Mairead Owens was appointed Dublin City Librarian on 1 April 2019. She joined the City Council from Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (DLRCC) where she had been County Librarian for ten years.

Mairead brings with her a wealth of experience, notably the development of the internationally acclaimed dlr LexIcon, the central library and cultural centre in Dún Laoghaire.

A non-conventional employment background brought Mairead to DLRCC as a temporary librarian in 2002. Within six years she was Country Librarian. After university in the mid-eighties, Mairead worked as a business information librarian for the state venture capital company, the National Development Corporation. She later joined the National Gallery where she was responsible for corporate sponsorship and development.

Mairead then worked with charity Co-operation Ireland, the cross border peace project. She later joined Dublin City University (DCU) as Director of Development, where she established the Alumni Office and secured charitable status for the university in America. She subsequently took up a position at Dublin Chamber of Commerce as Director of Marketing and Membership. In 2002 Mairead returned to librarianship.

Her vision is to foster a ‘transformative and vibrant library service that touches every community in the city. She manages a network of 21 libraries across the city and the construction of a new city library for Dublin is underway. Mairead is passionate that Dublin City Libraries will create a model and inspiration for public libraries nationally and internationally.