**Draft Minutes of Galway City Council Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Culture SPC Meeting held on Thursday 6th December 2018 at 2.30 p.m., in the Council Chamber, City Hall.** 

**Presiding:** Cllr. Pádraig Conneely.

**Present:**

**Councillors:** Cllr.Donal Lyons, Cllr. Frank Fahy, Cllr. Noel Larkin, Cllr. Mairead Farrell, Cllr. Niall McNeilis Cllr. Garry Lohan

**Sectoral**

**Representatives:** Maeve Mulrennan, Dave Hickey, Geri Slevin.

**In Attendance:** Tom Connell, Director of Services;

Brian Barrett, Senior Executive Officer

Mark O’Donnell, Senior Executive Officer

Theresa Donohue, A/Administrative Officer.

Angela Breslin, A/Assistant Staff Officer.

**Delegation:** Elaine O’Donoghue

Martina Von Richter

**Apologies:** Cllr Cathal Ó’Conchuir,

**1. Confirmation of the minutes of the Economic Development, Enterprise Support & Culture SPC meeting held on 4th October 2018.**

**Proposed:** Cllr Frank Fahy

**Seconded:** Cllr Noel Larkin

And agreed by the members

Cllr Pádraig Conneely welcomed the return of Thomas Connell as Director of Services to the

Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Culture SPC.

**Matters Arising**

None

**2**. **Galway Local Economic and Community Plan: Action Plan 2018 – To hear an update**

Tom Connell, Director of Services, advised that the Local Economic Community Plan will be reviewed in Quarter 1 2019 and an update will be provided at a SPC meeting in 2019.

**3. European Region of Gastronomy 2018 – To hear update**

Elaine O’Donoghue gave a presentation on the European Region of Gastronomy and the beneficial legacy that it leaves to the City and County for future enhancement in this sector of the economy.

**4. Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy – To hear an update**.

Brian Barrett, Senior Executive Officer, gave a presentation on the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy that is currently on public display. After the presentation a discussion took place on the contents of the Draft. The following points were noted:

* There was a perception that very little of the submission made by Galway City Council to NWRA was taken on board and included in the Draft RSES
* It would also appear that very little of the submission made by Galway Chamber of Commerce to the NWRA was incorporated into the Draft RSES
* There is not enough emphasis given to the importance of Galway City as the main economic driver for the region

The SPC Committee were advised that the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy will be an item on the agenda for December’s City Council Meeting. It was agreed that a copy of the submission made by Galway City Council be circulated to the SPC committee. The closing date for receipt of submissions/observations on the Draft is the 8th February 2019 and the members were encouraged to avail of the opportunity to make an input.

**5. Social Enterprise Development Fund – To hear an update**

Martina von Richter gave a presentation on the Social Enterprise Development Fund.

The closing date to apply for the fund is 24th January 2019 and the details of same were outlined to the members.

**6. Galway City Museum Extension & Enhancement Project – To hear an update.**

Mark O’Donnell, Senior Executive Officer, provided on update to the Committee on the Museum Extension & Enhancement Project. The Part 8 planning application was approved on 10th September 2018 and submitted to Failte Ireland. The anticipated costs for this project will be €8.4 million. An application for €5m is being prepared for submission to Failte Ireland. Galway City Council has committed to provide the remaining €3.4million. Failte Ireland will meet in early February to consider the submission.

**7. Urban Regeneration Projects in Galway City – To hear an update**

Brian Barret, Senior Executive Officer, gave a presentation on the Urban Regeneration Fund and advised that there is an overall national allocation of €2 billion to 2027 and the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government has responsibility for implementation of the URDF which has initially €550 million allocated in the NDP to 2022. A first call for proposals under the fund was launched in July 2018. The successful applications from this first call, set out as follows and includes two categories of projects:-

**Category A**

These are proposals that were submitted as ‘ready to go’ in 2019. The funding allocations listed are approval in principle for some or all elements of each proposal to commence in 2019, with commitment to further funding of some or all elements in subsequent years, subject to agreement and performance. These proposals are:

GCC - Ardaun Upgrade of martins Roundabout - €2,703,000

GCC - Cycling & Walking - €2,900,000

**Category B**

These are proposals that require further development in 2019. They were either submitted as such, or, as a result of the assessment process, were determined to require further development. The overall allocations listed below are approval in principle for some or all elements of each proposal to be further developed in 2019, with potential for further funding in subsequent years, subject to agreement and performance. These proposals are:

GCC - Sandy Road Masterplan

NUIG – Nuns Island Masterplan

Galway Harbour Company – Regeneration of Galway City Inner Harbour

Total Category B: €708,500

Total for Galway Metropolitan Area: €6,311,500

**8. Ireland West Airport Knock – To hear an update**

Brian Barrett, Senior Executive Officer, gave a presentation on developments at Ireland West Airport Knock. The launch of the new visitor centre had taken place the week before and this has improved the visitor experience when arriving into Knock. The visitor centre will provide information to tourists about the various activities taking place in the west and electric screens are provided throughout the arrivals hall. These electric screens can be used to highlight and promote activities taking place in the city and will be used for Galway 2020 and other initiatives. These screens can also be used by private operators.

Galway City Council and a number of other local authorities in the western region have committed to giving €50,000 to IWAK for the next 20 years. The SPC members expressed concern that Galway City Council should be getting value for money and that it is important that the visitor centre is used to it’s full potential. This includes the Local Enterprise Office, Meet in Galway and the pharmaceutical companies using the electric screens to promote and advertise their activities.

The appointment of a Tourism Officer next year will help provide content to the visitor centre and will have a role in updating the information. The Tourist Officer will also have to ensure that Galway City Council gets value for their money from this investment.

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

Brian Barrett, Senior Executive Office, outlined the Work Programme for 2019 and advised the SPC members that if there were any other items that the Committee wanted included in the programme, to send them in. The draft programme was agreed by the members.

**10. Schedule of meeting dates for 2019.**

The next date of the SPC is 7th March, 2019 with the remaining dates for agreement by the new membership of the SPC.

**11. Any Other Business.**

None.

This concluded the business of the Committee.