

***Minutes of Galway City Local Community Development Committee
Meeting held on 20st April 2022 at 3.00pm (Galmont Hotel & Online)***

Present:

Mr. Brendan McGrath, Chief Executive, Galway City Council
Ms. Elaine Harvey, (Chairperson), Trade Union
Ms. Breda Fox, Local Enterprise Office
Cllr. Martina O'Connor, Galway City Council
Cllr. Owen Hanley, Galway City Council
Mr. Declan Brassil, Galway City Partnership
Ms. Fiona McDonagh-Delaney, Galway City Community Network
Ms. Anne Marie Stokes, Galway City Community Network
Ms. Aoibheann McCann, Galway City Community Network

Apologies:

Ms. Anne O' Neill, Health Service Executive West
Ms. Sinead Morgan, GRETB
Ms. Regina Higgins, Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection
Mr. Niall Ó Brolcháin, Galway City Community Network
Mr. James Coyne, Galway City Community Network

In attendance:

Ms. Caitriona Morgan, LCDC Chief Officer, Galway City Council
Mr. Brian Barrett, Galway City Council
Mr. Conor Kelly, Galway City Council
Ms. Theresa Donohue, Galway City Council
Ms. Sheelagh Murray, Galway City Council
Ms. Aisling Colreavy, Healthy Galway City Co-Ordinator
Ms. Michelle Lyons, Galway City Council

1. Welcome and Introductions

Elaine Harvey, Chairperson welcomed all members to the first hybrid meeting of the LCDC and apologies were noted for the meeting as per above. The Chair introduced and welcomed Fiona McDonagh-Delaney from the Galway City Community Network (GCCN), replacing Maria Molloy who had recently stepped down from the LCDC due to work commitments. She thanked and acknowledged Maria Molloy's contribution and input into the LCDC over the last number of years. Finally the Chair reminded all members, as previously circulated the meeting protocol for online meetings.

2. Confirmation of the minutes of the Galway City LCDC meeting held on 24th February 2022

In terms of Matters Arising, Caitriona Morgan noted that she was still awaiting a replacement representative from Galway Chamber to replace Frank Greene and would follow up again with Galway Chamber on this. The minutes of the Meeting held on 24th February 2022 were:

Proposed: Declan Brassil

Seconded: Cllr. Martina O'Connor

And agreed by all members.

3. Local Economic and Community Plan – Review & Discussion on Draft Issues Paper for LECP Public Consultation

Brian Barrett presented to the LCDC members and referred to the Draft Issues Paper – A Changing Place document that had previously been circulated. He gave a brief background to the document and advised that the issues paper had been based on the five high level goals that were in the last LECP and that these goals would continue into the next LECP as had previously been agreed by LECP Advisory Group, LCDC and SPC. The issues paper shows some key trends and actions that were delivered during the lifetime of the last LECP and now asks what the focus of the next LECP should be in order to achieve these goals.

Brian advised that a meeting had taken place with the LECP Advisory Steering Group the week previous and the same document had been discussed at that meeting. The document would also be presented to the Economic, Community & Cultural Development SPC at their meeting in May. Brian advised that the Issues Paper would go out to public consultation and that the questions listed at the end of each goal are to act as a prompt to stimulate a response and to provide feedback as to what the public wants the focus to be in the next LECP.

Today's discussion would be the first step in the consultation process and the feedback from the members of the LCDC to the issues paper will be considered as part of the preparation of the new LECP.

There followed a facilitated conversation in regard to the issues paper. Some feedback contained technical questions in regard to the consultation process and other feedback related to the content of the issues paper. Brian welcomed all the feedback and noted that the Issues Paper was a tool to stimulate discussion with all stakeholders.

The members of the LCDC were advised that parallel to the public consultation all lead partners in the initial LECP have been engaged with asking them to advise the Galway City Council of any programmes/actions, within their current organisational strategies, that their organisation will be leading the delivery on in the next 5 years where they have agreement with Galway City Council that the Council will act as a partner and which addresses one of the 5 high level goals.

The members were also advised that funding had been applied for under the Pobal Pilot LECP Engagement Project. This initiative aims to test engagement strategies to support inclusive participation. The project aims to develop toolkits that can be adapted and used by local authorities and other state agencies to enable better engagement with hard to reach groups.

4. Healthy Galway City

Aisling Colreavy, Healthy Galway City Co-ordinator gave an update to the members in line with the written report as circulated in advance of the meeting. She noted in particular key dates for completion of projects and submission of final financial and progress reports to Pobal. She outlined other updates on funded activity under the Healthy Galway City programme, which included healthy eating in the community, addressing barriers to physical activity, community sexual health programmes.

Theresa Donohue gave a verbal update on Healthy Ireland Round 3 and advised that correspondence had been received from Pobal since the last meeting in relation to the Healthy Ireland Fund. She noted that all funded activity under Round 3 ended on 31st March 2022 and final progress and financial returns are due to Pobal on 6th May 2022. She advised that the official end date for HIF Round 3 is 31st May 2022, allowing April

and May for completion of reporting and any other outstanding administrative matters relating to the round.

She further advised that funding is being made available to Galway City Council to cover the salary of the existing Healthy Ireland Coordinator role for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st May 2022, to enable the completion of reporting and any other outstanding administrative matters relating to the round. She also advised that the Department of Health had confirmed that funding is available for the Healthy Ireland Coordinator in Round 4, which will commence on 1st June 2022 and will run until 31st December 2025. This funding will include specific funding for the engagement of a Healthy Ireland Coordinator in each local authority, and Galway City Council had commenced the recruitment process for this role, noting the closing date for applications is 25th April 2022. In addition funding of €40,000 is also confirmed for the period 1st June 2022 to 31st December 2022 to assist with planning for the full year HIF Round 4 and to support the delivery of a small number of Round 4 health and wellbeing initiatives locally in 2022. Finally she noted that a consultation session is taking place on Thursday 28th April 2022 by Pobal for LCDC Chief Officers and staff to discuss the development of a new HIF Round 4 strategy and planning guidelines are due to issue in early Q3 2022 for the development of a new HIF Round 4 strategy and plan.

5. Update on Community Response Forum (Ukrainian refugees)

Caitriona Morgan invited Brendan McGrath to give a verbal update on the above, where he advised members on the number of displaced people from Ukraine who have arrived in Ireland to date, noting a large proportion referred for temporary accommodation through IPAS following their arrival from Ukraine. He advised that the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) has lead responsibility for ensuring that the immediate short term accommodation needs of Ukrainian refugees are met on arrival. He referred to the demographic profile of arrivals with data modelling ongoing nationally to understand the potential impact on services. He referred to the types of temporary accommodation facilities in use, in addition to Red Cross pledged vacant properties noting that work was ongoing by the DCEDIY on full data on all temporary accommodation facilities. He confirmed that since 2nd April 2022, 114 refugees have been received by Galway City Council, temporarily housed at Westside Community Centre. He also referred to a number of key activities that were ongoing across various Government Departments in terms of planning and coordinating the integration of Ukrainian refugees into our communities. Caitriona Morgan gave a verbal update on the repurposed Community Response Forum that had been convened since late March 2022 to respond to the arrival of Ukrainian refugees in Galway City noting its purpose and membership in line with a framework prepared by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) and the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD). She outlined some of the key issues and challenges that were arising. Following a query from Cllr. Martina O'Connor it was confirmed that the Mayor is a member of the Community Response Forum.

6. Any Other Business

Caitriona Morgan referred to the upcoming SICAP Support Workshops that are being organised by Pobal and the DRCD. These workshops will focus on SICAP supports to the programme priorities, noting the overall aim and dates for these online as follows:

- 5th May Supports to New Communities
- 10th May Supports to the long term Unemployed
- 12th May Mental Health and Wellbeing supports

Caitriona Morgan also referred to correspondence received from the DRCD advising they are undertaking an independent review of the current SICAP programme, as well as stakeholder consultation to inform the next programme iteration. KPMG have been contracted to carry out this work, and will be engaging directly with LDCs and LCDCs during the process. Further details on this to circulate to all members after the meeting.

Declan Brassil referred to the Traveller Interagency Group which is one of the actions in the LECP Implementation Plan 2020-21. He advised that this group had received funding to facilitate a number of workshops with Niall Crowley to support the development and engagement of the next LECP. Members of the Social Inclusion Group and the LECP Advisory Steering Group are initially invited to attend with further meetings to take place with the convenors of the other actions in the LECP. The planned workshop will focus on the assessment of need under the Public Sector Duty and will take place on the 4th May 2022 from 2.00p.m - 4.00p.m.

The date for the next meeting of Galway City LCDC was noted for Wednesday 20th July 2022 starting at 3.00pm. The meeting then concluded.