



**Report on the delivery of infrastructure for cultural space as set out in Goal 6 of the Local Economic and Community Plan 2016 – 2021 (LECP)**

In the development of infrastructure for artists workspaces/studios the Assistant Chief Executive asked the City Arts Officer to convene a Working Group consisting of The Arts Council, Department of Arts, Heritage and Culture and the Planning and Property Development Department.

The working group consists of Orlaith McBride, Director of The Arts Council, Claire Doyle, Head of Visual Arts, The Arts Council, Paul Clegg Executive Manager Planning and Property Development, Mary Conway, Senior Planner, Mary Nash Department of Arts, Heritage and Culture and Ray Yeates, City Arts Officer.

This group has met twice and agreed its purpose:-

***To share knowledge, intelligence and working practice from each organisation in such a way as to inform common approaches to the use, development and funding (both capital and revenue) of new or already existing buildings that are suitable or intended for cultural or artistic use in Dublin. The Working Group will identify agreed principles, best practice, and new approaches that lead to a clearer understanding of how best to approach Cultural Development in Dublin within the City Development Plan, Arts Council and National Policy.***

The group acknowledged that a crisis exists in the provision and availability of artist workspaces and studios due to the closure or sale of key studios providers such as Broadstone Studios. The Visual Arts community have organised and made proposals to Government and the high rents and lack of suitable properties has been highlighted.

The conversations have moved to assessing two areas:

1. Re purposing of existing buildings in public ownership
2. Studio provision in new developments.

To this end a site in Weaver Park has been identified as having potential and the Assistant Chief Executive will head up a joint feasibility study of this site. It is hoped to commence this study in September.

Although large scale new developments housing up to 60 artists are being proposed, opportunity exists in small scale 'above the shop' properties for which tax relief is available.

The City Arts Office has briefed the Assistant Chief Executive for Planning and he will examine the work of the Group to see what initiatives can be taken. Mary Conway, Senior Planner has briefed other City Planners to look at opportunities in new Developments.

**Ray Yeates,  
City Arts Officer.**