Policy Submission on the Integration of the SDGs in the Local Economic and Community Plan.

Established in 2014, Galway City Community Network (GCCN) is the network of community, voluntary and environmental organisations, and groups active in Galway City. As the Public Participation Network for Galway City, GCCN is the main link through which the local authority, agencies and the state connect with the community, voluntary and environmental sectors in Galway City. GCCN is committed to contributing to the development and achievement of a vision for the well-being of this and future generations.

GCCN convenes the Sustainable Development Goals Working Group which coordinates 'Seed Nine: Advance capacity and commitment to drive implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals' (hereafter the SDG's). This is a cross-sectoral Working Group which sets out to promote the SDGs, make them relevant for Galway, and establish the means for advancing their implementation through mainstream policies, plans and programmes.

The SDG Working Group welcome the opportunity to submit to the LECP consultation and to advocate for the clear integration of the SDGs into the forthcoming LECP on the following grounds.

Of primary importance is the fact that the SDGs are an integral part of the urgent and time sensitive response to climate change[1], one of the greatest challenges to economic and social development. In addition to driving action for climate change, the attainment of the SDG's can drive wellbeing, and

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[1] https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-action/

inclusion in the public sphere[2], in addition to sustainable infrastructures and economic growth. This is in line with the overall goal of LECP's to promote the social, economic, and environmental interests of local communities[3].

It is also important to note that the aspirations expressed in the SDGs cannot be separated from the framework of human rights[4]. The Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty is a legal obligation derived from Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Act 2014. This Act places a statutory obligation on public institutions to protect the human rights of those to whom they provide services in the execution of their functions. The Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty outlines nine protected grounds for protection that are relevant to groups at risk of marginalization. For this reason, there is room for the expansion of targeted groups within this plan. For instance, marginalised groups known to face discrimination and harassment, but are not included in the consideration of safe, inclusive communities as yet. This would have relevance to SDG 16 and the Global Framework Indicator 16.b.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law.

Finally, the SDG global framework of indicators can serve multiple functions, framing reports, measuring progress and performance, and as a management tool for the development of implementation strategies and the allocation of resources[5]. It is noted that in the LECP Issues Paper particular SDG's will be addressed under each goal, although it is not yet indicated how this will be achieved. This issue must be addressed as Social Justice Ireland's Sustainable Progress Index 2022[6] ranked Ireland 10th of 14 comparable EU countries (Sweden, Denmark, The Netherlands, and Finland were the top four countries in that order) in terms of progression towards SDG attainment. This means that Ireland has much catching up to do and the SDG Global Framework of Indicators is presented as a tool to advance progress in this area.

It is also recommended here that the SDG Working Group along with other relevant stakeholders in the public sphere should be included in decision-making processes at a local level in order to ensure

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[2] A Wellbeing Framework towards the SDGs | Social Justice Ireland

3 Department of Rural and Community Development and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (2021) Local Economic and Community Plans Guidelines.

4 https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/MDGs/Post2015/SDG_HR_Table.pdf.

5 Stina et al. 'Governance for sustainable urban development: the double function of SDG indicators' 2019.

6 Clark et al. 'Measuring Progress: Economy, Society and Environment in Ireland' 2022.

transparency and accountability in line with SDG 16.7 responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels.

We are aware that the contents of the LECP will evolve due to public consultation, however developing a clear frame for evaluation will ensure that progress towards the SDG's is ensured. The following frame presented below outlines how the programmes and priorities of the LECP can be linked to the UN SDG Global Framework of Indicators (or a modified version) as a barometer of performance. Not all of the relevant SDG's will have an indicator that captures the goals of certain priorities and programmes, and other indictors must be sought sources (e.g., Social Justice Ireland 2022). Nonetheless, the inclusion of a clearly defined agenda that is linked to relevant indicators of the Global Framework in the forthcoming LECP will ensure measurable accountable progress which is vital to SDG Indicator 17.18.1 statistical capacity for Sustainable Development Goal monitoring.

Goal 1. A world class creative city region.

Priorities	Programmes	Sustainable Development Goal	Sample Global Framework of Indicators
	Education Programmes Social Inclusion Activation Programme	SDG 4: Ensure Inclusive and Quality Education for All and Promote Lifelong Learning.	4.3.1 Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex 4.4.1 Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills, by type of skill (can be relevant to the creative industry) 4.5.1 Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile, and others such as disability status, Indigenous peoples and conflict-affected, as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated
	Funding for Arts Programmes Funding for Irish Language programmes	SDG 8: Promote Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth, Employment, and Decent Work for All.	8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita 8.2.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person

	Social Inclusion Activation Programme		8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age, and persons with disabilities
	New Directions - Galway City Council's Arts Strategy 2021-2025		8.6.1 Proportion of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment, or training
	Galway Capital Programme		8.9.1 Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate
	The WDC Investment Fund (incorporating the WRAP fund)		
	The ECOC Legacy Funding		
	New Directions - Galway City Council's Arts Strategy 2021-2025		

Goal 2. An innovative city

Priorities	Programmes:	Sustainable Development Goal	Global Framework of Indicators
To make further progress to establishing Galway as a carbon neutral City. **To advance Galway City as a sustainable destination.** **To continue to develop the Creative Economy in Galway City**	The Western Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024 Local Enterprise Office Programmes, Grants, Mentoring and Training Supports Social Innovation Fund Ireland & Social Enterprise Development Fund, DAF Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme, Enterprise Ireland Regional Enterprise Development Fund, WDC Investment Funds, SICAP 2018 – 2023, The Public Service Innovation Fund, Digital Innovation Programme,	SDG 8 Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment, and decent work for all	8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita 8.2.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person 8.4.1 Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP 8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age, and persons with disabilities 8.6.1 Proportion of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment, or training 8.9.1 Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate

	Horizon 2020		
To ensure there is suitable innovation infrastructure to create an environment for innovation, enterprise, and entrepreneurship, including social enterprise. **To develop Galway as a Smart City.**	SEAI Ireland Funding Wi-Fi 4 EU, Connected & National Hubs Network Funding	SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	9.2.1 Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita 9.2.2 Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment 9.3.1 Proportion of small-scale industries in total industry value added 9.3.2 Proportion of small-scale industries with a loan or line of credit 9.4.1 CO2 emission per unit of value added
To make further progress to establishing Galway as a carbon neutral City. **To advance Galway City as a sustainable destination.** **To continue to develop the Creative Economy in Galway City**		SDG 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	12.2.1 Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP 12.2.2 Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP 12.3.1 (a) Food loss index and (b) food waste index 12.5.1 National recycling rate, tons of material recycled 12.6.1 Number of companies publishing sustainability reports 12.7.1 Degree of sustainable public procurement policies and action plan implementation 12.b.1 Implementation of standard accounting tools to monitor the economic and environmental aspects of tourism sustainability

Priorities	Programmes	Sustainable Development Goal	Global Framework of Indicators
To make further progress to establishing Galway as a carbon neutral City. **To advance Galway City as a sustainable destination.** **To continue to develop the Creative Economy in Galway City**		SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	13.2.2 Total greenhouse gas emissions per year

Goal 3: An equal and inclusive city

Priorities	Programmes	Sustainable Development Goal	Global Framework of Indicators
Promote positive mental health and suicide prevention in the Traveller community **Support the development of community based mental health inventions / initiatives across a spectrum from social prescribing to community-based counselling and social enterprise to assist those facing mental health issues** **Maintain and promote positive mental health and wellbeing** **Increase accessibility and participation of older people in services / activities**	Healthy Ireland Funding	SDG 3 Health and wellbeing	3.4.2 Suicide mortality rate
Continue to increase number of Travellers accessing third level and training apprenticeship programmes	SICAP 2018 – 2023 and SICAP successor programme	SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	4.5.1 Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile and others such as disability status,

	Galway City Creative Ireland Programme		indigenous peoples and conflict-affected, as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated 4.6.1 Proportion of population in each age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex
Identify opportunities and new opportunities likely to arise from retrofitting the housing stock and the range of challenges in addressing climate change, and ensure that these are tailored to promote access to the long term unemployed **Reduce Long Term unemployment**	SICAP 2018 – 2023 and SICAP successor programme	SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all	8.2.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed Person 8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex
Continue to increase number of Travellers accessing third level and training apprenticeship programmes **Promote positive mental health and suicide prevention in the Traveller community**	Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Grants Scheme Dormant Accounts Funding for LGBTI organisations Children and Young People's Services Committee Disability Participation and Awareness Fund Communities Integration Fund NUI Galway's University of Sanctuary Initiative	SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries	10.1.1 Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population 10.2.1 Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by sex, age, and persons with disabilities
Increase accessibility and participation of older people in services / activities	Galway Age Friendly Programme Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration	SDG 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable	11.7.2 Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of

Improve the sense of security and safety amongst older people	and Youth - Supporting Children and Parents		occurrence, in the previous 12 months
Improve the sense of security and safety amongst older people		SDG 16 (not mentioned) Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to (a) physical violence, (b) psychological violence and (c) sexual violence in the previous 12 months 16.1.4 Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live after dark 16.6.2 Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services

Goal 4. A sustainable, resilient urban environment that is the regional capital of the West

Priorities	Programmes	Sustainable Development Goal	Global Framework of Indicators
Ensure Quality of Environmental Areas		SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	3.9.1 Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution (may need substitution/amendment)
Ensure Quality of Environmental Areas		SDG 6 Ensure access to water and sanitation for all	6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services 6.3.1 Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated 6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality 6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time 6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources

			6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management 6.6.1 Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time
Decarbonization Zone		SDG 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy	7.1.2 Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology 7.2.1 Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption
Development of the Public Realm **Ensuring public safety and low crime rates** **Universal Accessibility** **High level of community activity and engagement**		SDG 11 Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable	11.2.1 Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities 11.3.2 Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically 11.7.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities 11.7.2 Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months
Decarbonization Zone		SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	13.2.2 Total greenhouse gas emissions per year 13.3.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed

| Ensure Quality of Environmental Areas | | SDG 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources | 14.1.1 (a) Index of coastal eutrophication; and (b) plastic debris density

14.3.1 Average marine acidity (pH) measured at agreed suite of representative sampling stations

14.5.1 Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ensure Quality of Environmental Areas | | SDG 15 Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss | 15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area

15.1.2 Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type

15.2.1 Progress towards sustainable forest management |

Goal 5. A city that promotes the health and well-being of all its people

Priorities	Programmes	Sustainable Development Goal	Global Framework of Indicators
Weight (Women & Mother)

Health and Social Connectedness

Drinking (Parents)

Smoking (Older Adults)

Mental Health | The Healthy Ireland Round 4 2022-2025

Safe food Community Food Initiative 2022 – 2024

Galway Sports Partnership programmes and Galway City Council funding for sports clubs

Slaintecare Healthy Age Friendly Homes | Goal 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages | 3.4.1 Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease.

3.4.2 Suicide mortality rate

3.5.1 Coverage of treatment interventions (pharmacological, psychosocial and rehabilitation and aftercare services) for substance use disorders

3.5.2 Alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a |

			calendar year in litres of pure alcohol
			3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services
			3.c.1 Health worker density and distribution
	Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund 2016 - 2022 The Creative Ireland Programme	Goal 11 Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable	11.3.2 Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically