**Minutes of Galway City Council**

**Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Culture SPC Meeting**

**held on Thursday 14th December 2017 at 2.30 p.m., in the Council Chamber, City Hall. **

**Presiding: Cllr. Pádraig Conneely**

**Present: Councillors: Noel Larkin, Donal Lyons, Declan McDonnell, Cathal Ó Conchúir, Frank Fahy, Niall McNeilis, Mairead Farrell**

**Sectoral**

**Representatives: James Coyne, Gary Lohan, Geri Slevin, Dave Hickey**

**In Attendance: Brendan McGrath, Chief Executive**

 **Eileen Ruane, A/Director of Services**

 **Gary McMahon, A/Senior Executive Officer**

 **Mark O’Donnell, Senior Executive Officer**

 **Eithne Verling, Director, Galway City Museum**

 **James Harrold, Arts Officer**

 **Caitriona Morgan, Administrative Officer**

 **Davina Kelly, Clerical Officer**

**Presenting: Elaine Donohue, ERG Co-Ordinator**

**1. Confirmation of Minutes**

Meeting of the Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Culture SPC held on 5th October 2017.

**Proposed:** Cllr. D. McDonnell

**Seconded:** Gary Lohan

**Matters Arising:**

1. In relation to the Agenda the Chair advised that he had not been consulted on this, pointing out that it is usual for the Chair to be consulted on the drafting of the Agenda prior to the meeting and he enquired why this did not happen in this instance. Mr. Brendan McGrath responded and advised the Chair that he would be consulted on the Agenda for future meetings.
2. Following a query from the Chair in relation to the development potential of Council owned lands at Sandy Road and a recent proposal that the Council commence a masterplan to strategically look at the development potential of this area, Mr. Brendan McGrath advised that it was intended to draft a development brief with a view to seeking consultants to undertake a strategic study of the lands in question, which will include consultation with adjoining land owners and other neighbouring lands in the vicinity. It is expected that a report on the issue will come back to the relevant SPCs and full Council later in 2018.

**2. Galway City Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)**

Ms. Caitriona Morgan provided an update in this regard. She advised that a meeting of the Advisory Steering Group (ASG) had taken place on the 1st December 2017 to review the update on actions in line with the template agreed by the ASG and circulated to partners. She outlined the approach that was presented and discussed at this meeting on prioritising goals and subsequent actions for 2018 in line with agreed budgets, with a particular focus on Goal 2: Galway, An Innovative City and Goal 5: A City that promotes the health and welling of all its people.

She further advised that Cllr. N. McNeilis was elected Chairperson of the ASG and invited him to update further on this item. Cllr. McNeilis reiterated the prioritisation and delivery of actions for 2018 based on a collaborative process. He also highlighted in particular under Goal 2 the complimentary of actions with the upcoming Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy being developed by the NWRA, the European Entrepreneurial Region 2018 and the annual work programme for the Galway Local Enterprise Office. Following a query on the flexibility of partners to deliver on other actions during 2018 and the ongoing monitoring of actions, Mr. Gary McMahon noted that the responsibility for driving the implementation, monitoring and reviewing of the LECP rests with a number of structures including the ASG, SPC, LCDC and the Council. He noted that other actions will be implemented during the course of 2018 in line with the Galway City Culture & Creativity Plan.

Mr. J. Coyne noted that it had been discussed at the recent LCDC meeting that a joint meeting of the ASG, LCDC and SPC would be organised to discuss the 2018 action plan. It was noted that the date for this meeting would be notified once agreed by the ASG.

**3. European Region of Gastronomy – The importance of investing in food and food culture in Galway for a strong future**

Ms. E. Ruane introduced and welcomed Ms. Elaine Donohue, Co-Ordinator for the European Region of Gastronomy programme to the meeting. Ms. Donohue gave a detailed presentation highlighting key aspects of the programme, which included the background to the designation and the importance of investing in food and food culture in Galway. She outlined the governance structure in place which included an executive and stakeholder team. She presented in more detail the programme themes for 2018 and spoke about the draft programme of events currently being worked on by a number of stakeholders which will include a number of flagship events. She outlined a examples of some ongoing initiatives, activity and events including the ‘Galway Gastro Gift Box’ and the Galway Food Charter. She highlighted other projects that were being developed as part of the European collaboration element of the programme. She concluded her presentation by outlining a number of reasons why we need to invest in our food and food culture for a stronger future. Members asked a number of questions and sought clarification on a number of items which were discussed and Ms. Donohue and other staff members present provided replies to all matters arising and clarifications sought. The Chair thanked Ms. Donohue for her detailed and informative presentation.

**4. Galway City Culture & Creativity Plan 2018-2022**

Mr. Gary McMahon in his update on this item advised the members that the Creative Ireland programme is the government’s legacy programme for Ireland 2016 – a 5 year initiative from 2018 – 2022. He further advised that the Creative Ireland team in the Council were tasked by Creative Ireland to prepare a Creative Galway Plan 2018 – 2022, including a one year implementation plan for 2018 to be adopted in Quarter 1 2018 by the Council. He referred to a template provided by Creative Ireland which will form the structure of the draft Creative Galway Plan 2018 – 2022, also noting that the existing strategic objectives and priorities of ‘*Everybody Matters – A Cultural Sustainability Strategy Framework for Galway 2016 – 2025’* amongst other plans he referenced and already in place are to be incorporated. Following a number of queries from members Mr. McMahon advised that he could circulate the template and that a draft of the Creative Galway Plan 2018 – 2022 would circulate to the SPC for review and discussion during Quarter 1 2018.

**5. Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Culture SPC Work Programme 2018**

A draft work programme for 2018 was circulated to the members, noting priorities for 2018 for consideration. The Chair noted that the draft was very comprehensive and asked members to review further and feedback any other areas of work to be included. It was agreed that members will discuss and agree the work programme for 2018 at the next meeting.

**6. Schedule for Meetings in 2018**

A draft schedule of meetings for 2018 was circulated; listing provisional dates for proposed meetings in 2018 and this was agreed in principle. Following a query in relation to the meeting dates that were proposed for September and November it was noted that these dates may change and that members will be advised of any change in due course once agreed.

**7. Any other business**

Following a query from Cllr. N. Larkin on the European Entrepreneurial Region (EER) 2018 it was agreed to invite the Northern and Western Regional Assembly to present to the SPC on the EER for 2018 and what this will mean for Galway City.

Following a general discussion on economic development in Galway City it was agreed that the IDA, Enterprise Ireland and Údarás na Gaeltachta would be asked to attend and present on their priority economic strategy and development potential opportunities for Galway City at the SPC meeting proposed for May 2018.

Cllr. N. McNeilis made reference to the many awards and designations for Galway City, noting that further work is needed in relation to the marketing and branding of these.

Cllr. D. McDonnell referred to a recent meeting of the European Committee of the Regions (COR) that he attended where the need for a European Liaison Officer in each local authority was discussed. The Chair noted the recent City Council budget for 2018 and the provision made for this additional resource.

Following a query by Cllr. F. Fahy on the ongoing promotion of the Purple Flag in Galway City, Ms. C. Morgan advised that car / window stickers were available for display by businesses, including local taxis. She also advised that flags were distributed to many businesses in the Purple Flag area for their display in adddion to the banners erected on William Street. The Chief Executive, Mr. McGrath also referred to the commitment to work with the Village Salthill on this designation during 2018.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on 25th January 2018 in the Council Chamber, Galway City Council.