

**Draft Minutes of Galway City Council Economic, Community and Cultural Development SPC
Meeting held via MS Teams on 10th September 2021 at 2.00pm**

Presiding: Cllr. Neil McNeilis.

Present:

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

Sectoral

Representatives: Mr Dominick Whelan, Mr Dave Hickey. Ms Fiona Neary

In Attendance: Brian Barrett, A/Director of Services, Galway City Council
Conor Kelly A/Senior Executive Officer Galway City Council
Gary McMahon, A/Senior Executive Officer Galway City Council
Caitriona Morgan, Administrative Officer Galway City Council
Ruairí Lehmann, Tourism Officer Galway City Council
Angela Breslin, Staff Officer, Galway City Council
Breda Glynn, Clerical Officer Galway City Council.

Apologies: Cllr. Michael Crowe, Ms Geri Slevin

1. Confirmation of the minutes of the Economic, Community and Culture Development SPC meeting held on Friday 21st May 2021.

Proposed: Cllr Donal Lyons

Seconded: Cllr Clodagh Higgins

And agreed by the members

2. Matters Arising

Cllr D. Lyons requested update on Tourist Office in Salthill.

Mr D. Hickey requested update on Social Enterprise Draft report and if it has been finalised and can now be shared. Mr. B. Barrett advised of limited human resources at present and full focus was on economic recovery program but both items will be addressed in the program of work as allowed.

Ms F. Neary queried presentation on Galway 2040, Mr C. Kelly advised work was still ongoing on website element whereas brochure is printed and this tool is being designed to promote the city.

3. Presentation on the Galway City Language Plan – Gaillimh le Gaeilge

Cllr Neil McNeilis welcomed Micheal MacAoidh from Gaillimh le Gaelige to the meeting. Mr G Mahon gave background of the Galway City Language Plan to the group. Mr MacAoidh, as the new Irish language co-ordinator, gave insight to the plan which recognised Galway as the first Bilingual City in the Country and also outlined the actions in the short and long term. :

Mr MacAoidh outlined some of the actions already completed and advised of the short term goals to be actioned to the end of year 2021. The meeting was joined by Bríd Ní Chonghóile, Gaillimh le Gaelige who outlined to group the Sceim Teanga and the history of its engagement with GCC to date.

The presentation was welcomed by members who wished the team luck with the plan and hoped GCC would continue to support. Questions and queries were raised and answered by Mr Mac Aoidh and Ms Ní Chonghóile. Mr G. McMahon advised the members that GCC will keep members updated on the progress of the plan.

4. Update on Cultural Strategy

Updates were given to members on the following Projects:

- Nun's Island "Creative Space" Project
- Review of Everybody Matters – Cultural Strategy
- Creative Ireland Programme
- Culture Night

Discussion followed with questions and concerns addressed by GCC staff members. Mr B Barrett advised the meeting that the ongoing review of Everybody Matters aims to capture the progress of the implementation of this strategy and the next steps will be to organise a workshop to review this progress and to focus future programme delivery. In response to queries on timelines of delivery on certain projects Mr Barrett advised that the staffing shortages that are negatively impacting on the work of Galway City Council have been highlighted to the Department. It was also advised that it is hoped to appoint replacement Arts Officer shortly.

5. Update on Tourism Infrastructure Projects.

Mr R. Lehmann gave update to the group on the current Tourism Infrastructure Projects:

- Blueway project
- Water Recreational Hub
- Branding Tender
- Performance Equipment
- Funding programmes/schemes of interest to SPC currently active or due to open
- Marketing Fund

Queries were raised on parklets and the outdoor dining scheme, which Mr Lehmann advised delivery of similar initiatives next year will be funding dependent both on national funding and local funding. The outdoor dining scheme has also been extended to October 22nd and an update on amount and number of grants issued was given to the meeting. It was also advised by Mr B Barrett that the City Council engaged with the disability representative group, Access for All, in the rollout of the schemes.

6. Update from Community Department

Ms. Caitriona Morgan presented to the meeting an update from the Community Department in relation to:

- The Covid 19 Galway City Community Response Forum
- The Community Enhancement Programme 2021
- The Community Group Restart Grant
- The SICAP Programme Extension
- The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)
- The Healthy Ireland Initiative
- The Galway City Comhairle na nÓg

The LCDC Social Enterprise funding which was just announced was also brought the attention of the SPC by Ms. C. Morgan.

7. Mediation Report on Planning

Mr B. Barrett provided an update to the group on the outcomes of the recent mediation process between Galway City Council and Galway City Community Network (GCCN). While the operation of this SPC was not a part of the mediation process, the recommendations from the process will be incorporated in the operation of this SPC. This update was provided for information purposes only which was noted by the Chair.

Mr D. Whelan voiced his agreement in regard to the comments made by Mr. B Barrett in relation to the GCC/GCCN mediation report with no issues regarding this SPC. His feedback was acknowledged.

8. AOB

Cllr Eddie Hoare requested update on Council owned Enterprise Units at Westside. Mr B. Barrett advised that the procedures for operating these units is being reviewed and revised. It is intended that a revised policy in regard to the operation of these units will be brought before this SPC to reflect the outcomes of the research on Social Enterprise in the City. A small number of Units have been returned to the Council and these need to be refurbished before they can be leased out again.

The meeting concluded.