

**Draft Minutes of Galway City Council Economic, Community and Cultural Development SPC Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020 at 2.30pm in the Council Chamber, City Hall.**

**Presiding:** Cllr. Neil McNelis.

**Present:**

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

**Sectoral**

**Representatives:** Mr Dominick Whelan, 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
Thomas Melly A/Staff Officer	Galway City Council
Breda Glynn, Clerical Officer	Galway City Council.

**Delegation:**

**Apologies:** Cllr Declan McDonnell, Cllr Noel Larkin, Ms Geri Slevin, Ms Maeve Mulrennan.

**1. Confirmation of the minutes of the Economic Development, Enterprise Support & Culture SPC meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019.**

**Proposed:** Mr Dave Hickey

**Seconded:** Cllr Eddie Hoare

And agreed by the members

**2. Matters Arising**

Mr Dominic Whelan asked about the progress in regard to the research that the City Council are conducting into development of the Social Economy in the City and if consultations were being conducted as part of this. Brian Barrett advised that following the tendering process which has been completed Galway City Council were in the process of appointing research consultants to complete this work. The brief for the consultants included the specification that consultations would be carried out with relevant stakeholders in the City.

**3. Presentation from Enterprise Ireland**

Mr Barry Egan presented on behalf of Enterprise Ireland in regard to the Capital Funding that has been awarded to innovation centres in Galway City in recent months. Mr Egan outlined

the key Enterprise Ireland priorities for 2020. Mr. Egan advised members of the funding under Regional Enterprise Development Fund. He presented details on the projects in Galway that had been allocated a total of €7.14 million under rounds 1 and 2 of the Regional Enterprise Development Fund. Mr Egan also highlighted to members how in January this year a further €9.6 million funding was made available for 5 project based in Galway out of a total of €40 million nationally, which meant almost 25% of the national funding was awarded to projects in the Galway area.

Mr Barry Egan gave a brief description of the various projects receiving €9.6 million under the Regional Development Fund round 3 including Galway Technology Centre and SCCUL. Mr Egan also spoke on the Regional Technology Cluster Fund and new clusters to be developed with €4.6m funding recently announced. Mr Egan highlighted to members the €40.6m approved for Innovation Leaders from Galway & Mayo from the €65m available under the second Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund Call. Members welcomed the details of funding for the west region and Mr Egan answered members' questions on various queries in relation to same.

#### **4. Newcastle Combined Community Association**

The Newcastle Combined Community Association (N.C.C.A. Ltd) presented to the meeting the plan for development of Community Facilities in Newcastle area. They gave background of the NCCA group from its establishment to its current Board of Directors and committee formed in 2018. New Committee developments and the business plan of the group was detailed to members with the 5 year projection outlined. Research undertaken was presented to the meeting and details of preferred uses and potential business/institution users were highlighted. A video which showed a virtual tour of the proposed premises was shown to members. The presentation was welcomed by members and the community unity involved was commended.

#### **5. Presentation on NUI Galway Strategic Plan 2020-2025**

Mr John Concanon gave a presentation on the NUI Galway Strategic Plan "Shared Vision, Shaped by Values Strategy 2020-2025". This strategy was developed through sustained and meaningful dialogue within the community inside and outside the university. Continued engagement will ensure delivery on a shared vision for the university. Implementation of the plan will take collective effort over five years to achieve goals. The strategy will lead the transformational change of our city and region informed by the national policy of balance regional development and sustainable cities as outlined in Project Ireland 2040. The presentation also noted the strategy will sharpen the focus of teaching, research and innovation using the UN Sustainable Development Goals as a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future. The university will actively contribute towards building on Galway reputation as an internationally recognised centre of excellence for medtech, data science, culture and creativity, climate and oceans, public policy and innovation.

#### **6. Tourism Strategy for Galway 2020-2025**

Mr Ruairi Lehmann presented and outlined the final draft and action plan of the Tourism Strategy for Galway 2020 - 2025 to members. Sustainability and the Environmental impact

of Tourism is to be a key factor of the new strategy. The Strategy was adopted at the meeting, proposed by Cllr Neil McNeilis, seconded by Cllr Donal Lyons.

#### **7. Presentation on Galway City Council Arts Strategy**

Mr James Harrold gave an update on the Galway City Arts Strategy 2020 – 2023. The next stage will be public consultation with a number of public meetings to take place in coming weeks in each city electoral area. Also a number of workshops and direct meetings with various groups such as GIAF, Macnas, Druid. The consultation phase is due to be completed by end of March 2020 and Mr Harold will update members on consultation process.

#### **8. Implementation Plan for Galway City LECP 2020-2021**

The implementation plan for Galway city LCDC was adopted by members. This two year implementation plan covers the final period of the Galway LECP 2015-2021.

Proposed by: Cllr Donal Lyons

Seconded by: Cllr John Connolly

#### **9. Sister Cities Economic Opportunities – Report by Galway Chamber of Commerce**

Mr Gary McMahon advised members of the proposal to establish a working group to examine Sister Cities Economic Opportunities for Galway City. This will involve relevant stakeholders such as but not limited to; Elected Members, Chamber of commerce representatives, local media, cultural and university organisations, sporting organisations and Tourism groups. Mr Dave Hickey provided an overview of the work that the chamber of commerce had conducted to date on these relationships and the economic potential of the existing sister city relationships that Galway City has. This report would be a useful starting point in the deliberations of the Sister Cities Working Group. It was noted by Brian Barrett that the relationships with Sister Cities may have different emphasis. Some Sister Cities relationships may have a sporting or cultural focus while others may have an economic engagement and some may have a combination of engagements. Cllr Neil McNeilis asked that this item be placed on next agenda.

#### **10 AOB**

Mr Brian Barrett advised the members that Galway City has been designated as the “Best Micro City for fDi Strategy” in the fDi European Cities & Regions of the Future 2020/21. The city has been successful in the European Cities of the Future 20120/21 awards published in January edition of fDi Magazine. Following an entry submission made in September 2019 by the City Council, Galway City has received the award for – 1st Place - “Best Micro City for fDi Strategy”

This is a strong result for Galway City and demonstrates not only the current economic strengths of the city but also gives international recognition to the future economic potential for the city. The city was also ranked 10th for “Best Micro City for Economic Potential” The European Cities of the Future 20120/21 awards received entries from some 505 locations in total, 319 cities and 148 regions.

This concluded the business of the Committee.