

**Minutes of Meeting of Planning Strategic Policy Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019  
in Galway City Council, City Hall, College Road, and Galway.**

- Presiding:** Cllr Peter Keane
- Present:** Cllr Owen Hanley  
Cllr Ollie Crowe  
Cllr Frank Fahy  
Mr Brendan Mulligan (Galway City Community Network)  
Mr Derrick Hambleton (An Taisce)
- In Attendance:** Ms Ruth McNally, Director of Services  
Ms Caroline Phelan, Senior Planner  
Ms Emma Silke, Administrative Officer  
Ms Norann Keane, Senior Staff Officer  
Ms Patrice Keane, A/Assistant Staff Officer
- Apologies:** Cllr Mike Crowe  
Cllr Noel Larkin  
Ms Marian Spelman (Irish Congress of Trade Unions)
- Absent:** Cllr Clodagh Higgins  
Cllr Niall McNelis  
Ms Patricia Staunton (Business Sector)  
Mr Liam Blake, Senior Executive Planner

**1. Minutes & Matters Arising**

Mr. B Mulligan requested an amendment to the minutes of 19<sup>th</sup> November to reflect his objection that the Corporate Plan had insufficient information and more detailed information should be made available to the members of the SPC to facilitate real stakeholder engagement. It was agreed to note this in the minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were proposed by Cllr. F. Fahy and seconded by Cllr. O. Crowe.

An update was requested as to the implementation of the short term letting regulations. Ms. E Silke advised no formal approval for the additional resources requested had been received as yet but understood it was imminent. In the interim the planning department will continue to deal with complaints received.

Members requested an update on the Galway Harbour Company due diligence process. The Director confirmed that this was an executive function and does not fall within the remit of any SPC. The Chair confirmed that the Chief Executive's report on the matter was scheduled for discussion on the next Council agenda and agreed it could be included on the

agenda of the next SPC following on from this.

## **2. Agree draft work programme for 2020**

Ms C Phelan presented the draft work programme for the coming year. Clarity was sought and a request made that additional detail and categorisation of the work programme under the headings of ‘policy formulation, development & monitoring’ as specified in the SPC Scheme, be made available to members. The Director advised the meeting that the work programme was in the first instance a draft and that the items for consider were driven by national legislation and policy requirements in the first instance which require local authorities to prepare and implement a wide range of policies and set out the timeframe and format of how and when this must be done. Policy formulation and review is also driven by the full Council by way of the Annual Service Delivery Programme and that a combination of these in turn drive the SPC work programmes.

The Director further pointed out that as this is a new SPC, there is a requirement to give members some relevant background information and induction to assist and support them in their role and that a number of such items had been included on the draft work programme for this reason. It was agreed that a more detailed categorisation of the draft programme would be provided to the next meeting.

Clarity was sought on the status of the City Council’s Heritage Plan and proposed works on the Council’s 3 no. castles at Menlo, Merlin & Terryland. It was confirmed that the current Heritage Plan runs until 2021 and a copy of same would be given to the members. It was further advised that the tender process for works on the castles was currently being undertaken by the Architects office in the Housing section. It was agreed that once a programme of works for the castle had been finalised that both the Architect and Heritage Officer would be invited to give a presentation and update to the members at the next scheduled meeting of the SPC.

Clarity was sought as to projects to be put forward under the 2020 URDF scheme and how these would be aligned with the objectives of the LECP. Members were advised that the criteria for applications had not yet been published and this would dictate the type of projects that could be considered. Cognisance must also be taken of the objectives of the Regional and Spatial Economic Strategy that would be adopted shortly as well as those contained in key local authority policies such as the City Development Plan, Public Realm Strategy and Galway Transport Strategy.

Clarity was sought on the status of Local Area Plans (LAP) for 3 no. sites at Headford Road, Sandy Road & Liosban and what role the Land Development Agency (LDA) are to play in relation to same. The Senior Planner advised that the involvement of the LDA in key regeneration and brownfield sites in the regional cities was a decision made at national level. The Chair requested that the LDA be invited to give a presentation to the SPC in Q2 of 2020 on their work to date on the sites in question. A further request was made by members that a specific LAP for the core city centres be considered given the volume of significant sites located within this area.

**3. Agree schedule of dates for 2020 meetings**

The next meeting was agreed for Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 9.15am. It was agreed to finalise dates for the rest of the year at the February meeting.

**4. A.O.B**

This concluded the business of the meeting.

DRAFT