

To: Economic Development, Community & Culture SPC

Date: 18th September 2023

**Re: Draft Local Economic and Community Plan 2024 – 2029 (LECP) and
Implementation Plan 2024 - 2025**

SPC member,

The primary aim of the LECP is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of Galway City both by Galway City Council directly, and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.

As the framework for the economic development and local / community development of Galway City, the LECP will be the primary mechanism at local level to bring forward relevant actions arising from national and regional strategies and policies that have a local remit.

Galway City Council has the primary responsibility for leading economic, social and community development in the city. The LECP was developed to reflect this responsibility under Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended by section 44 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014. Both economic and community elements are integrated into the LECP and the overall process was guided by an Advisory Steering Group established in 2022. (Members from both the SPC and LCDC)

The **community element** of the LECP will be agreed by the Galway City Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the **economic element** will be agreed by Galway City Council, through the Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC). Adoption of the Plan is a reserved function of the elected members of Council. Implementation Plans will be developed every two years, based on the High-Level Objectives outlined in the LECP Framework 2024 – 2029, attached. The first draft Implementation Plan 2024 – 2025 is also attached.

Five High Level Goals have been selected and agreed by LCDC / SPC to help achieve the Vision:

1. a world class creative city region
2. an innovative city
3. an equal and inclusive city
4. a sustainable and resilient city
5. a city that promotes health and wellbeing

The LECP Framework 2024 – 2029 details **5 High-Level Goals** and **17 Sustainable Community and Economic Objectives** as well as consideration of outcomes and high-level indicators for the 6-year LECP period. **c.60 actions** are contained in the draft Implementation Plan 2024 - 2025 as well as relevant key outcomes to facilitate evaluation. Additional actions are being considered so the first

draft is a work in progress at this stage. c.75% of the actions will be delivered directly by Galway City Council while 25% will be delivered in partnership with other agencies / directly by other agencies.

Consistency / Screening / Priorities

The LECP is influenced by a hierarchy of international, national, regional and local level plans, strategies and legislation. Consideration was given to these during the preparation of the LECP. The Galway City LECP Framework and Implementation Plan must be consistent with the core strategies and objectives of the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020 – 2032 (RSES) prepared by the Northern & Western Regional Assembly and the National Planning Framework – Project Ireland 2040. AA screening must be carried out on the LECP. It is the responsibility of the local authority preparing the LECP to take account of the SEA Directive and Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and ensure compliance as appropriate.

The LECP has considered the potential impact of the plan across several cross cutting / horizontal priorities namely - sustainability, climate change, equality, poverty, age and disability. Cross cutting priorities reflected throughout the plan include:

- Climate Change / Action
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty
- Public Consultation

Current & Next Steps:

Who	Why	When
LECP Advisory Group	To consider the process followed, ensure consistency with the guidelines, agree the process to final adoption	31 st August 2023
Senior Management Team	Approve draft Plan for wider circulation / approve process / timelines to adoption	5 th September
Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)	Consider first draft of LECP Framework and Implementation Plan	13 th September
Economic, Community and Culture SPC	Consider first draft of LECP Framework and Implementation Plan	22 nd September
Northern & Western Regional Assembly	Submission of LECP for review / consistency / incorporate any amendments	October
AA / SEA Screening	Consideration / screening of LECP	October / November
Area Committee x 3	Consideration of Draft LECP	November / December
Economic, Community and Culture SPC	Consider final draft of LECP Framework and Implementation Plan	8 th December
Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)	Consider final draft of LECP Framework and Implementation Plan	13 th December
Galway City Council	Consideration of draft LECP for adoption	8 th January 2024