

Draft Minutes of Galway City Council Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Culture SPC Meeting held on Thursday 10th May 2019 at 10.00 a.m., in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

Presiding: Cllr. Pádraig Conneely.

Present:

Councillors: Cllr. Pádraig Conneely, Cllr Noel Larkin, Cllr Frank Fahy, Cllr. Niall McNelis, Cllr Donal Lyons, Cllr Declan McDonnell

Sectoral

Representatives: Mr Dave Hickey

In Attendance: Tom Connell, Director of Services, Galway City Council
Brian Barrett, Senior Executive Officer, Galway City Council
James Harrold, Arts Officer Galway City Council
Emma Silke, A/Administrative Officer. Galway City Council
Angela Breslin, A/Assistant Staff Officer Galway City Council.

Delegation:

Apologies: Cllr. Cathal O'Conchuir,
Garry Lohan

1. Confirmation of the minutes of the Economic Development, Enterprise Support & Culture SPC meeting held on 28th February 2019.

Proposed: Cllr Frank Fahy

Seconded: Cllr Noel Larkin

And agreed by the members

2. Matters Arising

Dave Hickey raised the issue that the proposal of SPC members at previous meeting on 28th February 2019 that Galway City Council provide funding support to Porter Shed is not reflected accurately in the minutes and also that it was agreed at previous meeting Sister Cities would be on agenda for this meeting and it is not.

Brian Barrett indicated that in response to the SPC proposal raised at the meeting of Feb 28th a report on the provision of supports by Galway City Council to innovation and incubation

services in the City is being brought before the SPC today. It is on the agenda. Decisions on provisions of funding to specific organisations is not within the remit of the SPC.

Mr Barrett apologised that the Sister Cities item is not on the agenda and will ensure that it is on the agenda of future meetings of the SPC.

3. Fáilte Ireland – Development Guidelines for Tourism Destination

Mr Brian Barrett Senior Executive Officer made a presentation on behalf of Fáilte Ireland and indicated that he would raise concerns from members with Fáilte Ireland as to why nobody from Fáilte Ireland was available to give the presentation.

Mr Brian Barrett Senior Executive Officer presented Fáilte Ireland's Destination Towns Scheme 2019, he indicated that it is a very competitive national competition and it is a Capital Works programme Galway City Council will be seeking funding to enhance and develop our public spaces to allow visitors to experience our local culture. Galway City Council have put together a working group, and will be engaging with Stakeholders in the City identifying key projects for our submission in September. Galway City Council are using Bath as a case study and are open to different ways of using this funding we will be looking at developing our general infrastructure through updating our signage, lighting up streets and exploring ways of using new technology. The funding is between €250,000 and €500,000.

Mr James Harrold Arts Officer mentioned that it is very unfortunate that NUIG is not supporting the Department of Medieval History any longer. Cllr Declan McDonnell proposed that Galway City Council would draft a letter of support to continue the department of Medieval History Seconded by Cllr Frank Fahy and agreed by the members.

The members were informed that Galway City Council had almost finalised the appointment of a Tourism Officer. It is anticipated that the Officer will be starting on 1st June 2019. This development was welcomed by all members.

4. Galway Local Economic and Community Plan: Action Plan 2019 update.

Mr Tom Connell Director of Services gave an update on the LECP 6 year plan. The implementation of the LECP is jointly overseen by Galway City LCDC and the Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Culture SPC. A methodology to undertake a mid term review is currently being finalised. This review will involve the members of the SPC.

5. Review of Galway City Culture and Creativity Plan and Implementation of Key Actions 2019.

Mr Brian Barrett Senior Executive Officer guided the members through a workflow chart for some of the ongoing activities of Galway City Culture and Creativity plan. A range of funding programmes and initiatives are being harnessed to ensure that actions within the Culture and Creativity plan are being implemented, this includes the Arts programme of Galway City Council, The Creative Ireland programme of Galway City Council and Heritage and Tourism initiatives. The workflow chart identifies where activity is progressing under different themes of the plan and where work is required in future years to ensure all elements of the plan are progressed.

Mr David Hickey raised concerns around the lack of Capital investment and physical infrastructure and the need of a cultural space. Mr Tom Connell Director of Services assured the members that the Chief Executive is currently in discussion on plans for a mixed use development on the Dyke Road.

4. Portershed Galway – Update

6. Portershed Galway

Mr Brian Barrett Senior Executive Officer gave a report on Funding innovation Spaces within Galway City. Mr Brian Barrett is engaging with the Porter Shed as they are looking for significant and ongoing funding from Galway City Council. Any support provided by Galway City Council to an individual enterprise or innovation space in the City can only be progressed in the context that there are currently nine enterprises/incubation facilities in the City operating. Galway City Council commissioned a report previously in the future demand for innovation/incubation space in the city. A number of the organisations managing existing innovation and incubation space are seeking Capital Funding from various sources to support their expansion. The Portershed has been awarded funding of €2.5m from Enterprise Ireland Regional Enterprise Development Fund for phase two development of their facilities. Other organisations in the city have also submitted or are preparing funding submissions to this scheme once the next call for funding opens, which is expected in the Autumn of 2019.

Galway City Council also operated a couple of enterprise spaces in the City which require capital investment and the Council is currently examining the operation and development of these facilities into the future.

To fund a project such as the Portershed Galway City Council would have to secure resources in the Council Budget for 2020 and then prepare a scheme that would be open to all of the organisations operating such facilities in the City. Cllr Pádraig Conneally questioned if the onus is on Galway City Council to provide for enterprises. Mr Brian Barrett replied that the Marketplace should provide commercial space for mainstream and established Enterprises and the Council role is in regard to supporting the provision of start up and incubation services. He pointed out that it is unlikely that the City Council would have adequate capital to meet its own plans to develop facilities and the needs of the organisations currently operating incubation and enterprise centres in the City. This is why the Council needs to develop a scheme for how it can support the development of incubation space in the city. Such a scheme would be developed in consultation with the SPC.

7. Community Enhancement Grants 2019

Ms Caitriona Morgan gave a presentation on Community Enhancement Programme 2019 whereby Galway City Local Development Committee (LCDC) has been allocated an amount of €132,455 under this programme for 2019. The funding covers capital projects only and should demonstrate added value. Ms Caitriona Morgan pointed out programme requirements, who is eligible to apply and it is aimed to fund to communities across the City to enhance facilities in disadvantaged areas. The closing date for submission of application forms is 5pm on Thursday, 30th May 2019.

8. Galway City Museum Extension and Enhancement Project

Mr Brian Barrett stated that an application for funding was into Fáilte Ireland earlier this year and based on this Fáilte Ireland has requested further technical information on the submission. Failte Ireland has provided Galway City Council with funding to appoint two teams of consultants to prepare a branding strategy and a visitor experience plan by July. The consultants appointed are Zero G and Hayley Sharpe and this work is currently underway. It is intended that a final submission will be made to Failte Ireland in mid July.

9. AOB

None

This concluded the business of the Committee.