



***Minutes of Galway City Local Community Development Committee
Meeting held on 4th November 2020 at 3.00pm via Zoom***

Present:

Mr. Brian Barrett, Galway City Council
Cllr. Owen Hanley, Galway City Council
Cllr. Martina O'Connor, Galway City Council
Ms. Breda Fox, Local Enterprise Office
Ms. Anne O'Neill, Health Service Executive West
Mr. Declan Brassil, Galway City Partnership
Ms. Elaine Harvey, Trade Union
Mr. James Coyne, Galway City Community Network
Mr. Niall Ó Brolcháin, Galway City Community Network
Ms. Maria Molloy, Galway City Community Network
Ms Lorraine Grimes, Galway City Community Network
Ms Fiona Jennings, Galway City Community Network
Mr Frank Greene, Galway Chamber

In attendance:

Ms. Caitriona Morgan, LCDC Chief Officer, Galway City Council
Mr. Gary McMahon, Galway City Council
Ms. Theresa Donohue, Galway City Council
Ms. Caroline Quirke, Galway City Council
Ms. Elaine Clifford, Galway City Council

1. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Caitriona Morgan, Chief Officer welcomed all members to the meeting and noted, as previously circulated the protocol regarding the use of teleconferencing and video conferencing. She informed members that in the absence of a Chairperson and in accordance with the regulations the Chief Officer would act as Chairperson until the election of a Chairperson. She advised members on recent changes in membership since the last LCDC meeting held on 9th September 2020. She welcomed Ms. Lorraine Grimes and Ms Fiona Jennings, who were new representatives from the GCCN representing the Community / Voluntary pillar and Social Inclusion pillar respectively. Introductions were made by all. The Chairperson noted that no apologies were received for the meeting.

2. Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the LCDC

Ms. Caitriona Morgan advised members that she had circulated by email to all members the relevant extract from the Guidelines for the Operation of LCDCs, which sets out matters concerning the position of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, in addition to relevant extract from the regulations relating to the filling of the positions and process to be followed. She confirmed that she had received one nominee for the position of Chairperson from Ms. Elaine Harvey. This nominee for the position of Chairperson was proposed by Mr. Niall Ó Brolcháin, seconded by Mr. James Coyne and agreed. As there was only one person proposed and seconded, Ms. Morgan declared Ms. Elaine Harvey as Chairperson of Galway City LCDC and congratulated her on her appointment.

In relation to the position of Vice Chairperson and in line with the above, Ms. Caitriona Morgan advised members that she had received one nominee for the position of Vice Chairperson from Cllr. Martina O'Connor. This nominee for the position of Vice Chairperson was proposed by Mr. James Coyne, seconded by Mr. Declan Brassil and agreed. As there was only one person proposed and seconded, Ms. Morgan declared Cllr. Martina O'Connor as Vice Chairperson of Galway City LCDC and congratulated her on her appointment.

Ms. Elaine Harvey assumed the position and role of Chair.

3. Confirmation of the minutes of the Galway City LCDC meeting held on 9th September 2020

The minutes of the Meeting held on 9th September 2020 were:

Proposed: Cllr. Owen Hanley

Seconded: Ms. Breda Fox

And agreed by all members.

Under Matters Arising, Mr. Brian Barrett advised members that some flexibility could be allowed with regards to procurement limits for grant schemes provided this is compliant with the City Councils procurement limits and procedures. He noted that the revised limits and procedures for the procurement of supplies, services and works contracts note that €3,000 to €6,500 a minimum of three written quotations to be sought and recorded. He further noted that it is advisable for all to get written quotations at this stage of the process, with evidence of seeking quotations important.

Following a query from Mr. James Coyne on the feasibility study on enterprise space in Galway City for the provision of Social Enterprises and update on same, Mr. Brian Barrett advised members that a draft report had been prepared which required further review, revision and re-engagement in particular on the consultation element. He noted his intention to bring a draft report before the SPC at their December meeting, with an update to the LCDC at the December meeting if possible.

Mr. Niall Ó Brolcháin welcomed the presentations on the LECP flagship and seed actions from lead partners, noting the importance of continuing with these at future LCDC meetings.

Ms. Caitriona Morgan advised members that it is the intention of the DRCD to run the Community Enhancement Programme on an annual basis, in addition to better alignment of various funding programmes, to include a schedule of funding deadlines as requested.

4. SICAP 2021 Annual Planning Guidance

Ms. Elaine Harvey introduced this item. Ms. Caitriona Morgan referred to the SICAP 2021 Annual Plan guidance which had already circulated to members. She informed members that Pobal had issued guidance and templates to the LCDC since the last meeting to revisit targets for 2020 and 2021, noting the opportunity to revise targets for 2021 based on experiences in 2020 in delivering SICAP within the context of COVID-19 and also given the expectation that COVID-19 will also be prevalent in 2021. She further noted the Pobal annual support meeting held on 16th September 2020 via Zoom with the LCDC SICAP subcommittee and Galway City Partnership. She informed members that the Department had confirmed that the SICAP Budget for 2021 is €668,942. She advised members that in line with guidance on a review of the KPI targets for 2020 and following engagement with Galway City Partnership there was no reductions in targets for 2020. In relation to KPI targets for 2021 and following the engagement process, it was recommended by the LCDC SICAP subcommittee the following as achievable targets for KPI 1 and KPI 2:

KPI 1 = 43, noting a 14% difference on this target for 2020

KPI 2 = 442, noting a 15% difference on this target for 2020

In addition it was noted that the LCDC can select one emerging needs group that they wish to see particular engagement with and the emerging needs target group for 2021 is recommended as Older People. Ms. Morgan noted the timelines as set out for the submission and review of the Annual Plan for 2021, advising that the LCDC SICAP subcommittee will need to convene mid-December timeframe as set out, with final approval of the Annual Plan by the LCDC by 26th February 2021. Finally she requested the appointment of one member to the LCDC SICAP subcommittee, noting that the current members are Mr. James Coyne and Ms. Breda Fox. Following a nomination from Cllr. Martina O'Connor to participate, which was seconded by Mr. James Coyne and agreed.

5. Community Enhancement Programme 2020 Fund for Community Centres and Community Buildings - Approval of LCDC Subcommittee

Ms. Elaine Harvey introduced this item. Ms. Caitriona Morgan reminded members on the timeframe and allocation to Galway City under this fund which was €109,412. She referred to the report on grant funding recommendations from the LCDC Subcommittee, following their assessment which had been circulated to the members for their information only. She reminded members on conflict of interest on this item. At this stage the following members declared a conflict of interest in this item: Mr. James Coyne, Ms. Elaine Harvey and Mr. Declan Brassil.

Cllr. Owen Hanley on behalf of the LCDC Subcommittee gave a verbal update to members, noting that the closing date for receipt of applications online was Friday 18th September 2020, with a total of 22 applications received with €115,764.89 being the total amount of funding requested. He informed members that the LCDC Subcommittee met online (via Zoom) on Wednesday 21st October 2020 to review and carry out the assessment, noting that the LCDC Subcommittee members were himself, Ms. Elaine Harvey and Mr. Brian Barrett, assisted by Ms. Caitriona Morgan and staff from the Community Department. A selection criteria sheet was discussed to evaluate applications to ensure eligibility with the ethos of the programme, which is to provide funding to enhance facilities in disadvantaged areas. Conflict of interest was also discussed and noted. He outlined the approach that was followed by the LCDC Subcommittee with funding to 20 groups / organisations being recommended as set out.

Approval to the allocation of funds in the amount of €109,412 under the above programme was proposed by Cllr. Martina O'Connor, seconded by Ms. Maria Molloy and agreed by all. Ms. Caitriona Morgan advised the members, that in line with previous programmes, the Community Department would make contact directly with all groups within the next week, in addition to circulating a press release early next week. This was agreed by all members present. In response to a query from Mr. James Coyne on including the amount of funding in the press release, Ms. Morgan advised that Galway City Council was required to submit a listing, including the amount of funding approved to the DRCD for their website and onwards publicity. Following a comment from Mr. Declan Brassil it was agreed to provide a small sign / plaque by completion date to each project in order to acknowledge the funding contribution.

6. Implementation Plan for Galway City LECP 2020-2021 - To receive an update / presentation:

- i. Seed Six: Develop and implement a Galway Intercultural Strategy

Ms Elaine Harvey introduced this item. Ms. Suzanne McKane gave a presentation to members on the BRIDGE project (Building a Receptive Integrated and Diverse Galway of Equals) which is funded under the AMIF (Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund) administered by the Department of Justice. The project seeks to promote the effective delivery of reception and integration supports (including advocacy and capacity building interventions) to asylum seekers and third country nationals living in Galway City and County. She informed members that the project is coordinated by Galway City Partnership with a number of local partners supporting this through match funding. She outlined to members the timeframes for Round 1 and Round 2, highlighting some of the key actions and work

included. She highlighted some of the challenges under Round 2 in addition to some of the current work areas being progressed. With reference to the Galway Integration Consortium she noted they are meeting with key areas of work focussing on policy and submissions, information and awareness raising and training. In relation to developing and implementing a local migrant integration strategy she noted that the BRIDGE project will be utilised to advance research / focus groups noting the points made by some members on consultation fatigue. In addition the Galway Integration Consortium will be utilised to continue to support the integration of migrants within our communities. Following a query from Mr. Niall O'Brolchain in relation to the milestones as set out under this seed action in addition to sufficient funding and adequate resources in place, Ms. McKane advised that Galway City Partnership as lead partner will convene a working group to advance work on this action further as there is a commitment in the BRIDGE project to review / update local strategies. Finally she noted that there will be issues / challenges to address and these can be fed back to the LCDC in due course and would welcome the opportunity to address these issues.

- ii. Flagship One: Develop and implement a programme of cultural actions, based on collaborative practice, targeted on disadvantaged communities

Mr. James Harold gave a verbal update to members. He advised members that Galway City Council were undertaking a strategic review of its work in the arts which included a review and development of a new arts plan. He noted that the intention of the new arts plan is to build a strategic framework to expand and deepen arts engagement. He outlined to members the process and approach taken to date, which included one of the broadest consultation processes involving the arts sector including individual artists, arts organisations, venues and festivals, as well as key stakeholders and the wider public of Galway to inform preparation on this. He noted research through focused discussions yielded valuable insights about the role of the arts in the lives of people from different cultural and socio-economic backgrounds in a number of locations across the city. He spoke about the policy landscape which includes a framework agreement with the Arts Council, noting the four principles that underpin this agreement which include access to and engagement with the arts for all people; value for the work of artists (present, past and future); diversity of contexts and types of participation most particularly social and cultural diversity and quality of provision. He highlighted to the members some of the key issues and needs raised by the strategic review with particular relevance to cultural actions based on collaborative practice, targeted at disadvantaged communities to include provision for children and young people; Equality and inclusion; Cultural diversity; Arts outreach and participation; Arts facilities and Information and communications. Finally he noted the LCDC Equality & Human Rights Statement in addition to the Arts Council's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Policy.

Ms. Theresa Donohue gave a verbal update to members. She advised members that since the last LCDC meeting held on 9th September 2020 that updates have been received from all lead partners and that a draft document is being prepared and finalised and will be circulated in advance of the next LCDC meeting in December. She informed members that a number of lead partners have been in touch with their supporting partners and a number of working group meetings have started to take place with more meetings scheduled shortly and that there was a good level of engagement ongoing as part of this. She further informed members that the LECP Steering Committee met at the end of October via Zoom where a discussion took place on the updated progress report on the LECP Implementation Plan. She stated that it was agreed that a progress update would be presented to the SPC and LCDC at their respective December meetings. She advised members that funding of €10,000 had been made available to Galway City Community Network, following discussions on collaborative actions that were identified throughout the process that required some resources in order to facilitate and progress these in 2020. She noted that this funding will assist in the progression of these actions where ongoing collaboration is required. Finally she noted that presentations would be scheduled for future LCDC meetings, taking on board comments made on focusing these in line with each action, milestone, issues etc.

7. Healthy Galway City

Ms. Caitriona Morgan gave a verbal update in relation to Healthy Galway City, noting that a written report would circulate to members after the LCDC meeting. She reminded members on the Community Mental Health Small Grant scheme, noting that applications must be completed online at www.galwaycity.ie/mentalhealthgrant with a closing date of Friday 6th November 2020 at 5.00pm. She further noted that following a review and assessment of applications to be undertaken by the Healthy Galway City Steering Committee it was proposed to bring these recommendations for funding to the LCDC for approval at the December meeting. She also updated members on the Healthy Ireland – Resilience campaign, stating that this campaign is aimed at showing people of all ages how we can mind our own physical and mental health and wellbeing by adding healthy and helpful habits to our daily and weekly routines. She informed members that the campaign website will be hosted on gov.ie/healthyireland and will signpost to information about local resources and initiatives that will be available through the Galway City website on www.galwaycity.ie/wellbeing.

8. COVID-19 Community Response Forum

Ms. Caitriona Morgan gave a verbal update on the above since the last LCDC meeting, noting that the COVID-19 Community Response Forum, co-ordinated by Galway City Council continues to meet weekly to lead the co-ordination of COVID-19 community supports and resilience and to ensure that there is a co-ordinated community response, enabling all the voluntary and statutory agencies to collaborate in support of our communities and particularly our most vulnerable. She advised that the Community Call Helpline was now operating from 8am – 8pm, 7 days a week by Freephone 1800 400 150. She informed members in light of the new changes in restrictions aimed at curbing the spread of COVID-19, GCCN is now in the process of re-updating the Galway City Community Response Map developed at the beginning of the COVID-19 alert and aimed at keeping track of the related responses, activities and services available to people in Galway City.

Following a query from Mr. Niall O’Brolchain on linkages and engagement with third level students on their issues, needs and supports Ms. Morgan agreed to follow up with contacts in both NUI Galway and GMIT on this, in addition to their respective Student Unions.

9. Any Other Business

Mr. Brian Barrett informed members that Galway Sports Partnership had advertised two sports and physical activity funds, Sports Club Grant 2020 (€130,000) and a Minority Sports & Physical Activity Programme Funding (€22,000) and that the closing date for receipt of applications online was Friday, 13th November 2020. Following a query from Ms. Maria Molloy with regards to the funding for minority sports and physical activity and whether a group applying to this fund need to be sports club Mr. Barrett said he would check with Mr. Jason Craughwell, Galway Sports Partnership and revert back on this query.

The date for the next meeting of Galway City LCDC was noted for Wednesday 16th December 2020 at 3pm via Zoom.

The meeting concluded.