

Draft Minutes of Galway City Council Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Culture SPC Meeting held on 12th December 2019 at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

Presiding: Cllr. Neil McNelis.

Present:

Councillors: Cllr Donal Lyons, Cllr Eddie Hoare, Cllr Declan McDonnell, Cllr John Connolly, Cllr Clodagh Higgins.

Sectoral

Representatives: Ms Geri Slevin, Mr Dominick Whelan, Ms Maeve Mulrennan, Mr Dave Hickey.

In Attendance:

Tom Connell, Director of Services,	Galway City Council
Brian Barrett, Senior Executive Officer,	Galway City Council
Gary McMahon A/Senior Executive Officer	Galway City Council
James Harrold, Arts Officer	Galway City Council
Ruairi Lehmann, Tourism Officer	Galway City Council
Conor Kelly, AEC Officer	Galway City Council
Caitriona Morgan, Administrative Officer	Galway City Council
Thomas Melly A/Staff Officer	Galway City Council
Angela Breslin, Assistant Staff Officer	Galway City Council.

Delegation:

Apologies: Cllr.Noel Larkin,

1. Confirmation of the minutes of the Economic Development, Enterprise Support & Culture SPC meeting held on 26th November 2019.

Proposed: Mr Dave Hickey

Seconded: Cllr Eddie Hoare

And agreed by the members

2. Matters Arising

Mr Dave Hickey stated that he would like if we could look at the Sister Cities and Twinned Cities at the next SPC meeting to discuss actions and status of same.

3. Galway Community Circus

Ms Fiona Hession General Manager Galway Community Circus and Ms Becca Clayton Wires Crossed Producer gave a presentation and thanked the members for giving them the opportunity to give a presentation on Galway Community Circus.

Ms Fiona Hession pointed out that Galway Community Circus is one of the leaders in the sector in Europe with over 129,000 people actively engaged with Galway Community Circus. Ms

Fiona Hession advised the members that Galway Community Circus focus on shaping and improving the lives of young people. Their acts deliver real meaning to people's lives. Galway Community Circus has hosted 6 international acts and represents Galway in over 32 events throughout Europe. Ms Fiona Hession stated Galway Community Circus was successful recently in receiving funding for a 3 year research programme and will be at the forefront of Galway 2020.

Ms Becca Clayton gave a presentation on behalf of Wires Crossed who have 10 highly skilled Circus trainers along with 400 performers of all ages doing performances across Europe. Ms Becca Clayton informed the members that tight wire walking develops focus, wellbeing and courage in young people.

Mr Peter Boland commended Galway Community Circus for their cultural activities in the City and County and stressed to the members the serious implications the insurance crisis is going to have on the Community and Voluntary Sector and stated that from once a group like this is closed down it will not be built up again the skill this group has is a craft and they will most likely emigrate to Europe to continue their profession.

Mr Peter Boland stated that a process needs to be put in place and pressure needs to be put on insurance Companies, if it is left until 2021 it will be too late for these Community Groups and we will loose our cultural assets to other Countries. He stressed that Galway City Council is ideally placed to intervene in the provision of cover for Community and Voluntary groups looking for help.

All of the members agreed that Galway Community Circus is a huge asset for Galway. Cllr Neil McNeilis advised Galway Community Circus that the Chief Executive is away at the moment and will be following up on the issue with the Chief Executive in January when he returns.

4. Tourism Strategy for Galway 2020-2028

Mr Ruairi Lehmann gave a presentation on the Tourism Strategy for Galway 2020-2025 and outlined the strategic priorities and actions in the strategy. Mr Ruairi Lehmann stated that the strategy focuses on distributing tourism activity around the City and ensuring the correct markets are targeted. The Sustainability and Environmental impact of Tourism will be a key factor within the new strategy. It is proposed to present a final draft of the strategy at the next SPC meeting.

5. Update on Fáilte Ireland Destination Towns

Mr Ruairi Lehmann gave a presentation on the Destination Towns funding which comprises of 15 million funding from Fáilte Ireland. Galway City Council has secured €461,000 in funding from Failte Irelnad under this scheme and Galway City Council is providing matching funding of €120,000.

Development of walking/cycling trails along Canals and River Corrib incorporating the public realm. Place names and signs will be included in the works in partnership with other departments in Galway City Council. Cllr John Connolly stated that the canals are not looking well and issues at the weir near Munroe's needs to be addressed.

6. World Bank Sub-National Doing Business Report for Ireland

Mr Brian Barrett gave a presentation on the World Bank Sub-National "Doing Business Report for Ireland". Ireland has consistently outperformed most of its European Union peers

in the ease of doing business. Mr Brian Barrett stated that Galway is the most efficient friendly Irish City when starting a business, however it lags behind the other cities in issues such as getting electricity and enforcing contracts. Mr Brian Barrett pointed out the recommendations going forward for each category are a useful guide for the City to focus on improving as a Business location.

7. Presentation on Galway City Council Arts Plan

Mr James Harrold gave a presentation on the Galway City Arts Strategy 2020 – 2023 it will be a three year plan which establishes the current needs and issues and identifies ideas, options and solutions to address them and to develop a policy framework. The consultant's experience will add value and insight into realising the objectives of the Arts Office around the preparation of the arts strategy. The draft Arts Strategy will be completed by quarter two 2020.

8. Presentation of Atlantic Economic Corridor

Mr Conor Kelly AEC Officer gave a presentation of the Atlantic Economic Corridor which is supported by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) and the Western Development Commission (WDC) the Atlantic Economic Corridor aims to build and increase collaboration within the AEC that maximises its assets, attracts investment and creates jobs prosperity in the region. Mr Conor Kelly talked the members through the work programmes and the role of the AEC Officer. The Atlantic Economic Corridor is project focused and complements the work of other Departments and Agencies.

9. AOB

There were no matters raised under AOB.

This concluded the business of the Committee.