

**Minutes of Meeting of Planning Strategic Policy Committee held on 26st May 2022
At the Galmont Hotel & via Zoom**

Presiding: Cllr. Peter Keane, Galway City Council

Present:

Mr. Derrick Hambleton, Galway City Community Network

Mr. Brendan Mulligan, Galway City Community Network

Mr. Aodán Mac Donnacha, PPN

An Comh. Dáithí Ó Cualáin, Galway County Council

Mr. Mark Green, PPN

Mr. Frank Flanagan, NWRA

Mr. John Daly, NWRA

Mr. David Minton, NWRA

Ms. Patricia Philbin, Director of Services, Galway City Council

Mr. Michael Owens, Director of Services, Galway County Council

Ms. Caroline Phelan, Senior Planner, Galway City Council

Ms. Helen Coleman, Senior Executive Planner, Galway City Council

Ms. Valerie Loughnane, Senior Planner, Galway County Council

Mr. Brendan Dunne, Senior Executive Planner, Galway County Council

Ms. Emma Silke, Administrative Officer, Galway City Council

Ms. Simone Watson, Senior Staff Officer, Galway City Council

Ms. Maryla Joyce, Assistant Staff Officer, Galway City Council

Present Online:

Cllr. Michael Connolly, Galway County Council

Cllr. Clodagh Higgins, Galway City Council

Cllr. Mike Crowe, Galway City Council

Cllr. Niall McNelis, Galway City Council

Cllr. Owen Hanley, Galway City Council

Cllr. Imelda Byrne, Galway City Council

Mr. Liam Blake, Senior Executive Planner, Galway City Council

Ms. Maura Harrington, Executive Planner, Galway City Council

Ms. Eileen Keavney, Administrative Officer, Galway County Council

Mr. Michael Maher, Galway County Council

Ms. Norann Keane, Senior Staff Officer, Galway City Council

Mr. Niall Tuke, Irish Water

Apologies: Cllr. Frank Fahy, Galway City Council

Cllr. Noel Larkin, Galway City Council

Ms. Marian Spelman, ICTU

Cllr. Shane Curley, Galway County Council

Cllr. Anne Mitchell, Galway County Council

1. Intro by Chairs of SPC's

Cllr. Peter Keane, Chairperson, welcomed members, representatives from NWRA & Irish Water and officials to the meeting, which took place in a hybrid capacity in the Galmont Hotel. Cllr. Keane thanked everyone for attending and stated that working in a collaborative manner going forward would be a

very positive outcome for Galway in general. Cllr. Keane introduced Mr. David Milton from the NWRA and invited him to commence with his presentation.

2. NWRA Presentation

Mr. David Minton gave a detailed presentation on Regional Spatial Economic Strategy (RSES) and Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP). (This presentation was circulated to Members on 27th May 2022 following the meeting).

Mr. John Daly, Economist of Northern and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA) and Mr. Frank Fahy (NRWA) provided further detail regarding key ingredients and metrics, implementation of the Galway MASP, and Regional Development Monitor. Topics discussed included:

A case study in Metropolitan Planning - CASP as an example of collaboration (Cork Area Strategic Plan), an initiative sponsored by Cork City and Cork County Council, multi- agency and multi-level governance which was designed to provide a vision and strategy for Cork City Region was also cited. It was also noted that Kilkenny and Waterford have put forward a proposal for funding for a secretariat for the MASP structure.

Cllr. Keane thanked Mr. Minton, Mr. Daly and Mr. Fahy for their very informative presentation, touching on a variety of statistics and referred specifically to BILBAO. Cllr. Keane also mentioned CASP and how encouraging this could be for Galway. Cllr. Keane opened the floor to all Members.

Discussion and questions followed in terms of:

- The likely structure and leadership for the MASP and what were the upcoming funding streams.
- The mechanism to be used by both authorities on delivering on the MASP in absence of a governance model and legislation as was initially included for in the Draft NDP.
- The need to identify shared priorities of the City and County
- The importance of collaboration between the County and City and the need for joint leadership going forward and the importance of involving the community in same.
- The need for Public sector investment for infrastructure to match the private sector investment available and with suggestions that a proposal to Central Government to achieve a matching funding investment.
- The importance of getting European investment by way of a joint co-ordinated approach by the City and County to draw upon EU funding opportunities.
- The problems caused by underfunding for many years which has hampered Galway County in its ability to progress and develop. It was noted that Galway County Council is the lowest funded LA per Capita.

The NWRA stated the leadership needs to come from Local Government, climate action groups, and utilisation of the current executive and political structure and of the SPC committees etc. along with a requirement to reinforce the buy in from all stakeholders, public, private, health and education which is key to achieving one vision. Focus and monitoring of success offers potential to address issues with delivery.

It was advised that Galway County Council has just completed a 2 year Development Plan process to adopt a County Development Plan.

3. Irish Water Presentation

Mr. Niall Tuke, Asset Investment Manager, Irish Water gave a presentation on IW policy and funding framework and an update on the Galway Drainage Study which is to commence in 2023 and be completed in 2024.

It was noted Risk assessment, Growth and solutions for storm water issues to be identified at Q1 2023.

Cllr. Peter Keane thanked Mr. Niall Tuke for the presentation, opened the floor to question or comments.

Discussion and questions followed in terms of:

Delivery of critical water and waste water infrastructure is key to progressing development of the City and County and MASP and the lack of urgency in addressing needs

The lack of critical infrastructure is negatively impacting on the City and County and MASP.

Critical issues with flooding in Galway is not being addressed.

Ardaun local area plan was established years ago to address the housing need on the East side of the city and the treatment plant is a critical piece of infrastructure and at present there is a lack of waste water facilities.

In response to questions raised Mr. Tuke advised that IW are undertaking a Galway Strategic Drainage Study providing for growth out to 2075, the study to commence in 2023 and be completed by 2024. The Galway Drainage Area Plan would see hydraulic modelling to be completed in June 2022. He advised that load reviews are to be undertaken to address storm water overflows and that Mutton Island had a design capacity of 170,000pe with a current load of 103,000pe. The submissions made on the Draft Plan by the public will assist with the development and it will be a high priority for 2023. Awaiting ABP approval.

4. AOB

Derrick Hambleton: Requested to agree now to arrange a further joint meeting he suggested 6mths time.

Cllr. Peter Keane: Suggested every 3rd meeting to be a joint meeting. This was agreed.

Cllr. Owen Hanley: Requested that the Galway Airport Site be placed on the agenda at the next joint meeting.

Cllr. Peter Keane thanked all for attending and advised that meeting dates would be issued as soon as possible.

The meeting then concluded @ 11.25