

Minutes of Meeting of Planning Strategic Policy Committee held on 30th April 2019 in Galway City Council, City Hall, College Road, Galway.

Presiding: Cllr Ollie Crowe

Present: Mayor Niall McNelis
Cllr Billy Cameron
Cllr Donal Lyons
Mr Derrick Hambleton (Community Representative)

In Attendance: Ms Ruth McNally, Director of Services
Ms Caroline Phelan, Senior Planner
Ms Diane Egan, Executive Planner
Ms Norann Keane, Senior Staff Officer
Ms Patrice Keane, A/Assistant Staff Officer

Apologises: Ms Nuala Nolan (Community Representative)

Absent: Cllr Pearse Flannery
Cllr Terry Flaherty
Cllr Peter Keane
Cllr Cathal O'Conchuir
Mr Shane Foran (Community Representative)
Mr John Mannion (Community Representative)
Mr Liam Blake, Senior Executive Planner
Ms Helen Coleman, Senior Executive Planner

1. Matters Arising & Adoption of Minutes

Mayor N McNelis proposed the draft submission on the Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy be suspended due to delay in the members receiving same, as it is a reserved function. The minutes of the January sitting were proposed by Mr. D. Hambleton and seconded by Cllr O. Crowe and adopted.

2. Galway Harbour update

Ms R McNally gave an update to the members on the due diligence process for the harbour. Significant clarification has been sought on the due diligence report and the results will be brought before the elected members.

3. Vacant Sites Register

Ms. D Egan presented a written report giving an update on the Vacant Site Register (VSR) at present. Queries were raised regarding the implications of a site being placed on the VSR as well as how the monies due on a vacant site are to be recouped. Ms. D Egan clarified that a yearly levy on the value of the site remains a charge on the lands and is applied year on year. Further queries were raised as to why 3 no. sites were not present on the VSR namely, Corrib Great Southern Hotel, Connacht Laundry & St. Patrick's Avenue. It was clarified that the VSR relates only to residentially zoned lands and the 3 no. sites raised are commercially zoned. Ms. C Phelan noted that a specific submission was made by Galway City Council to extend the VSR to include commercially zoned lands.

4. **A.O.B**

As the last SPC meeting prior to local elections, the members extended their thanks for the previous 5 years. Well wishes were also extended to Cllr. B Cameron who was retiring from public office. Cllr. B Cameron gave thanks to the staff and members and wished those running for re-election the best of luck.

This concluded the business of the meeting.