

***Minutes of Galway City Local Community Development Committee
Meeting held on 20th July 2022 at 3.00pm (Held virtually on MS Teams platform and
in the Galmont Hotel)***

Present:

Mr. Brendan McGrath, Chief Executive, Galway City Council
Ms. Elaine Harvey (Chairperson), Trade Union
Ms. Sinead Morgan, Galway & Roscommon ETB
Ms. Regina Higgins, Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection
Ms. Anne O' Neill, Health Service Executive West
Cllr. Owen Hanley, Galway City Council
Mr. Declan Brassil, Galway City Partnership
Mr. James Coyne, Galway City Community Network / PPN
Ms. Aoibheann McCann, Galway City Community Network / PPN
Ms. Fiona McDonagh-Delaney, Galway City Community Network / PPN
Ms. Anne Marie Stokes, Galway City Community Network / PPN

Apologies:

Ms. Ruth McNally, Galway City Council
Ms. Breda Fox, Local Enterprise Office
Cllr. Martina O'Connor, Galway City Council
Mr. Oliver Daniels, Galway Chamber
Mr. Niall Ó Brolcháin, Galway City Community Network / PPN

In attendance:

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

Elaine Harvey, Chairperson welcomed all members to the meeting and apologies were noted for the meeting as per above. The Chair advised that Oliver Daniels is the new representative from Galway Chamber and noted his apologies for this meeting. The Chair also advised that Niall Ó Brolcháin, GCCN representative will be stepping down from the LCDC noting that the Chief Officer has been in contact with the GCCN seeking their replacement representative. The Chair reminded all members, as previously circulated the meeting protocol for online meetings. Finally in terms of the Agenda it was agreed to take Item 6 before Item 5 for this meeting as requested.

2. Confirmation of the minutes of the Galway City LCDC meeting held on 20th April 2022

The minutes of the Meeting held on 20th April 2022 were:

Proposed: Declan Brassil

Seconded: Fiona McDonagh-Delaney

And agreed by all members.

3. SICAP 2022

i. Approval of SICAP Mid-Year Review for 2022

Sheelagh Murray advised members that communication had been received from Pobal since the last meeting to assist the LCDC on the process to be followed in relation to the above. She noted the timelines and steps followed as circulated in the guidance, with reference to the SICAP Mid-Year Progress Report 2022 which was circulated in advance of the meeting. Mr. Declan Brassil gave feedback on progress as outlined in this report, including some challenges for SICAP in addition to the levels of achievement to date. Caitriona Morgan advised that the DRCD has agreed that there will be an opportunity to revisit SICAP targets for 2022 using the same approach on targets during Covid-19. Declan Brassil advised that they will be able to reach their targets and will not be changing them. At this stage and in line with conflict of interest in relation to this item, Sheelagh Murray asked members to declare this, noting that Declan Brassil confirmed this and agreed to abstain from any further discussion on this item.

Elaine Harvey, on behalf of the LCDC SICAP Subgroup briefed members on progress to date, noting that the Subgroup met online on 22nd June 2022 to carry out the mid-year review and completed the checklist as required. She advised members on the financial and non-financial reports that were examined in detail, with checks completed as required. She noted in particular the achievement of targets, with expected targets achieved by the end of May 2022 in KPI 1 1 (Supporting Groups) at 53% and exceeded in KPI 2 (Supporting Individuals) at 74%, with the percentage from disadvantaged communities at 13%. It was noted at this meeting the high achievement of KPI 2 to date, which will notably increase by the end of the year maybe requiring additional funding to continue. Finally she noted the feedback received from Pobal following their high level review which was very positive. Overall and in line with very positive progress to date, the LCDC SICAP Subgroup recommended the approval of the SICAP Mid-Year Review 2022, as follows:

Proposed: Annemarie Stokes

Seconded: Sinead Morgan

And agreed by all members.

Brendan McGrath referred to the SICAP programme audit that was carried out during 2021 for the years 2019 and 2020, noting that detail of progress on the implementation of the agreed actions to address the internal audit recommendations would be sought for updating at the next meeting of the Audit Committee. Caitriona Morgan advised that the written update would be sought from Galway City Partnership on the implementation of all audit recommendations.

ii. SICAP 2021 Case Study

Sheelagh Murray introduced this item in line with the Case Study guidelines as circulated to members, noting that purpose, thematic focus, methodology, submission process and timelines. She noted that the specific themes for the case study remain unchanged and that the focus should be on deepening the analysis under each of the themes as outlined in the guidance:

- Engagement Strategies with SICAP Target Groups/Communities
- Collaboration
- Goal One or Two Projects

She advised that an initial discussion on a theme / proposal had taken place with Galway City Partnership as required, which had been circulated to members. Declan Brassil went through the proposal which will focus on approaches and engagement strategies with SICAP

Target Groups/Communities, taking the form of a video case study as outlined. Caitriona Morgan advised that the deadline for submitting the case study was Friday, 7th October 2022. The proposal for the SICAP Case Study 2022 was agreed by members.

iii. **Additional funding for SICAP in Galway City – Ukrainian allocation**

Caitriona Morgan advised that she had received correspondence from the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) in June advising that additional funding for SICAP of €113,643 had been allocated to Galway City LCDC in response to people arriving from Ukraine. She noted that in line with guidelines and timeline for this additional funding she had engaged and completed the required process as required which had circulated to members. Declan Brassil advised that the additional funding will be used to cover eligible costs relating to the implementation of the SICAP supports to Ukrainians across both Goal 1 and Goal 2, noting some examples of costs based on identified needs. He further noted that Galway City Partnership, on behalf of Galway City Council and the Ukrainian Community Response Forum had recently recruited a Ukrainian Project Leader and Ukrainian Refugee Support worker, both positions funded by Galway City Council. Both workers will be based in Westside Resource Centre and the additional funding for SICAP will assist in their programme delivery during 2022.

Members acknowledged and thanked Galway City Partnership and all partners for their ongoing collaboration and significant work done as part of the local community response to people arriving from Ukraine. Catriona Morgan advised members that the SICAP programme had won the prestigious 2022 UN Public Services Award, in the category 'Institutional Resilience and Innovative Responses to the Covid-19 pandemic'. She noted the acknowledgement internationally of the immense work of the SICAP programme, particularly over the course of Covid-19.

4. Healthy Galway City

Theresa Donohue advised members that Galway City Council had signed the respective grant agreement(s) with Pobal (on behalf of the Department of Health) under the Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF) 2022 – 2025 for the employment of the Healthy Galway City Co-ordinator and to implement the Healthy Ireland Fund 2022 - 2025. She noted that the fund includes an allocation of €40,000 for the period 1st June 2022 to 31st December 2022 to allow delivery of priority health and wellbeing initiatives, and to support the planning process relating to HIF 2023-2025. She further noted an indicative allocation of €40,000 per annum for the 2023-2025 period, with the final annual allocation to be confirmed in Q4 of each year. She advised members that since the last LCDC meeting, Aisling Colreavy had been appointed by Galway City Council in the post of Healthy Galway City Co-Ordinator, commencing with Galway City Council in mid-June 2022.

Aisling Colreavy gave an update to the members in line with the written report and template for actions and budget breakdown, July 2022 as circulated in advance of the meeting. She noted that the Healthy Galway City Steering Committee had met to review progress and propose activities and budget for 2022. She further noted that the funding is to allow for capacity building and planning for the application process for 2023 – 2025; delivery of activities in the health and wellbeing space that have been identified as a priority in 2022 and as a contribution to community health and wellbeing initiatives in response to the arrival of Ukrainian refugees in the city. The update and proposal on the allocation for 1st June 2022 to 31st December 2022 as circulated was:

Proposed: Aoibheann McCann

Seconded: Sinead Morgan

And agreed by all members.

5. To receive a presentation on the Dormant Accounts Fund Engagement Project (DAFEP) 2022

Theresa Donohue advised members that Galway City LCDC was successful in its application for funding under the Dormant Accounts Fund and selected as one of four pilot projects to support the participation and engagement of marginalised groups in the Local Economic and Community planning process. She outlined the objectives of this pilot including delivery period and confirmed that funding in the amount of €40,000 had been recently approved by Pobal on behalf of the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD). She welcomed and introduced Rebecca Jackson from the GCCN / PPN as lead on the project to give an overview and brief update. Rebecca Jackson shared a presentation noting the project partners, aim and three primary objectives of the pilot project giving further detail on the workplan and the various stages as outlined. She noted that this project was still in planning stage giving examples of activities / workshops that could be included. She advised that the overarching objective of the pilot is to develop, apply and disseminate a set of practical tools to be used at national and local level to support engagement and participation by marginalised community that are flexible and adaptable to the needs of those communities and local circumstances.

A number of members welcomed the approval of funding to develop and test engagement strategies to support inclusive participation. Following a query on the timeframe for the project, Brian Barrett advised he met with Rebecca Jackson and agreed the methodology to be used to ensure that all structures feed into the LECP consultation process, noting that timelines had been adjusted to work in parallel with this project.

6. Galway City Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) Preparation– To hear an update

Brian Barrett gave an update on the current status of the preparation of a new LECP. The LECP preparation is at the consultation phase which was due to close last week but it has been decided to keep it open until the end of August due to a number of requests for extensions. To date 70 submissions from 50 organisations have been received. A report will be prepared in Quarter 3 on the submissions and this will be presented to the LCDC, SPC and LECP Advisory Steering Group. The team is also engaging with lead partners from the previous LECP and this will be continued as part of the preparation of the new LECP. The team will also be engaging with Rebecca Jackson, GCCN and their linkage groups and has indicated to them that they will accept submissions from them until the end of September. He also referred to Ministerial guidance that had been received where it was emphasised that the preparation of a new LECP has to keep within the timeframes set out in the guidance document notwithstanding the emerging Ukrainian crisis.

Catriona Morgan advised that the budget preparation process within Galway City Council will commence in August and the Senior Management Team of Galway City Council has been asked to consider the new LECP with their 2023 budget requests. The high level goals in the LECP are going to influence programme delivery across the local authority and she requested that other agencies and organisations on the LCDC undertake a similar process. She also reminded the LCDC members of the LECP webinars that had taken place and that were circulated as part of the LECP process which has valuable information.

Declan Brassil hopes that the Minister is aware that for the LECP to be successful and to show outcomes, it requires resources and funding. He said that marginalised groups won't have budgets to deliver outcomes. Catriona Morgan advised that the Framework Plan clearly defines the importance of achieving quantifiable outcomes and hopes there will be

meaningful programme delivery from all partners in order to deliver on the high level goals of the new LECP.

7. Any Other Business

Annemarie Stokes advised members of the Galway Values Travellers Lives and poster that circulated, asking members for their support and to share throughout their networks and website. Following a query from Cllr. Owen Hanley, Caitriona Morgan said that the digital kiosks could be looked at for advertising if possible.

Elaine Harvey congratulated Galway City Partnership on their successful bid for the delivery of the new Local Area Employment Service contract for Galway City and County. The Galway City Local Employment Service is soon to be the Local Employment Area Service.

Caitriona Morgan reminded members of the Pobal survey of LCDC needs for capacity building on community engagement and consultation as circulated, noting the closing date to respond to the short survey was Tuesday 2nd August 2022 (COB). She also noted the recent national launch of the Social Inclusion Programme Annual Report 2021. She also advised members that Galway City LCDC had been selected for audit of the Community Enhancement Programme – Covid-19 Emergency Measure and that she was liaising with the DRCD on a suitable date for a verification visit.

Fiona McDonagh-Delaney advised that AMACH! had submitted an application for funding under the 2022 LGBTI+ Community Services fund.

Brian Barrett invited members to visit the Children of Carrowbrowne currently on display at Galway Museum which is run in partnership with Galway Traveller Movement.

The date for the next meeting of Galway City LCDC was noted for Wednesday 14th September 2022 to start at 3.00pm. The meeting then concluded.