

Waterford joins the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC)



Waterford has been designated a UNESCO Learning City and been invited to join the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities. The UNESCO Learning City Designation recognises good practices in promoting quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all. This achievement of Learning City status follows the collaborative work of Waterford City and County Council, Kilkenny County Council, the Southern Regional Assembly, SETU, Waterford Chambers and the ETBs in preparing an application to UNESCO, setting out the ambition and commitment in Waterford to fostering lifelong learning opportunities for all its citizens.

As a member of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities, Waterford can grow and develop as a recognised city of learning and build upon the strong stakeholder commitment and political support of the Learning City Initiative. The Designation of Waterford as a UNESCO Learning City is strongly supported by regional policy and advances the ambition set out in the Southern Regional Assembly's Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy to develop Waterford City as a UNESCO Learning City, joining Limerick and Cork City as part of a network of Learning Cities and to develop the entire Southern Region as a UNESCO Learning Region.

Mayor of Waterford City and County, Cllr. Joe Conway said, "As Mayor I would like to express how proud we are to be joining the UNESCO Learning Cities family. One of the most significant things about this network is the strong emphasis on life-long learning, and that is something that we in Waterford as a council, and as a city will strive to consolidate and promote for the people of Waterford." He added, "Myself, my council colleagues, and the people of the city have a great and unwavering belief in the importance of learning ... from the cradle to the grave. We will do everything we can to be vibrant members of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities and assure you of our great commitment and support."

On receiving news of the UNESCO Designation, Cathaoirleach of the Southern Regional Assembly, Terry Shannon said: "I want to commend the great collaboration of all involved in making this commitment for Waterford to become a UNESCO Learning City. Becoming a Learning City will help achieve progress in disadvantaged areas and marginalised communities and will develop our knowledge, innovation and strong skills base our future."

The designation of Waterford as a UNESCO Learning City has also been welcomed and commended by Waterford Members of the Southern Regional Assembly, Cllr Tom Cronin, Cllr Thomas Phelan and Cllr Conor D. McGuinness.