

**Tuairisc/Reporting Template for Galway City
Community Network (GCCN) Reps**

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Galway City Community Network
Lionra Pobail Chathair Na Gaillimhe

Cruinniú /Name of Meeting	Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Culture SPC
Ionadaí FPCG (glacadóir - nótaí) Name of GCCF Rep (note-taker)	Caroline McNeill
Dáta & Suite Date & Location of Meeting:	02/11/2015
I láthair/ Attendance	Presiding: Padraig Conneely Councillors: Cllr. Frank Fahy, Cllr. Declan McDonnell, Cllr. Niall McNelis Reps: Caroline McNeill, Mark Lohan Officials: Brendan McGrath, CEO (joined halfway through meeting) Eileen Ruane, Liam Hanrahan, Gary McMahon, Sharon Carroll

Príomhphointí pléite / Key Issues Discussed:

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss two documents developed on behalf of Chief Executive:

1. Statement of Strategy: Economic Sustainability 2015-21
2. Tourism Sustainability Strategy 2015-21

Liam Hanrahan introduced the Economic Sustainability strategy and gave an overview of it. The plan identifies three inter-related categories which provide the basis of the approach to this plan and focuses on People, Place and Process.

There were questions and comments from the floor. It was unanimous that again traffic management and transport had to be looked at within this policy as the current state of traffic management was having a negative effect on the economy and could impact badly on retaining business esp in the business parks such as Parkmore. This was acknowledged by officials and they referred again to the transport committee.

Cllr. McDonnell questioned the lack of acknowledgement of city councillors.

Caroline McNeill noted that there were sections of society excluded from the strategy and there was not much representation for those in the not-for-profit sector which works for the most part for the benefit of those more marginalised sectors of society, she also referred to the issue of further education in relation to the Action Plan for jobs and that re-training for those unemployed should also be looked at and should be more relevant to sectorial needs, the plan should not just look at further education for those already in employment. Both questions were acknowledged by Liam Hanrahan and he referred to the fact that other policies dealt with these issues. Caroline commented that if that was the case there should be reference to that with this policy, how are people to know which policy refers to what, there needs to be a comprehensive mapping at beginning of each policy to help people understand the policies.

The second plan to be looked at was the tourism plan, again Liam went through the basis of the plan and acknowledged that this plan had not been given the deserved attention it needed but this would be worked on over the coming weeks.

There were a number of issues in relation to this plan. Not including Knock Airport in the plan was questioned by the councillors, Cllr. Conneely in particular wanted to know why after agreeing to invest in Knock Airport we wouldn't include it in our Tourism Strategy. Cllr. McNelis, Cllr. Fahy and Caroline McNeill questioned the signing coming into and throughout the city and the lack of use of the city's waterways and water sports. Cllr. McDonnell questioned why the area of sport and tourism was neglected and Cllr. Fahy wanted to know why food wasn't included. Cllr. McNelis also pointed out the potential to utilise the expertise of GMIT.

CEO Brendan McGrath joined the meeting at this point and again pointed out that we couldn't just look at each of these policies as stand alone that we need to look at the series of plans as a whole, that there would be elements in each that reflect our questions. In relation to the tourism strategy there are 5 areas to look at; landuse, Innovation district & harbour, LEO action plan for jobs, regional action plan for jobs, social inclusion and economic

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sustainability.

Socruithe déanta/ Key Decisions Made:

To bring the plans before Council

Gníomhaíochtaí

Action(s) required from GCCN:

Dáta don chéad chruinniú eile

Date of next meeting :

Moltaí breise /Any Other Comments: