

**Minutes of Meeting of Planning Strategic Policy Committee held on 19th November 2019
in Galway City Council, City Hall, College Road, Galway.**

Presiding: Cllr Peter Keane

Present: Cllr Owen Hanley
Cllr Niall McNelis
Cllr Ollie Crowe
Cllr Frank Fahy
Cllr Clodagh Higgins
Cllr Noel Larkin
Ms Marian Spelman (Irish Congress of Trade Unions)
Mr Brendan Mulligan (Galway City Community Network)
Mr Derrick Hambleton (An Taisce)
Ms Patricia Staunton (Business Sector)

In Attendance: Ms Ruth McNally, Director of Services
Ms Caroline Phelan, Senior Planner
Ms Eithne Murphy, Senior Executive Officer
Ms Michele Beirne, Executive Planner
Ms Emma Silke, Administrative Officer
Ms Norann Keane, Senior Staff Officer
Ms Patrice Keane, A/Assistant Staff Officer

Absent: Cllr Mike Crowe
Mr Liam Blake, Senior Executive Planner

Cllr P Keane (Chair) opened the first meeting of the new Planning Strategic Policy Committee, introductions were made and the minutes of the previous Strategic Policy Committee held 30th April 2019 were noted. Ms. R McNally proposed that the SPC “Go Green” going forward, in that all documentation will be circulated electronically prior to meetings and no hard copies would be provided unless in exceptional circumstances requiring same.

1. Corporate Plan Update

Ms E Murphy gave a presentation on the Draft Corporate Plan of Galway City Council 2019-2024.

2. Public Realm Strategy

Ms M Beirne gave a presentation on Galway City Councils Public Realm Strategy. Two no. hard copy draft strategies were also circulated for perusal and the strategy was met with the approval of the members.

3. Short Term Letting – Legislation, implementation & associated issues

Ms E Silke gave a presentation on the new Short Term Letting Regulations introduced in July 2019. Members were in agreement that more resources and staff were vital in enforcing the regulations. Concerns were raised regarding the practical implementation of the legislation including student/tourist accommodation, apartments above pubs/commercial properties, illegal dumping, homelessness and commercial rates being applicable to short term lets. Members called for the matter to remain on the agenda going forward.

4. Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy (Draft) for Northern & Western Regional Assembly (NWRA) – Status update

Ms C Phelan gave a presentation on the Draft RSES. The draft paper is due for discussion on 13th December 2019 prior to the adoption of the strategy.

5. Planning Legislation – Review of provision to extend period of Strategic Housing Development (SHD)

Ms C Phelan gave a presentation on Strategic Housing Developments.

6. Agree calendar of meetings for 2020

Cllr P Keane proposed that meetings be held at 9am on Tuesdays. A calendar of meetings is to be agreed at the next SPC to be held Tuesday 10th December 2019 at 12 noon.

7. A.O.B.

Members requested an update on the transfer of the Galway Harbour Site. It was agreed to place on the Agenda for the 1st meeting in 2020.

This concluded the business of the meeting.