



**Galway City Community Network**  
Líonra Pobail Chathair Na Gaillimhe

---

# A Local & Economic Plan for Galway City

---

## Initial Submission to the Local Economic and Community Plan Advisory Group

---

### Introduction

Established in 2014, Galway City Community Network is the Public Participation Network in Galway City. GCCN acts as the representative, collective voice of community, voluntary and environmental organisations in Galway City. The role of Galway City Community Network is:

- To act as a platform for the groups/organisations engaged in the community, voluntary and environmental sectors in Galway City to develop policy and positions on issues of common concern to the sectors and to communities and to advocate for these policies and positions to be implemented.
- To facilitate the representation of the community, voluntary and environmental sectors on the Local Community Development Committee, the Strategic Policy Committees, the Joint Policing Committee, other local government and local development bodies and any local, regional, national or international body deemed appropriate by the Galway City Community Network.
- To contribute to the development and achievement of a vision for the well-being of this and future generations.

Galway City Community Forum has established a number of Linkage Groups to develop policy in areas of concern to GCCN and its members groups. The Social Inclusion Linkage Group met on a number of occasions to discuss the development of the Local Economic and Community Plan for Galway City. The GCCN representatives of the LCDC and Economic, enterprise Development & Arts SPC also met to discuss the development of the LECP. Below is an initial submission on the process of developing the plan.

### Initial Submission

Galway City Community Network welcomes the opportunity to make this initial submission on the development of the Local Economic and Community Plan for Galway City. Galway City Community Network looks forward to working with the LECP Advisory Committee and Galway City Council to develop the LECP and will be happy to offer all the support that we can provide.

In supporting the development of the LECP, Galway City Community Network propose that the following need to be embedded in the processes for developing the Local Economic and Community Plan.

## Parity

- Galway City Community Network believe that equal attention needs to be focused on the community elements as the economic elements of the LECP;
- Equal and adequate resources need to be committed to the community elements of the LECP as to the economic elements.

## Social/Economic/Social Inclusion

- A definition of Social Inclusion should underpin the LECP;
- The economic and community elements of the plan should be regarded as two sides of the same coin. We wish for a focus on the socio-economic elements of the Plan

## Participation/Consultation/Engagement

- The right to participate should be an underpinning principle of the LECP consultation process;
- Participation and engagement of the community, voluntary and environmental sectors must be at all stages of LECP development;
- Participation needs to be defined and meaningful and needs to regard the community, voluntary and environmental sectors as partners in the process of developing a plan for Galway City;
- The participation of a diverse range of groups and communities should be considered;
- Representative organisations should be allowed to define appropriate approaches to consultation with their communities;
- There needs to be an inter-agency commitment to resources required;
- We urge consultation with communities and representative organisations in relation to the both elements of the Plan – community and economic.

## Strategies and Actions

- Strategies and actions must not be tokenistic – they need to be measurable and outcome focused;
- All actions should be anti-poverty and equality proofed with measurable targets, outcomes;
- In developing strategies and actions, the interests of minorities must be protected;
- Target groups must be explicitly named;

## Community Impact

- The effect of the plan on local communities must be made clear. Communities should benefit directly and indirectly from actions.

## Feedback

- We are seeing assurance that issues raised and actions suggested will be given due consideration. We request that feedback is given for actions that are not included;
- We request a scheduled series of updates on the implementation of the LECP.

## General

- We would ask you to be aware that there is a lot of information already collated and many communities can experience consultation fatigue if there are constantly being asked what the issues are without seeing progress. Previous consultations should be taken account of and used as a starting point.

## Key Questions

- Who will be taking the lead on the development of the LECP?
- Will external expertise be brought in where required?
- What plans are in place to ensure the achievement of the following LECP underpinning principles?
  - The promotion and main-streaming of equality
  - Sustainability – Promoting a more resource efficient, green and more inclusive economy
  - Maximising returns by cooperation, collaboration and avoiding duplication
  - Participative Planning – ensuring meaningful community participation and consultation in the planning process
  - Community consultation and engagement
  - Community development principles – addressing social exclusion and providing supports for the most marginalised
  - Accessibility and ownership – that the LECP will be written in a straight forward style