

Draft Minutes of Galway City Council Economic, Community and Cultural Development SPC Meeting held via Zoom on 11th December 2020 at 2.00pm

Presiding: Cllr. Neil McNelis.

Present:

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

Sectoral

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

In Attendance:

Mr Brendan McGrath, Chief Executive	Galway City Council
Mr Brian Barrett, A/Director of Services,	Galway City Council
Mr Conor Kelly A/Senior Executive Officer	Galway City Council
James Harrold, Arts Officer	Galway City Council
Ruairi Lehmann, Tourism Officer	Galway City Council
Thomas Melly, Staff Officer	Galway City Council
Theresa Donahue, Staff Officer	Galway City Council
Breda Glynn, Clerical Officer	Galway City Council.

Apologies:

Cllr. Michael Crowe, Ms Geri Slevin, Ms Caitriona Morgan, Mr Gary McMahan

1. Confirmation of the minutes of the Economic Community and Culture Development SPC meeting held on 4th September 2020.

Proposed: Cllr Donal Lyons

Seconded: Cllr Eddie Hoare

And agreed by the members

2. Matters Arising

No issues were noted under Matter Arising.

3. Presentation on Draft of Galway City Arts Strategy 2021-2025

Mr Brian Barrett gave introduction to Draft Galway City Arts Strategy, he advised this draft document was produced after consultation processes with various groups and stakeholders. Mr James Harold then gave briefing of the process involved in creating this strategy and introduced to the meeting Ms Mary McAuliffe who would presented the overall proposed objectives of the Strategy.

The new strategy will extend and develop the City Council's support for artists, arts organisations, venues and their workforces, and the communities they serve. A key priority for the Arts Office under this new strategy will be to engage with a wider population in the city and increase their active participation in Cultural activity. The Arts policy and strategic framework were discussed as well as the goals and actions to support. Galway City Arts Strategy provides a five-year framework for strategic actions to be implemented by Galway City Arts Office on behalf of Galway City Council in partnership with the Arts Council and other stakeholders. It will be a key programme delivered as

part of the overall Cultural Strategy of Galway City Council- 'Everybody Matters'. Each arts goal will be supported with an annual operational plan setting out details of work to be carried out. Actions listed under each goal will provide the baseline for evaluation and review of work programmes. Galway City Council's Annual Report will include an account of the achievements and progress in the delivery of our strategy and there will be a mid-term review in 2022.

Discussion then followed with various questions raised by Cllrs which was answered by Ms McAuliffe, Mr Harold and Mr Barrett. It was then agreed to bring draft before the full Council early in 2021.

4. Presentation on Feasibility study on enterprise space in Galway City for the provision of Social Enterprises and Enterprises operating in the circular economy

Ms Anna Yankulova KPMG Future Analytics presented to the committee the feasibility study commissioned to evaluate "The provision of Enterprise Space for Social Enterprises and Business's operation in the circular economy in Galway City". The study outlines impact of social enterprises in Galway City and how to help strengthen social enterprises in the city. Ms Yankulova also discussed the consultation phases and innovative solutions on successful models already proven and delivered locally, nationally or internationally that will be incorporated into the final report. The report was welcomed by the committee. Brian Barrett outlined that the next steps in this work would involve finalising the draft report based on the feedback of the SPC and any additional inputs received from stakeholders. A working group will be established in 2021 to develop projects and initiatives to address the issues that have been raised in the research.

5. Presentation by Galway 2020

Ms Patricia Philbin gave update to the group on the Re-imagining Programme of Galway 2020 in light of the current Covid 19 Pandemic. She outlined that as a result of the pandemic restrictions the Galway 2020 had to be reprogrammed where the focus was now on projects that could be delivered by national and locally based artists and cultural organisations and all projects by international performers had been cancelled. The focus has shifted to supporting local and national artists to assist the recovery of the cultural economy. Work continues with cultural partners and local authorities to deliver a revised programme running to March 2021. Ms Philbin advised they are engaging with various European and Irish bodies to support legacy activities and identify new opportunities for artists.

Ms Marilyn Gaughan Reddan brought the group through a presentation of the delivery structure of the programme and gave an overview of some of the projects that were reimagined. Ms Gaughan Reddan thanked the staff in Galway City Council for their assistance throughout organising the reimagined programme. An outline of what is to come in 2021 was presented to the group.

The report was welcomed by members and questions raised. The issues faced by Galway 2020 were acknowledged as unprecedented and the dedication of staff involved was commended.

Suggestions were made by Cllr John Connolly regarding expanding the reach of audience for the online events and these were noted by G2020.

6. Update on Galway City Council, Galway Chamber, NUI Galway working group examining the future of the High street

Mr Brian Barrett gave an update on this issue raised at the last SPC Meeting. Galway City Council are engaged with the Galway Chamber of Commerce and NUI,G to identify a methodology where the

resources within each organisation can be harnessed to examine the issue of the challenges faced on the future of the high street for the city.

NUIG are preparing a methodology for how this matter could be addressed through a City Labs initiative. Taking this tripartite approach will greatly strengthen any future funding applications that will be prepared to secure national and EU funding to undertake initiatives to address this challenge.

7. Update on Galway City Tourism Task Force

Mr Ruairi Lehmann, Galway City Council Tourism Officer, provided an update on the work of the Galway Tourism Task Force. He first outlined the difficulties faced by tourism and hospitality sector at level 3 - the current restrictions allow for restricted outdoor gatherings and no organised indoor events permitted.

He gave details on the Make a Break for Galway Campaign which had been suspended but restarted this week with content and offers pushed through the website. The Shop Local, Shop Galway Campaign was also live with advertising across radio and print. There was a noted increase of footfall of 38% in the City Centre in December. However this was coming from a much lower base from previous years.

Mr Lehmann also advised the meeting that the Christmas Lights have been erected across the city by Galway City Council with new features being added to various parts of the City. An Art installation has been added in Eyre Square with lights of hope that can be seen from across the city.

The Tourism Taskforce will continue to meet to look at the recovery options for the tourism sectors. A Tender for a new Tourism Brand for Galway City will issue in Q1. Funding from Galway City Council of €25,000 is being matched with funding secured from Failte Ireland for the brand and roll out.

A number of events funded from the 2020 Tourism Recovery Fund have been postponed to 2021, with the fund flexible to allow for date changes depending on government guidelines on gatherings.

Mr Lehmann also gave updates to the SPC on a number of Tourism infrastructure projects that the City Council is progressing including the Great Western Blueway, the Destination Towns Trail, Parklets, Leisureland Campus Redevelopment and the Salthill Tourist Office expressions of interest.

8. Report on Local Economic and Community Plan 2020-2021

A detailed update on the Flagship and Seed actions in the LECP 2020-2021 was been circulated to the members of the SPC and LCDC. This gives an extensive overview of the activity that has been delivered in 2020 under this initiative. The LECP steering group which comprises of representatives of this SPC and the LCDC have met on a number occasions in 2020 to review this progress. This steering group will continue to meet in 2021 and will focus on the areas within the LECP where progress on actions is required.

9. AOB

Cllrs wished Ms Maeve Mulrennan well on her new role in Cork City and thanked for for your input to the committee.

The dates of the next meetings for 2021 were discussed and Proposed by Cllr Eddie Hoare and Seconded by Cllr Donal Lyons. These will be distributed to members with the 2021 Q1 meeting taking place on February 19th at 2pm via zoom.

The meeting concluded.