

# Expressions of Interest for the provision of a new Library in Aughrim Town Centre.

Wicklow County Council is seeking Expressions of Interest (Eoi) for the provision a new Public Library (approx. 200m<sup>2</sup>) in Aughrim Town Centre. The existing Library in Aughrim is currently unfit for purpose and due to a range of issues encountered with the current library site and plans to build thereon, Wicklow County Council have now taken the decision to acquire a new Library building in Aughrim by way of direct purchase or design build.

The goal is to create a vibrant, modern community library space that meets the diverse needs of the residents and promotes literacy, education, and community engagement. To be of interest to the Council, the new library must deliver the following key qualities, listed in order of importance;

- Be located in a central, fully accessible location in Aughrim town, to allow residents of all ages and abilities to visit the library conveniently, whether by foot, bicycle, or public transport.
- Be located close to Local Schools, to facilitate educational partnerships and class visits and provide a convenient stop for students and parents on their way to and from school, fostering a culture of lifelong learning and literacy within the community
- Have space on the site for a Sensory Garden, to promote biodiversity and environmental awareness. The site should offer ample space for the development of this green area, creating a relaxing outdoor space for activities and events for visitors of all ages to the library.
- Have adequate Parking and Delivery Access: Practical functionality is essential, and we require a site with sufficient clearance to accommodate vehicular access for customer parking and deliveries.
- Consideration of any proposals to satisfy this call for Eoi will also consider value for money by reference to the established budget, inclusive of all costs including all fees, fit-out, VAT etc.

Design and Construction Standards must at a minimum meet the requirements of all relevant statutory planning and building control requirements.

Wicklow County Council have previously progressed a Part 8 process to develop a new library at the site of the existing library, details of which can be found on the Wicklow.ie website under "Planning", file reference 22 788. The documents displayed as part of that process indicate the level of ambition of Wicklow County Council, and would be indicative of the design standard that would be acceptable to Wicklow County Council.

Wicklow County Council's preference is for acquisition of a completed building either existing or to be constructed to achieve the required objective.

The following will be used in the assessment of any proposals submitted:-

- Property Location
- Planning Status
- Value for money
- Compliance with the Planning & Building Regulations
- Timescale for delivery
- Financial Capacity of the proposer
- Quality of Design and Construction

An 'Expressions of Interest' Application Form is available from the Senior Executive Officer, Climate Environment Recreation and Amenity, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Station Road, Wicklow or can be requested by phone 0404 20236 or email [env@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:env@wicklowcoco.ie). Copies of the form are also available on the Council website at <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/ConsultationHub>

Expressions of Interest forms should be submitted to Wicklow County Council, Station Road, Wicklow Town in a sealed envelope clearly marked “**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST – Aughrim Library**”.

Wicklow County Council is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act. If you consider that the information supplied by you is either commercially sensitive or confidential in nature, this would be highlighted and the reasons for its sensitivity specified. In such cases, the relevant material will, in response to FOI requests, be examined in light of exemptions provided for the FOI Act.

Submissions must be received not later than **4pm on Wednesday 18th September 2024**. Wicklow County Council is not obliged to purchase any development submitted as part of this process.

Dated this, Tuesday 20th August 2024

Michael McNamara  
A/Senior Executive Officer  
Climate Environment Recreation and Amenity