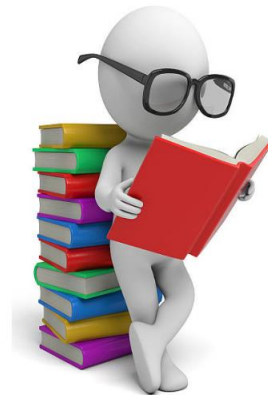
Supporting Cultural and Community Vitality

Serving the Whole Community Equitably



Digital Spaces and Supports

Accessible  
Welcoming and  
Inclusive



Valuable  
Employment Support

Ongoing support for  
Education and  
Literacy Development

Access to  
Government Services  
and eGovernment



If it is right that schools should be maintained by the whole community for the well-being of the whole, it is right also that libraries should be so maintained.

- Andrew Carnegie