



Galway City Community Network

The Public Participation Network in Galway City

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Glossary of Terms and Acronyms

- **DRCD** – Department of Rural and Community Development
- **GCCN** – Galway City Community Network
- **GCC** – Galway City Council
- **GCP** – Galway City Partnership
- **LCDC** – Local Community Development Committee
- **LECP** – Local Economic and Community Plan
- **LG** – Linkage Group
- **LGBT+** – Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans+ and intersex people
- **PPN** – Public Participation Network
- **SDG** – Sustainable Development Goals
- **SPC** – Strategic Policing Committee
- **UNRCPD** – UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

SPC1: Housing

Cruinniú / Name of Meeting	Galway City Council Housing SPC
Ionadaí LPCG (glacadóir - nótaí) / Name of GCCN Rep (note-taker)	Karen Golden
Dáta & Suite / Date & Location of Meeting:	29/9/2023, Galway City Council Chamber and Teams
I láthair / Attendance	<p>Cllr Donal Lyons, Chair Mayor Cllr Eddie Hoare Cllr Terry O'Flaherty Cllr Alan Cheevers Cllr Mike Cubbard K Golden M Conneely M Lohan E Fanning D Healy M Fallon Ward M Forde M McCrea E Conlon E McNamara F Griffin C Clancy</p>
<p>Príomhphointí pléite / Key Issues Discussed: Minutes proposed by Mayor Eddie Hoare, seconded by Cllr Terry O'Flaherty</p> <p>Matters arising: Cllr Mike Cubbard – asks for clarification on program of works in relation to retrofitting What is it costing this Council and the State to have someone in Emergency Accommodation? Somebody was 'put out' of a house in May, and it has not been painted since.</p> <p>Cllr Alan Cheevers – similarly, asks for clarification in relation to program of works for retrofit program with dates when works will commence.</p> <p>Cllr Terry O'Flaherty – thanked by a constituent for works done via retrofit program</p> <p>Cllr Donal Lyons – planning process will commence in Q1 2024 in relation to works in Knocknacarra. Ballyburke Site – was to be social and affordable scheme, but now appears to be completely social – what is the reason for this? Concern with concentration of social housing in one area.</p> <p>Responses: No data in relation to retrofitting. Finding it very difficult to recruit staff. This post was not approved by Department. Will look to put a program of works together for Councillors. In relation to CBL, has been successful.</p>	

In relation to succession, people will only be granted tenancy if they have been living in the property for the last two years and paying rent. Council follows the scheme of letting priorities.

Ballyburke turned to social housing following loan forgiveness, approx. 7m debt forgiveness.

Don't have the figure for cost per person in Emergency Accommodation/Homeless Services to hand, but will get these.

Clarifications

Cllr Cubbard – makes no sense that we have properties empty for months on end, if not years at times, and people in Emergency Accommodation.

Cllr Alan Cheevers – if we could have an update in relation to empty/vacant/awaiting retrofitting properties.

Response: 81 voids, 24 are long term voids. Average turnaround time is 37 weeks, average nationally is 35 (excluding long term voids for specific reasons). Trying to get this time down to 25 weeks. Holding some properties back for the Cold Weather Response. Executive accepts the point made by councillors, do need to do better.

On succession, can be on the rent book nearly from birth. Subsequently the tenant passes away. If the person living in the house is slightly over the threshold for social housing, it's not just the two years alone, there are other criteria.

Response: there are a number of criteria, someone must be within the income limits and on the social housing waiting list. If they are over the income limit, we cannot allocate a property. Also the matter of people being overaccommodated in three bed houses. Some people are voluntarily giving up three beds, and accepting two beds. Looking to make the most of social housing stock. Council trying to be fair to everyone, and taking everything on a case by case basis.

Cllr Cubbard – people are not getting two beds, they are going onto lists and often for years on end.

Marie Nolan – Healthy Age Friendly Homes Program

See presentation

Regional Program Manager, covering Connacht and Donegal/West and North West. GCC part of pilot for last couple of years.

Represents new way of working. For people age 65 and over.

Brings together Housing and Health.

Approved 5m in the budget last year to go nationwide.

See presentation.

1 coordinator for Galway City, 2 for County Galway.

Regional team of 10 coordinators.

Will do needs assessment under 6 domains

- Housing
- Finance
- Technology
- Community/Social
- Health
- Warmer Homes

In addition to benefits to older people, reduces costs substantially compared to €82,000 per annum for a person in a Nursing Home.

Cllr Mike Cubbard

Great presentation, thank you. Have had experience of linking in, and great service.

Elizabeth Fanning

Great program, hoping to have coordinator on the ground shortly.

Capital Projects Update

Report taken as read.

Cllr Terry O'Flaherty

Brothers of Charity land. School to be built there, not sure how it's going to become available.

Renmore Barracks.

Cannot see them being used.

Response:

LDA looked at all lands that are in State ownership, and potential to develop them.

Some are short term, and others would have longer term time frame.

Shorter term – Sandy Road, and Black Box.

Cllr Lyons

The occupants of these lands have not been consulted.

Response:

Some lands will be sifted out over time.

Cllr Alan Cheevers

In relation to development in Ballybane, Rhatigans have taken it over

Amazed to see that some of the houses built by previous contractor are being knocked.

5-year project, started in 2020, disrupted by Covid.

What did it cost for last contractor to leave the site, and how much for the new contractor to come on site?

Cllr Cubbard

Thanks for report. Always positive when we see sites for development, between 4,000 and 6,000 properties.

Terryland is one of the ones with least constraints. Do the LDA speak to the LA in relation to the infrastructure in the area?

Where do we stand in relation to people with criminal convictions, and particularly child and sexual assault?

Cllr Terry O'Flaherty

Have all properties in one estate been allocated now?

Karen Golden

Is the report to be read that 181 is the projected delivery this year, against a target of 219?

Is this effectively a shortfall of 20% again, on the annual target?

How many households are on the Social Housing Waiting List now, and what impact will the 181 have on the List?

The Government objective under Housing for All is to eliminate homelessness by 2030. Are delivery targets tied into this target, to enable us to plan to achieve this aim, noting that the City is targeted under the National Development Plan to grow by 50% by 2040.

Cllr Donal Lyons

If AHBs say they're going to deliver many homes, we need to ensure that they are held to delivering those.

Response

To Cllr Cheevers – should have those houses in Ballybane by the end of next year. Costs, contracts are still under litigation, and a report can be issued in due course. A lot of work has gone in to get back on site.

Terryland – screening sites much better now, in terms of what happened in Keeraun and Headford Road, with a view to having issues ironed out before we go to planning with them. Talking to LDA in relation to their sites also. Working with LDA looking to address issues in advance so that planning issues don't arise.

Criminal records – GCC does have to house people with criminal records, we work with AHBs on this. Our social workers work with AHBs on this also.

To Karen Golden: In relation to 181, no not meeting targets again this year. Some delivery due this year has been lost through AHBs also. Some have gone into next year. Council trying to have a bigger input in construction phase, so have better sight of timelines.

Eliminating homelessness by 2030 will be a challenge, but will work with us to aim to reach this target.

To Cllr Lyons: In relation to AHB delivery last Christmas, an RCT issue in relation to delivery has been rectified and has not reoccurred with other AHBs.

On acquisitions – closed on 15, 10 on the East, 5 on the West. Also acquiring vacant units also. 41 in conveyancing currently.

Clarifications

Cllr Cheevers – will await the report on the original contract; what is the cost on the new contract?; why are existing houses being knocked down?

The Executive will revert on this, and release figures if they can.

Cllr Cubbard – Cllr Cubbard raised the nominations process again.

Response: government working on protocols around this.

There is a protocol in relation to nominations. Garda clearance is sought in relation to every nomination and every potential nomination. Multi-disciplinary team sign off on allocations, including social work team. Will revert to Cllr Cubbard in relation to specific case.

Cllr Lyons – a lot of time spent at this SPC and at the full Council adopting an Anti-Social Behaviour Policy. Are we adhering to this policy? Aware of other cases where people were housed close to families, leading to issues down the road.

Response: Some of the nominees are through the Housing First Program, operated by our Social Work Team.

Some have criminal records, not the same scrutiny given to criminal records. Unfortunately, people don't have to continue to engage with wraparound supports. Very unfortunate that people have to endure what they have to endure.

Is this something then that this SPC would need to bring up with Housing First Program? Believe that Helena is organising a case conference.

[Note that it was clarified after the meeting that the issues referred to did not relate to any client of the Housing First Service].

Cllr Cheevers – garda vetting is just a box ticking exercise. Everyone deserves a second chance. We have multiple offenders getting properties. We have to address that.

Response: not in a position to comment on a one-off incident. Galway Simon working intensively on Housing First, a lot of successes also.

Number of people on Social Housing Waiting List – 4,600

Targets set against 2019 Housing Needs Assessment, not against the Social Housing Waiting List

Acquiring approx. 53 this year also, bringing total delivery to 230.

K Golden – at approximately 200 per annum, it will take 25 years to meet the needs of the current Social Housing Waiting List, without taking into consideration the targeted growth of the City by 50% by 2040. At the current rate of delivery, it will take until 2048 to meet the current need.

Current delivery is totally insufficient relative to the need. Accepting the challenges currently in relation to recruiting staff and cost inflation, all efforts to increase delivery are needed and would be most welcome.

Response to Cllr O'Flaherty – received approval for 8 technical staff, difficult to recruit, as we gain one, we lose another, difficult to gain additionality.

Cllr Lyons - Entire landbank in Knocknacarra cost approx. 22m. Onus on government in relation to the history of these sites also.

Response: Mixed tenures is the direction we're going in, but not cast in stone that developments will be 50% social and 50% affordable.

All that is coming up in the short term in the West of the City in the way of Affordable Housing is 29 Affordable Units in Clybaun.

Merlin Lands – 84 units – on the East of the City.

Housing for People with a Disability

Director: Disappointing that the AHBs don't seem to be able to get the Cost Rental model to work in Galway. This has been raised at the Task Force also.

Cllr O'Flaherty: People crying out for Affordable. Developments should be 50/50 Social/Affordable.

Response: we're meeting a need with all housing developments.

Clarification: UD is Universal Design.

Cllr Cubbard

Positive that progress is being made. Capital report target is 2,440. Adding totals in report is 1,601 – has the target been changed?

Response: no, targets don't change. Need to relook at pipeline, and how we will make up the balance. Previous report issued in July still had Keeraun and Headford Road in the figures, they have been removed now. Council trying to source other sites/developments to replace those lost. Targets don't change. Housing Delivery Action Plan target is 2,440. Will not be reviewed, unless advised to by Government.

Cllr Cubbard, sits on Transport SPC also. Is there a mechanism to put in footpaths and other infrastructure, to enable people to get to facilities.

Response: monies being spent on pedestrian facilities on a number of developments. Housing Capital now comes in under the Infrastructure unit.

Cllr Cheevers: What are we negotiating at the moment in terms of turnkey estates?

Response – negotiating on landbanks and turnkey.

Cllr Lyons – with recent decisions of Bord Pleanála, important to acquire sites close to existing developments.

Homeless Update

D Healy spoke to the report, see attached with meeting papers.

Homeless Steering Committee meeting during the week. Cannot overemphasise the challenges in securing emergency accommodation.

Housing First – 34 active tenancies in the City. It's a way of fast tracking people who have substance misuse issues or mental health issues, bringing them into a tenancy immediately. Constant resetting. Karen, Helena and social worker Catherine Fahy very familiar with it.

In terms of rough sleepers, COPE Galway running Service. Increase in presentations, and increase in Day Centre presentations also. People gravitating from County into the City. Working with homeless service providers to find pathways.

Agreement with LAs, there is an arrangement in place to move people back to their Centre of Interest.

Waiting list for Emergency Accommodation, 6 City Families currently waiting on Emergency Accommodation. We are getting some success on a weekly basis, but new arrivals makes it very difficult to reduce the numbers. 39 allocations to people in homelessness year to date. Working on transboundary acquisitions also.

In terms of homeless travellers, significant challenges. Currently have 23 traveller families, of 50, in Emergency Accommodation. 7 traveller families in transitional, 7 in Peter McVerry Hub and 1 in COPE Hub. Cannot overemphasise work of the team in City Council.

51 Homeless HAP tenancies year to date, with Homeless Placefinder.

In terms of Tenancy Sustainment, Carmel Manfredi, works with NTQs. She has dealt with 501 NTQs since November 2020. Breakdown of outcomes for 400 of these in the report. 158 allocations, 110 for HAP, 12 for leasing.

New scheme proposals:

Day Centre, going out to design. Hoping to have completed in 2025.

Galway Simon working on delivering 10 one bed units for older people and people with compromised mobility.

Cold Weather Response will kick off from end November to March. Meeting held with COPE earlier in the year to discuss. 14 beds created through decanting from Fairgreen and Osterly last year. EOI went out this year, 18 bed standalone facility will be location for this year's CWR on Dublin Road. Plus 20 severe weather places in Westside.

Galway City is the regional lead, coordinating for Galway County, Mayo and Roscommon also. Individual appointed to create new Regional Homeless Action Plan, aiming to bring to SPC in Q1 2024.

Donal Lyons – to thank all of the staff for the good work being done.

Cllr O'Flaherty – well done to all involved, not an easy situation. And to Karen in Galway Simon, Martin O'Connor in COPE and their teams.

Cllr Cubbard – appreciate the work being done over the 9.5 years on the Council; thanks to GCC team and Galway Simon and COPE.

In terms of the McVerry Trust, they have been in the media recently. To confirm no issues on the ground?

Response: recent meeting held with Peter McVerry Trust, quite happy with service there, no major issues arising.

Cllr Cubbard – 34 Housing First tenancies, to acknowledge good progress by that team. Concerned with numbers in Emergency Accommodation, and taking 36 weeks to turn properties around.

Cold Weather Response – are we confident we have sufficient space for the Winter?

Response: yes, satisfied there will be sufficient space.

K Golden To acknowledge collaborative working of agencies in Galway. Enormous work being done to address homelessness and to keep the number of people in Emergency Accommodation and experiencing homelessness down. The West had the fastest growing rate of people entering Emergency Accommodation in 2019, and the peak number reached was 576. We have yet to get back to this peak, while the numbers nationally are going to new record highs monthly.

However, there are significant levels of presentations to Homeless Services, and given the wider environment, it is getting increasingly difficult to prevent homelessness and to support people to find pathways out of homelessness. That we now have a waiting list for Emergency Accommodation is very concerning, and reflects the huge challenges currently.

It is expected that the number in EA in the West is going to increase over the coming months.

Homeless Services are currently under significant pressure due to the Section 39 pay dispute and this was also discussed at the Homeless Steering Committee earlier in the week.

Organisations in receipt of Section 39 funding were asked to take commensurate cuts with their Section 38 and public sector colleagues during the crash, and they did so. However, they have been left completely behind as pay started to be restored.

At this stage, funding for Section 39 posts is at 2008 levels, some 15 years, two pay agreements, 8 payscales, on average 12%- and 4-hours additional work per week behind their colleagues. Following the collapse of WRC talks, local homelessness service providers have not been included in the organisations included in industrial action to commence in October, but it is quite likely that they may be included in subsequent waves.

This presents very significant risks in relation to client safety, client dignity if there are pickets outside the homes of clients, team culture within the organisations involved (where some people are in the unions and others are not) and fundraising. The ability to continue to run Services safely in Galway will be severely compromised if strike action goes ahead.

The ability of Service Providers to recruit and retain staff in the current environment has been hugely impacted by these issues, and it is increasingly challenging to deliver safe Services.

The Chair noted these comments, and that this issue is outside of the remit of the SPC. K Golden responded that Section 39 funding is provided by the Dept of Health, through the HSE. While it is outside of the remit of the SPC, there will obviously be very serious repercussions for Homeless Services in the City in the event of strike action in the homeless service providers.

Cllr Cubbard asked what the continuity plans would be, should strike action go ahead. K Golden advised that Galway Simon has written to the union to request negotiations in the event of strike action, and has advised Galway City Council accordingly. This meeting has yet to take place. It is unclear at this juncture if or what can be done, and while providers will make every effort to ensure they can continue to run Services safely, there are obviously huge challenges involved.

There is talk in some LA areas of potentially bringing in the army. This would create huge difficulties in Services, and unravel so much of the good work underway. Cllr Cubbard asked that the continuity plan be circulated to the Committee.

AOB

K Golden asked that papers be circulated earlier again, to allow time for the Housing Linkage Group to meet prior to the SPC.

The delay for this meeting arose due to the Forsa action.

Cruinniú / Name of Meeting	Housing SPC
Ionadaí LPCG (glacadóir - nótaí) / Name of GCCN Rep (note-taker)	Karen Golden
Dáta & Suite / Date & Location of Meeting:	24/11/2023
I láthair / Attendance	<p>Cllr D Lyons in the Chair, Cllr T O’Flaherty, Cllr M Cubbard, Cllr D McDonnell – from 10.10, Cllr A Cheevers, from 10.20, K Golden, M Lohan, L Fanning, H Martyn, D Healy, F Griffin, A Brett, A Falvey, M Cormican</p> <p>Apologies: M Conneely</p> <p>There were others present at the meeting, but I was unable to make out names on the screens. Full attendance will need to be taken from the minutes.</p>
Príomhphointí pléite / Key Issues Discussed:	
<p>Minutes and Matters Arising: Minutes proposed by Cllr O’Flaherty, seconded by K Golden Cllr Cubbard – awaiting report on vacant properties, how many voids do we have, are resources within the Council an issue?</p> <p>What is the policy in relation to allocations to people who have been convicted for sexual offences?</p> <p>Response: getting extra resources to address vacancies within the Council, working on retrofitting on an ongoing basis, plan in place for 2024, awaiting funding allocation – yearly funded model, approx. 70-75% of the cost covered by funding with Council using own resources for the balance, generally prioritise properties with lowest BER and using solid fuel heating sources; email to go to Cllr Cubbard in relation to allocations, with the offer of a meeting to discuss further.</p> <p>100 surrenders this year, up approx. 25% on previous years. By end of this year, will have approx. 110 properties completed in the voids program. Project that number of voids going into new year will be under 50, down significantly on earlier figures.</p> <p>Capital Program M Cormican: Taking capital report as read</p> <p>Updates were requested in relation to Clybaun Road and Merchant’s Road, and these were provided.</p>	

Cllr Lyons – four bed houses? Not seeing any coming through, are we acquiring to meet the needs of those requiring four beds?

Response: development focus is on 1,2 and 3 beds. Will revert on figures relating to 4 beds – build and purchase.

House in Kiltullagh?

Are the family still waiting to go into this, or have they been rehoused?

Are we purchasing new houses only, or are we purchasing second hand houses also?

Response: family not yet rehoused. Purchasing second hand also via tenant in situ.

K Golden: We are in the middle of significant housing and homelessness crisis. Sharpest end of housing crisis is the homelessness crisis. Ireland has signed up to the Lisbon Declaration, and eliminating homelessness by 2030 is a key aim under Housing for All. Welcome that this is a focus of the Homeless Action Plan which is currently being worked on.

Social Housing Waiting List – 4,600

Housing Needs Assessment – was approx. 1,700 households in 2022. Are there any updated 2023 figures?

Delivery Targets – approx. 220 for 2023

Projected Delivery – 181

Over recent years, we are targeting delivery that is well below need, and we are consistently falling short of the targets. And there are a lot of distressed people facing homelessness, as we are not delivering sufficient housing. Can we look collectively at what the blocks are, and look to increase the number of units delivered over the coming years, in order that the capital program can contribute positively to aim of eliminating homelessness in Galway by 2030.

Response: 181 units to be delivered, not including acquisitions and vacancy

Projecting 193 units for 2024, down on our strategy for a number of reasons

Decisions on Ballyburke and Merchants Road outstanding

Headford Road and Keeraun – 100 units off our programme, which were lost through the Board

Working towards increasing the 193

Croí Conaithe opportunities also being explored

Housing Needs figures – can't complete Housing Needs Assessment for 2023 before end of November, and will provide full details when complete

The 1,700 on the Social Housing Needs Assessment are not in receipt of any other housing assessments ie excludes RAS and HAP recipients

Council also delivering HAP Tenancies

K Golden – acknowledges work done by Council team, and Galway Simon and COPE Galway in supporting people into HAP tenancies. However, reality on the ground is that the supply continues to shrink and it is getting ever more challenging to find HAP tenancies.

Response – there are challenges for single people, and for people who are finding new tenancies.

Some who are in tenancies that were taken up some time ago do not face the same level of challenges.

Hardship clause in differential rent scheme is being used.

Single people paying for two beds, and this creates challenges. Council seeking to address challenges for single people

Finding that rents can go from say 900 to 1,200 outside the RPZ areas.

There are cases that those working in HAP are increasingly worried about

1,950 people in HAP at any given time, putting on 5-6 people per week

HAP discretionary rate increased from 20% to 35%

K Golden – acknowledges increase in discretionary rate, and that this is a help. However, must be viewed in the context of base rate not increasing since 2016, and rents in the City increasing by approx. 50% over the same period.

Response: agrees that base rate has not increased.

Cllr Lyons: Is there any way to revisit Headford Road and Keeraun?

Response: They fell down on permeability, and Council looking at roads and access with a view to revisiting. Still on workplan.

At Housing Taskforce on Tuesday, Council advised that their targets will increase and that they are not meeting current targets

Council will look to increase delivery through AHBs also

K Golden – it might be helpful to look at collaboration to remove blocks for AHBs in delivering units.

Traveller Accommodation

Cllr O'Flaherty – suggest different kind of scheme to what might be envisaged down the line

Response: More plans to do more social inclusion, mixed development

Cllr O'Flaherty: What is the expected timeframe in relation to the knotweed?

Response: Looking at specialist physical removal of knotweed, awaiting licence from MPWS and once licence received will remove and development can commence. Removal rather than treatment process could expedite.

Cllr Cheevers – in relation to integration, aware that Traveller Accommodation turned down in Ballymoneen Road, any other sites being looked at in the West?

Cllr O'Flaherty – important that there is equal distribution across the three areas

Response: Acknowledge there is no similar group scheme currently in the West of the City. There had been one planned for Keeraun. Families in Cul Tra have expressed a preference for group housing scheme – 13 families. 20 families in Carrowbrowne, preference for standard LA social housing. 12 further families in Carrowbrowne Temporary Site, cannot discuss further as subject of action by IRHEC.

Circular Road site development commenced in September with 5 traveller specific Homes.

LTACC meeting in December, can circulate report to the SPC Members.

All social housing developments going forward will be mixed tenure, and will have traveller specific homes.

K Golden – very welcome to see work outlined in the report. What is the level of demand, relative to the housing being delivered.

Response: New review of TAP next year will look at need versus delivery

Traveller Liaison Officer starting on Monday and another post being taken up the following week, so from Council perspective will have a team to work with Travellers.

Team know the families, know their preferences, family sizes etc

Tenant Purchase

Introduction of fee, for noting.

Cllr Cubbard – can it be refunded if sale goes through?

Response: no, this cannot be done (stipulated on the application form). First application is €20, €100 fee is for repeat applications only and non refundable.

Homeless Update

Report taken as read

Housing Taskforce Meeting for Galway City and County held last Tuesday

Update given to that meeting, similar to report provided for SPC

79 families in Emergency Accommodation in October

Preventions and exits reported on

Tenant in situ supporting preventions, a lot of work going into this currently

Moving families and singles from PEA is a priority

D McDonnell – CWR has now commenced, will we be able to cope?

For people who are under NTQs, and have a number of years on the SHWL, are we able to cope? Are we prioritising people who will be made homeless or who cannot find alternatives? While we try to do something on allocations, can we solve other problems first?

Response: Tenant in Situ is an Emergency Scheme, with the main aim of preventing homelessness.

Are we holding a number of houses in each development for these people?

Response: no

Cllr O'Flaherty: how many rough sleepers on the streets?

Rec'd call from someone who is involved with psychiatric services, people who are in long term psychiatric care, told to go city and county councils and present themselves, no back up from psychiatric services after

Response: 16 Rough Sleepers currently, many are non HRC, do not wish to engage with Services

In extreme weather conditions, activate humanitarian response

Generally non HRC who are rough sleeping, in some cases they come and go from the City

Many rough sleepers have been brought in through the Housing First program.

In relation to discharge for psychiatric services, H Martyn and K Golden outlined the My Home program which Galway Simon have been running in the West in collaboration with the Local Authorities and Mental Health Services in recent years. To follow up with Cllr O'Flaherty in relation to individual case.

Cllr Cheevers:

On tenant in situ what is the total amount this year?

How does the Council arrive at completing a purchase? Has a tenant a better chance of getting a long term social housing tenancy through tenant in situ, if they are longer on the SHWL?

Landlords advising Cllr that they wanted to go through with tenant in situ sale, because they had very good relationship with tenants, but valuation received by Council was €20k-€30k less

Response: must be risk of homelessness before Tenant in Situ scheme will be used

Choice based letting – CBL, on larger schemes. Variety of criteria.

Tenant in purchase – length on waiting list is not a criteria, NTQ and at risk of homelessness are the key criteria

Two auctioneers on panel, only get one valuation on each property

Must remain within cost acquisition guidelines

On target to achieve 50 acquisitions, though may not be fully signed, sealed and delivered by year end given time it takes for conveyancing to go through.

Cllr O'Flaherty – thank you to Galway Simon Community, COPE Galway and Council team for excellent work being done. Has experience of how strong the work is from recent case she dealt with herself.

Other Councillors echo Cllr O'Flaherty's comments.

Cllr McDonnell – is it correct to say that cost acquisition guidelines need to include for refurb works as well as acquisition cost?

Response: yes, this is the case. Technical assessment carried out, and estimate given. This is taken into account with the acquisition cost in relation to the cost acquisition guidelines..

Cllr McDonnell – open to landlord to get their own valuation also.

Pay awards

Very welcome that strike was averted.

Awaiting ballot results and NGOs advised that it is not a given that this will go through. While the 8% is a welcome development, it leaves staff still behind parity, and there are further public sector talks to commence on Monday which will widen the gap again.

Also awaiting further communication with agencies (awards apply to HSE/Section 39 and Túsla/Section 56 as well as Local Authorities/Section 10 funding)

AOB

Condolences to K Golden and Uinseann Finn on recent bereavements.

Quality of sound to be looked at prior to next meeting.

K Golden thanked the Executive and Committee for the work during the year.

SPC2: Planning

Cruinniú / Name of Meeting	Planning SPC Meeting
Ionadaí LPCG (glacadóir - nótaí) / Name of GCCN Rep (note-taker)	Brendan Mulligan - GCCN Representative on the Planning SPC
Dáta & Suite / Date & Location of Meeting: 5 September 2023	
I láthair / Attendance	
<p>Council: Cllr Peter Keane (Chair), Cllr Frank Fahy</p> <p>Online: Cllr Niall McNelis, Cllr Noel Larkin, Cllr Alan Curran, Cllr Clodagh Higgins</p> <p>Community: Derrick Hambleton, Brendan Mulligan (online)</p> <p>In Attendance: Uinsinn Finn, Acting Director of Services, Eoghan Lynch, Senior Planner, Helen Coleman, Senior Executive Planner, Liam Blake, Senior Executive Planner, Peter Staunton, Senior Executive Planner, John O'Donnell, Senior Staff Officer, Laurena Mitchell, Senior Executive Officer, Marcella Kilgarriff, Staff Officer.</p>	
Príomhphointí pléite / Key Issues Discussed:	
<p>New Senior Planner: Eoghan Lynch was introduced as the new Senior Planner. [He has replaced Caroline Phelan who retired in late 2022/early 2023. Peter Staunton has moved to Forward Planning.]</p> <p>e-Planning Portal: A new online planning portal went live on the 20th June. By the date of the Planning SPC Meeting, 48 online applications (55% of all applications) had been received. Enforcement has gone paperless since 4th September.</p> <p>Heritage Forum: The Planning SPC was told that it was planned to hold a meeting of the Heritage Forum in September – there hadn't been a meeting since the 3rd meeting on the 30th June.</p> <p>Residential Zoned Land Tax: Six landowners appealed the City Council's determinations to An Bord Pleanála. Four have been determined to date – 3 upheld and 1 overturned.</p> <p>A further two landowners had since appealed the City Council's determinations included in the Supplemental Map to An Bord Pleanála. An Bord Pleanála had until 27 October to make a decision.</p> <p>Population Statistics from Census 2022: This was put on the agenda as it was raised by the GCCN Reps at an earlier SPC meeting. The population of Galway city increased by 7.3% between Census 2016 and Census 2022 compared to increase of 8.1% in the population of the state. There has been a very noticeable contraction in the population in the 40-42 age range in 2022 who would have been in the 33-36 age range in 2016. This indicates that people are leaving the city before they have children. There are relatively fewer children in the city than in the county.</p> <p>The GCCN Reps expressed serious concern about the evidence from Census 2022 that Galway City is falling behind the interim population targets for 2026 and 2031. It will need</p>	

something transformational to enable the city to achieve its NPF target population of 120,00+ by 2040. Inadequate wastewater and water infrastructure and inadequate provision of housing are constraints to population growth.

The Senior Planner said that difficult decisions need to be made including increasing density to gentle density and reallocation of road space to make movement through the city easier for pedestrians and cyclists. He expressed the view that this needed to be done in advance of the Ring Road otherwise there is no justification for the Ring Road.

The Small Area Populations Statistics will be published in September which will provide useful data.

Temporary Time Limited Waiver in respect of Development Contributions: A presentation was given on the above scheme which is intended to incentivise developers to progress developments with a view to boosting supply of both private and social housing. Schemes must commence on site between 25/04/2023 and 24/04/2024 and be completed no later than 31/12/2025.

Ardaun LAP: The Ardaun LAP will expire in 2024. The Planning and Development Bill proposes changes to the process for development of LAPs so it may be necessary to await its enactment before proceeding with a new LAP for Ardaun.

The GCCN Reps raised serious concerns about Uisce Éireann's withdrawal from An Bord Pleanála of its application for a Wastewater Storage Tank at Merlin Park Pumping Station which was intended to service the Ardaun LAP area and the eastern suburbs in general, as well as Oranmore.

Any Other Business: The Acting Director of Services agreed to give the same update on the GMATS as had been given to the Transport SPC, at the next Planning SPC meeting

Socruithe déanta / Key Decisions Made:

It was agreed to invite Uisce Éireann to send a representative to the Joint Galway City and County Planning SPC meeting to give an update on its plans for infrastructure.

Dáta don chéad chruinniú eile / Date of next meeting:

- Joint Galway City and County Planning SPC meeting 01/12/2023
- Planning SPC meeting 05/12/2023
- 4th Heritage Forum meeting 11/12/2023

Moltaí breise / Any Other Comments:

Presentations/Updates

Four presentations were circulated to members of the Planning SPC at 08:13 on the morning of the meeting – just 17 minutes before the meeting was due to start at 08:30. A fifth presentation was circulated by email at 09:13 during the meeting.

The GCCN Reps complained about the late circulation of presentations which meant there was no opportunity for members to read and consider them. The Chair accepted it was a valid complaint.

Cruinniú / Name of Meeting	Joint Galway City and County Planning SPCs
Ionadaí LPCG (glacadóir - nótaí) / Name of GCCN Rep (note-taker)	Brendan Mulligan - GCCN Representative on the Planning SPC
Dáta / Date of Meeting: Meeting at 10:30am, 1st December 2023	
I láthair / Attendance	
<p>Galway County Council: Cllr Mary Hoade, Chair -Planning SPC Cllr Donagh Mark Killilea, Cllr Michael (Moegie) Maher, Cllr Michael Connolly, Cllr Shelly Herterich Quinn, Cllr Dáithí Ó Cualáin (online)</p> <p>County Galway PPN Reps: Mark Green, (online)</p> <p>Industry Rep: Colm Ryan, MKO</p> <p>In attendance: Liam Hanrahan, Director of Services – Economic Development and Planning, Eileen Keaveney, Administrative Officer, Valerie Loughnane-Moran, Senior Planner, Helen Coleman, Senior Executive Planner (online)</p> <p>Galway City Council: Cllr Peter Keane, Chair - Planning SPC Cllr Niall McNelis (online), Cllr Codagh Higgins (online) Apologies from Cllr Frank Fahy and Cllr Imelda Byrne</p> <p>GCCN Reps: Derrick Hambleton, Brendan Mulligan</p> <p>In attendance: Uinsinn Finn, Acting Director of Infrastructure Development and Planning, Eoghan Lynch, Senior Planner, Helen Coleman, Senior Executive Planner, Colm O’Riordan, Senior Executive Engineer</p>	
Príomhphointí pléite / Key Issues Discussed:	
<p>Cllr Mary Hoade chaired the meeting.</p> <p>1. Minutes of Meeting 8th November 2022</p> <p>Cllr Michael (Moegie) Maher proposed their adoption, seconded by Cllr Michael Connolly.</p> <p>1. Former Galway Airport site at An Carn Mór – Masterplan</p> <p>Liam Hanrahan gave a presentation [see attached presentation circulated 04/12/2023] in which he outlined the history of the ownership of the site by the two local authorities. He said the economic downturn had delayed the development, as had Covid subsequently.</p> <p>The company behind the proposed Film Studio development was going back to the market for funding.</p> <p>The site is designated as a Key Employment Site in Chapter 5 of the County Development Plan. The County Council is engaged in developing a masterplan. There has been good engagement with the IDA which has agreed to become a strategic partner.</p> <p>Philip Lee has been engaged, on the IDA’s recommendation, to advise on procurement. There will be a two-stage process to appoint consultants.</p>	

The Shannon Group has advised the first stage should concentrate on infrastructure to determine all services that are currently available and their adequacy and identify what infrastructure will be necessary and when. In the second stage, potential uses for the site will be considered. This will require the engagement of both local authorities, the IDA and other national bodies. There has already been a significant number of expressions of interest. Dexcom had expressed an interest before deciding to locate in Athenry. Companies seeking to expand and logistics companies had expressed interest. The next stage will be to appoint a consultant. A “proper Steering Group” will be appointed to work with the consultant.

Cllr Clodagh Higgins asked how long will the Masterplan process take and noted that a motion had been passed at a recent City Council meeting to set up a Steering Group. She asked when will this happen? She also mentioned the concern about the 6 concerts that are proposed for 2024.

Cllr Mary Hoade responded that the setting up of a Steering Groups will go before the next County Corporate Policy Group (CPG) meeting and then it will go before the Joint City & County CPG.

Liam Hanrahan responded that the anticipated timeline for the Masterplan is as follows:

- Appoint Consultant: Q1 of 2024
- Infrastructure Survey: Q2 of 2024
- Masterplan: Q4 2024/Q1 2025

Cllr Niall McNelis welcomed the proposal to set up a joint Steering Group. He enquired about the current use of the Airport by the Fire Service and whether that was in accordance with planning. He also inquired if it is intended to have a slip road off the motorway to service the site.

Cllr Donagh Killelea was of the opinion that Galway Co. Co. should take full ownership of the site. If it did, it could make faster progress. He also expressed concern that the IDA already have a large site at Oranmore and wondered what is wrong with that now. Why is the IDA showing an interest in the Airport site? He is of the opinion that no serious decision should be made in advance of the Masterplan and we should keep an open mind about potential uses. He welcomed the preparation of a Masterplan.

Liam Harahan replied that the short-term use by the Fire Service was in order – there has always been fire-fighting training at the Airport site.

The site has been designated as a Key Employment Site in Chapter 5 of the County Development Plan for innovation, Business Technology, and Aviation. As regards a slip road off the motorway, whether that is needed or not will be clear from the infrastructure survey.

The IDA are offering strategic advice. It always wants to have 3-5 options to show potential investors and would like to have the Airport site as an option in the West Region.

Derrick Hambleton asked if Liam Hanrahan’s presentation could be circulated to SPC members. B. Mulligan asked for documents to be circulated in advance of meetings to enable an informed discussion at the meetings. Cllr Mary Hoade observed that it was the practice to circulate presentations immediately after the meetings. B. Mulligan again emphasised that if members had the opportunity to

read the presentations in advance it would facilitate informed discussion. Cllr Mary Hoade noted his point.

1. Galway Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (GMATS) update

Uinsinn Finn said that the GTS is being reviewed taking into account the Climate Action Plan – the GMATS will replace the GTS. It is being driven by the NTA. It had been hoped to have a representative of the NTA at the meeting but this hadn't been possible.

Colm O'Riordan gave a presentation on the GMATS 2023-2043 [see attached presentation circulated 04/12/2023].

Galway BusConnects Dublin Road will be published before Christmas as will Galway CycleConnects.

Colm Ryan, MKO, asked what the sequence would be on completion of the GMATS body of work. Will there be Area Based Transport Assessments (ABTAs) for Garraun and other sites proposed for housing?

Cllr Michael Connolly observed that there was no reference to improving transport for people stuck in traffic. Will anything be done to improve the situation? What is the vision going forward in improving transport? The city is in jeopardy – people don't want to come into the city from his area [Ballinasloe] and rather go to Roscommon instead.

Colm O'Riordan replied that the GMATS will be incorporated into the Development Plan. The purpose is to improve transport and decongest the city.

Cllr Peter Keane said he is aware from the Department that a review is underway. He observed that An Bord Pleanála will not reconsider the Ring Road until the GTS is reviewed.

Uinsinn Finn said that the GMATS will be very important to inform other projects including;

- The Ring Road
- The Cross City Link and
- The Dublin Road BusConnects which will go before An Bord Pleanála in 2024

Transport is very important to future development. The GMATS will replace the GTS. He expects it will be completed next year. He doesn't know what An Bord Pleanála will do but it is advancing consideration of the Ring Road application.

1. Update on the County Galway Development Plan

Valerie Loughnane gave a comprehensive presentation on the County Development Plan which was adopted on the 20th June 2022. [See attached presentation circulated 04/12/2023].

The County Council is involved with the City Council on the GMATS and is coordinating with the City and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) with respect to the Eastern Environs.

Cllr Michael Connolly asked what is Irish Water's strategy for delivery of water and wastewater services for villages and towns in the county? He instanced Castleblakney which has no WWTP and the WWTP in Mountbellew which needs upgrading.

Valerie Loughnane responded that there had been a meeting earlier this week with Irish Water which is working on upgrades where there are WWTPs already.

There is a policy objective in relation to settlement centres which are not serviced . The WWTPs in Mountbellw and Ballygar will be upgraded soon. There is capacity in all 15 settlement centres. They had also spoken about services for the Galway MASP earlier this week.

There is a more formal engagement with Irish Water twice a year. The County's relationship with Irish Water is very good – they can get the answers they need. Liam Hanrahan repeated that the Planning Section had good engagement with Irish Water during the week. There was housing pressure in areas that are not serviced and that had been raised with Irish Water. He said Irish Water will be providing capacity maps for water and wastewater and those maps will be shared with Councillors.

1. Update on Galway City Development Plan

Eoghan Lynch gave a brief verbal update on the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2039 which was adopted in January 2023. There is currently a Judicial Review before the High Court. This does not affect the adopted Development Plan other than specific sites.

He said that it is envisaged that Galway City will be a regional driver and transport challenges are associated with this.

Climate Action is a cross-cutting theme running through the development plan. He mentioned the 15-minute city concept, compact growth and modal shift in transport. The overall thrust of the Development Plan is to avoid the need for the city to expand its footprint as it has over the past 50 years. He mentioned the Ardaun LAP area and designated regeneration sites in the city. Funding has been obtained from the URDF for the Public Realm Strategy which is being activated. Colm Ryan, MKO, as what is the City Council's perspective on LAPs? Is there any schedule for delivery of LAPs and masterplans? He particularly referenced the Headford Road and Murroogh.

Eoghan Lynch said that the review of the Ardaun LAP would be the priority and others would follow.

B. Mulligan observed that both the Headford Road and Murroogh had featured in several successive City Development Plans going back 15-20 years but nothing had been done. It took 7 years from commencement of the Ardaun LAP process in 2011 until its adoption in 2018. Is it going to take another 7 years to review the Ardaun LAP before a start is made on the LAPs for the Headford Road and Murroogh?

Derrick Hambleton observed that successive Development Plans had provided for the preparation of Statutory Local Area Plans rather than “developer masterplans”.

Cllr Peter Keane also expressed his concern about the progress of the Ardaun LAP and the development of LAPs for Murroogh and the Headford Road. He observed that the Ardaun LAP took years to develop. What is holding it up? He observed that we had asked for Irish Water to send a representative to this joint meeting to address the debacle around the withdrawal of the planning application for the stormwater storage tank at Merlin Park PS. He asked will it take 7 years to review the Ardaun LAP as Brendan Mulligan had said? When are we going to get news from Irish Water about an application for permission for the development at Merlin Park PS?

Eoghan Lynch responded that the City Council had met with Irish Water earlier this week with a view to establishing a relationship. Irish Water confirmed that

Phase 1 of Ardaun could happen with the existing Merlin Park PS only. A new application for stormwater storage will be submitted this month [December 2023]. As regards the review of the Ardaun LAP, it will have objectives of sustainable development and compact growth. The Public Realm Strategy will influence the design. The review will commence within the life of the LAP. The reviewed LAP will adhere to the existing zoning and the layout will be determined by the urban density strategy.

Uinsinn Finn said that the statutory time limit for the Ardaun LAP will expire next year [2024]. The review will take into account current government policies.

Using URDF funding the Martin Roundabout has been replaced by a traffic light controlled junction to enable improved pedestrian, cycling and public transport connectivity.

Irish Water has been working on infrastructure to support Ardaun. Irish Water's timelines will deliver the necessary infrastructure before any dwellings in Ardaun are occupied.

Cllr Peter Keane, referring to Eoghan Lynch's statement that Irish Water had confirmed there is sufficient infrastructure capacity in place already for Ardaun Phase 1, asked could a planning application for development within Ardaun Phase 1 be successful?

Eoghan Lynch said there was no impediment to a planning application. Uinsinn Finn said that Ardaun Phase 1 could be accommodated from a transport point of view. He was not sure if there is spare wastewater capacity.

B. Mulligan suggested that Irish Water was engaging in double-speak.

Uinsinn Finn responded that Irish Water was working on two infrastructure projects to serve Ardaun [stormwater and wastewater]. They could be in place before any dwellings are occupied.

B. Mulligan suggested that Irish Water have a credibility problem with An Bord Pleanála. An BP had refused permission for a SHD development in Roscam because it didn't believe that Irish Water would have upgraded the capacity of Merlin Park PS in time and it hasn't done so.

Uinsinn Finn proposed to invite Irish Water to the first meeting of the City Council Planning SPC in the New Year.

1. **Any other business**

Concerts at Galway Airport

There was a bun fight between the Councillors of both local authorities because the County Council had acted unilaterally in granting permission for a series of concerts at the Airport site in 2024 without any consultation with Galway City Council as co-owner.

After much discussion it was agreed to refer the matter to a meeting of the Joint CPGs.

Galway MASP Governance

Brendan Mulligan observed that at the last Joint SPC Meeting in November 2022 we were told that the next meeting would be held early in the New Year [2023] at which the consultant appointed by the NWRA to investigate and report on appropriate governance for the MASP would present his findings. The City Council SPC had been told at its meeting in May 2023 that the NWRA wanted to speak to the Chief Executives of both local authorities before presenting the

consultant's report at a joint SPC meeting. We were also told then it was hoped to have a joint meeting very soon.

The MASP was included in the RSES adopted in January 2020. It is now almost 4 years into the 12-year strategy and we haven't got off first base yet. It was not even on the agenda for this meeting.

Liam Hanrahan responded that the consultant's report is a NWRA document. The local authorities don't have it and don't have any update on it. In response to B. Mulligan he confirmed that there has been no meeting between the Chief Executives of the two local authorities in relation to the consultant's report.

Galway City Ring Road

Cllr Donagh Killelea asked about the current status of the Ring Road application. Uinsinn Finn responded that the application had been remitted back to An Bord Pleanála by the High Court as it hadnt taken into account the Climate Action Plan in making its decision to grant permission for the Ring Road.

An Bord Pleanála have asked Galway County Council, the applicant, to update some environmental reports.

Uinsinn Finn said there were different views as to whether An Bord Pleanála can or will make a decision in advance of the adoption of the GMATS. An BP will have sight of the draft GMATS on its completion early next year.

Proposed works to the hard shoulders on the Coast Road.

Cllr Shelly Herterich Quinn asked if the works (segregated walkways) proposed (by Cllr Alan Curran) on the hard shoulders along the Coast Road require planning permission?

The response was that it is really an operational matter. In any case, further details of what is proposed would be required to make a determination as to whether an application for permission would be required.

SPC3: Economic, Community and Cultural Development

Cruinniú / Name of Meeting	Economic, Community and Cultural Development SPC
Ionadaí LPCG (glacadóir - nótaí) / Name of GCCN Rep (note-taker)	Dominick Whelan
Dáta & Suite / Date & Location of Meeting:	September 2023 - Hybrid - In-person at Galway City Council and Online (MS Teams)
I láthair / Attendance	<p>Council:</p> <p>Neil Mc Nelis - Chair & CLLR Donal Lyons - CLLR John Connolly - CLLR Eddie Hoare - CLLR Declan Mc Donnell - CLLR Clodagh Higgins - CLLR Noel Larkin – CLLR</p> <p>Sectors:</p> <p>Dominick Whelan - GCCN David Hickey - Galway Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>Executive:</p> <p>Brian Barrett - Director of Services Gary Mc Mahon - SEO Head of Economic, Community and Cultural Development Dermot Mahon SEO Caitriona Morgan - Economic Officer Theresa O'Donoghue - Officer Thomas Melley - Officer Breda Glynn - Officer Adam Stoneman - Officer Ruairi Lehmann - Officer Emma Silke - Officer Kate Howard - Officer Ruth Mulhern – Officer</p> <p>Apologies: gaillimh le gaeilge due to present but deferred to next spc LPO - Language Planning Officer due before next spc</p>
Príomhphointí pléite / Key Issues Discussed: AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Confirmation of minutes of the, Economic, Community & Cultural Development SPC meeting held on Friday 12th May 2023 – (Attached) 2. Matters Arising 3. Galway City Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) - (Reports attached)

Draft Framework Plan 2024 – 2029

Draft Implementation Plan 2024 - 2025

4. “New Directions – Strategic Plan for the Arts” and Arts Office Update
(Report to Follow)

5. Update on Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme for Galway City – Presentation by Marie Nolan, Regional Programme Manager, Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme (Presentation Attached)

6. A.O.B

Meeting amendment - Interim Chair Donal Lyons due to late arrival of Neil Mc Nelis.

Adoption of the minutes

Adopted - Eddie Hoare

Seconded - Noel Larkin

Matters Arising

- Salthill Tourism Office - Pending update
- Request for report on units under Galway City Council for enterprise and the availability in the city. Report was circulated during the summer among members of the SPC.
- Query to dates of meetings for NWRA

Galway City Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

(Presentation of reports) - Gary Mc Mahon and Caitriona Morgan

- 17 Actions over the next six years

Chair arrived and assumed Chair from Donal Lyons

- Plan of actions, sustainable development SDGs, and approx 200. public consultations.
- Community Sector to evaluate the implementation plan prior to final approval.
- See time line document in relation to LECP outline and framework.
- Noted is the City Development Plan is currently active in which the LECP will address the Economic, Culture and Community actions and plans.
- Creative communities engagement and departments have been asked to identify actions and outcomes to achieve and SICAP Implementers also.

Frame work adopted:

- CLLR Donal Lyons
- Note Kate Howard has been promoted to Night Time Economy Advisor

Draft Implementation plan as the plan is to go before various structures for approval.

- 103 Community Groups
- 90 Community and Business Groups
- Addition of Chamber, University, ATU, Harbour Company have submitted.

Questions

The issue of staff recruitment and technical staff, surveyors is challenging the delivery due to staffing and in access to funding and projects?

In relation to the planned implementation, have stakeholders and lead agencies indicated and committed to the projects outlined in the implementation plan?

Would there be a scope to go beyond NOAC's standards of measurements in relation to the community as Galway has a dynamic community sector and it should reflect this in the implementation and measurements of the LECP plan?

- Study and progress in relation to the LECP, area committees are due on 12th October.
- In relation to process, population and evaluations are due before the SPC/LCDC, it would be expected that in mid year in terms of progress the evaluation of the plan would be done, however do be in mind that the implementation plan is arranged to reviewed every two years to ensure measurements are being addressed by key stakeholders, for hte two year rolling implementation plans. It would be expected that 2022 census information should be added.
- Needs and Challenges, looking at available funds and other other stakeholders needs to be considered.
- We are looking to finalise indicators that NOAC have set for us. Our indicators in relation to indicators are set by NOAC regarding to the local authority. An example of tourism indicators were used.
- In relation to projects multidiciplinaery projects have been successful.
- We gave a baseline of indicators in the provision of services. The ongoing successes of services and operating with ongoing projects have hampered and coupled with staffing issues we are facing issues to deliever projects and how issues can be addressed.
- Further inputs for the LECP can be submitted my members of the Committe until close of Business 4th October.

4. "New Directions – Strategic Plan for the Arts" and Arts Office Update

(Presentation) by Ruth Mulhern

- Delivery of New Directions and Culture night
- Presentation
- Delievery of New Directions is due to be aligned to the New National Policy in Qtr 1 2024.

Q&A

WRAP and Galway Airport

- In relation to Galway Arts Grants and systems how did this alignment come about.
- A new project ARC between Galway City Council, Galway Culture Company to engage in actions for the project.
- This time last year Culture Company engaged in the Shared Island initiative. Two projects were successful with CREW and Culture Connects. It Came about, the delivery agent is the city action, the art project it straddle both economic and culture development with the objective of creating synergies.
- Do we have any figures or awareness of recipients of the guaranteed income scheme. It is hoped the it would fulfil the needs of the scheme. The general

understanding is that applicants, applied, qualified for the scheme. It was a lottery based system.

Update on Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme for Galway City – Presentation by Marie Nolan, Regional Programme Manager, Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme (Presentation Attached)

- **Presentation by Maeve Nolan**
- Outline of presentation
- update on operational plans for the Galway City and County area.
-

AOB

- LEO Local Enterprise Office Autumn and Winter programmes are available and also building a better business programme.
- Language Planning Officer sent apologies and is due before SPC on 8th December.
- Galway Chamber Economic Monitor is available
- Rates and Evaluations feedback in relation to new rates the closing window for feedback is soon. NOTE: Arts Waiver Scheme can be avail of rates free scheme should entity qualify

Close of Meeting

- **Adjourned**

Socruithe déanta / Key Decisions Made:

LECP amendments and items to submitted by October 4th

Gníomhaíochtaí / Action(s) required from GCCN:

LECP moving on to next stage.

**Dáta don chéad
chruinniú eile /
Date of next
meeting :**

Friday 8th December 2023 at 2pm

SPC4: Transportation

Cruinniú / Name of Meeting	Transportation SPC
Ionadaí LPCG (glacadóir - nótaí) / Name of GCCN Rep (note-taker)	Shane Foran
Dáta & Suite / Date & Location of Meeting:	Tuesday 12th September 2023 Zoom and council chamber
I láthair / Attendance	<p>Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Frank Fahy (Chair) • Cllr Clodagh Higgins • Cllr Mike Cubbard online • Cllr Alan Cheevers • Cllr Niall Murphy Online • Cllr Peter Keane Online • Cllr Noel Larkin Online? • Cllr Colette Connolly Online <p>Community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shane Foran GCCN • Paul O'Donnell GCCN • Pat Hardiman SIPTU <p>Chamber of Commerce:</p> <p>In Attendance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pat Greene DoS • Michael Lally • Colm O'Riordan • Fran McEvoy • Cyril???? <p>In Apologies: Fiona Holland</p>
<p>1.Príomhphointí pléite / Key Issues Discussed: Cllr Frank Fahy (Chair) :</p> <p>Minutes and matters arising</p> <p>Shane Foran at 12/09/2023 09:41</p> <p>Cllr Niall Murphy: Proposes</p> <p>Cllr Frank Fahy (Chair): Seconds</p> <p>Matters arising</p> <p>Cllr Colette Connolly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radar Speed signs 	

Cllr Mike Cubbard:

- Traffic calming around city. Why not on agenda?

Cllr Niall Murphy:

- Bus licences for Ballymoneen Road? Turning circle?
- What process for pedestrian crossings?
- What is the process or list of possible future crossings??
- Were to have a map of speed limits

Cllr Alan Cheevers:

- When do we anticipate P&R being rolled out indication of when this is going to happen
- Martin junction: Report on budget overrun?
- Final figure on the overall budget including the 10 month overrun?

Cllr Colette Connolly:

- South Park kissing gate update on that?

Cllr Frank Fahy (Chair):

- Non councillor members - are we getting documents?

Fran McEvoy (Executive):

- Speed feedback Signs There is maintenance contract - 60 in the city - some require replacement?
- Taylors Hill is one that requires replacement

Shane Foran at 12/09/2023 09:45

Pat Greene (DoS):

- Bringing in consultant engineers on /South Park????? Waiting for design.
- Decarbonisation – Fiona Holland doing some research will be bringing different options
- Bus Licence at Ballymoneen - there is a licence - challenge with turning circle – don't want to use the housing estate.

Cllr Frank Fahy (Chair):

- Any plans to put in a turning bay at top of Ballymoneen Road

Pat Greene (DoS):

- Working with NTA to see if there is an option that they will fund
- Will it become part of the new bus routes

Colm O'Riordan (Executive):

- Don't have a conclusive solution

Pat Greene (DoS):

- Crossings two funding sources some funded by NTA and some funded by TII - if there has been accidents then there is a safety audit

Fran McEvoy (Executive):

- Warrant depends on numbers of people crossing the road - NTA also funds schemes

Michael Lally (Executive):

- Request funding every October to NTA - January or February before funding comes through.

Cllr Niall Murphy:

- So we should be making representations now?

Michael Lally (Executive):

- Any proposals need to be agreed as part of the works program

Colm O'Riordan (Executive):

- NTA have identified two different sites - one in Claregalway (SF: this might be P&R)

Cllr Frank Fahy (Chair):

- Cllr Mike Cubbard has raised parking issues for people in Woodquay and Botharmor? Problem around city.

Cllr Mike Cubbard:

- Raising this for years now traffic calming - if you ask for a speed ramp you get told there is no policy.

Cllr Frank Fahy (Chair):

- Cllr Alan Cheevers: asked about project overruns

Michael Lally (Executive):

- Elements in relation to conciliation - guideline costs - going through final counts -

Cllr Alan Cheevers:

- Ask that all SPC members be circulated with final costings

Cllr Frank Fahy (Chair):

- Recall being told there was no overrun.

Michael Lally (Executive):

- Susan Loughnane has left the organisation Micheal Cormican acting up - information gap

Cllr Frank Fahy (Chair):

- Can we have it for the next meeting?

Colm O'Riordan (Executive):

- Don't have the answer

Cllr Alan Cheevers:

- Seems very vague - need to get clarification about when we are actually about to receive the documentation?

Colm O'Riordan (Executive):

- We'll comeback with a time frame

Cllr Niall Murphy:

- New bus network shows bus going up to narrow point - is there some place we can put the turning circle before the road narrows?

Pat Greene (DoS):

- Have prioritised 5 routes for development -

Cllr Niall Murphy:

- Do not include Ballymoneen Road

Pat Greene (DoS):

- First attack would be go to the NTA post getting the bus routes

Pat Greene (DoS): Cllr Niall Murphy: Discussion about turning circle - CPO etc?

Cllr Frank Fahy (Chair):

- Companies can apply for licence and sit on the licence
- New rural transport scheme now has route going through Menlo.
- Doesn't seem to be joined up thinking
- Ballymoneen road tough hill to climb after getting off bus.

Cllr Niall Murphy:

Cllr Noel Larkin joins meeting online

Pat Hardiman (SIPTU): Asks about city direct service?? Did not hear where 410 service

Cllr Mike Cubbard:

- Response re crossing in Liosban - ????

Cllr Frank Fahy (Chair):

- Cllr Mike Cubbard has been promised a crossing at ability west -

Colm O'Riordan (Executive):

- NTA one - believe there is a tender coming for that?

Topic Galway City Special Speed Limits

Fran McEvoy (Executive): Verbal update

- Adopted in August - schedule and map on website change advertised in advance new zone is within a boundary.

Shane Foran at 12/09/2023 10:05

Gives list of roads

- Speed limit increases - (SF: not complete)
 - N59 50 - 60
 - Tuam Road to Kirwan 50 to 80
 - N83 from city boundary - increases to 100
- Total poles 69 - total signs 134??
- Driver feedback signs were changed

Cllr Niall Murphy:

- 30 km/h zone very welcome - credit to Frank Fahy? for signs on roads
- Speed limit increases might be ironic given that government have said they might be bringing speed limits down

Cllr Colette Connolly:

- Can we get that in a document - very much welcome 30k zone - would like to see extended?
- 50km zone outside schools in Shantalla?? Scol Breege
- How quickly can we roll out 30 km at schools ? Thinks this is urgent
- Speed is an issue on Shantalla road - welcome the work of the executive
- Deplore the speed limit increases - mentions Dangan we representation for crossings

- How quickly - possibility of the rollout of the 40km zone.

Cllr Frank Fahy (Chair):

- Queries - thank the executive - need more signs - vast majority of people are adhering to the speed limits - needs more road markings - could we list markings in reports
- Dyke Road under the impression that it started under the new bridge
- Feedback sign is up at the New water works
- Agrees with Cllr Colette Connolly:
- In relations to Bushy park - defies logic to increase speed limits
- No signs on Bothar na Treabh - Google maps - depending on Google maps to who informs Google Maps- we should be informing Google ma

Shane Foran (GCCN): -

- Have been at this for so long that I started off campaigning for 20mph speed limits

Cllr Alan Cheevers:

- Found don't have any way to collect data - only two locations that have feedback signs in the zone - we don't have any other way of collecting data apart from November counts.
- Defeating purpose if we are not collecting the data

Fran McEvoy (Executive):

- Agrees that announcement from junior minister is relevant - prudent to await new guidance before review - N59 increase was on foot of speed limit review by TII
- GCC can't change speed limit on national roads without input from TII
- Scoil Rois and Scoil Briga 50km/h limit - outside of zone has discussed with engineer - can look at schools - would have to be undertaken as part of next review
- 14? Schools currently that have a 30kph zone - notes comment about Dangan - again TII involved
- How quickly can we introduce - must go through the process - suggested to present proposals at the electoral area meetings.
- Re more markings - 10key entry points - 8? repeater markings – don't want to blitz the city

Cllr Frank Fahy (Chair): Dyke road?

Fran McEvoy (Executive):

- Why was Dyke road extended - extended up to the Water treatment plan - clearly seen on the map - included in the fourth schedule to the bye laws.

Discussion about what is marked on the map -

Cllr Frank Fahy (Chair):

- Cllr Colette Connolly was looking to have it extended up to Menlo park - maps quite small

Fran McEvoy (Executive):

- Maps online
- Notes comments that don't agree with N59 - that was TII -
- Need to replace the repeater signs on Bothar Na Treabh- signs have been delivered

Cllr Frank Fahy (Chair):

- Cllr Terry O'Flaherty has complained about signs on ESB poles -

- In off the road hard to see.

Fran McEvoy (Executive):

- Explanation about purpose of repeater signs
- Google maps takes the point

Shane Foran at 12/09/2023 10:33

Michael Lally (Executive):

- Two technologies - map based - and some - read the signs
- Updates to maps done centrally by the Roads Management Office

Fran McEvoy (Executive):

- On collecting data – don't have any other permanent speed measurement devices in place don't have any proposals to implement.
- Accepts there is an argument -

Pat Greene (DoS):

- Where some of that data should come from is enforcement.

Fran McEvoy (Executive):

- Looking at getting data from feedback signs.

Cllr Frank Fahy (Chair):

- Feedback sign on Dyke road does not tell you the speed - just tells you to slow down.

Discussion on feedback signs

Cllr Colette Connolly:

- Can we get a written update - written confirmation of reference to TII -
- Like to see that one don't have TII document to hand-
- Why can't we put in 30k at the schools

Pat Greene (DoS):

- Said we would go back and review the remaining limits after these were implemented.
- Other cities have put on hold because Govt is also reviewing.

Cllr Frank Fahy (Chair):

- Should be standard outside schools

Cllr Colette Connolly:

- Want confirmation that will happen

Fran McEvoy (Executive):

- Will circulate his own?? - will check with TII.

Paul O'Donnell (GCCN):

- Speed limits - Safe Routes to School is there a mechanism to feed into that? Is there a way of capturing more than once a year what the mobility shift is?

Michael Lally (Executive):

- Delivery plans for each of the schools are agreed with An Taisce – don't recall proposals for speed limits reductions - speed limits is a statutory process.
- Can come through but not aware

Fran McEvoy (Executive):

- Mobility trends - dashboard that was set up in relation to traffic counts - do have consultants
- Can give traffic trends
- Don't have that facility would be relying on third parties

Michael Lally (Executive):

- Counts are done to inform development of schemes - for individual schemes
- Data analysis is very onerous - some elements are seasonal - if works are happening pedestrians -

Paul O'Donnell (GCCN): would there be capacity -????

Michael Lally (Executive):

- Could make applications to NTA - if SPC wish could make an application

Cllr Noel Larkin:

- Any website that people can visit to see the limits -

Cllr Frank Fahy (Chair):

- Both na Treabh limit gone up to 80km/h cash cow for speeding offences with vans - amount of elderly people.

Cllr Colette Connolly:

- Why can't we have the same system as speed cameras

Pat Greene (DoS):

- We are not enforcement - different in Europe

Cllr Frank Fahy (Chair):

- Issue that was raised at JPC.

Shane Foran (GCCN):

- Propose a motion that we make an application to NTA to improve data collection in the city

Cllr Niall Murphy:

- Second that motion

Paul O'Donnell (GCCN):

- What frequency?

Michael Lally (Executive):

- Monthly ?

Pat Greene (DoS):

- Need to see what the NTA say

Shane Foran at 12/09/2023 10:53

Presentation on Galway Metropolitan Transport Strategy GATS

Presentation by Colm O'Riordan (Executive)

- Purpose is to update the GTS
- Gives short timeline (SF – I missed dates in my notes)

- LRT Feasibility study - identify highest demand corridors
- Next steering group meeting
- Guiding documents include Public Realm Strategy

Questions:

Cllr Niall Murphy: :

- Flabbergasted huge amount of work - going to do in 8 weeks - 3 month consultation phase on something that only took that long to put together
- Assuming this is the review of the GTS???
- 2016 was the GTS is there going to be any new ideas in.

Shane Foran (GCCN):

- Proposes the Planning SPC considers GMAT

Cllr Frank Fahy: Seconds this

Shane Foran (GCCN):

- Who is leading this at the NTA??
- Is this the review of the GTS???

Cllr Colette Connolly:

- We all know where the pinch points are - 101 things that executive could put in place - practical solutions - moving car parking spaces - pilot project for free school transport

Paul O'Donnell (GCCN):

- Slide mentioned a number of policy documents can we add other policy documents

Cllr Frank Fahy (Chair):

- Coordination group - are these people from the executive?

Colm O'Riordan (Executive): -

- Steering group met in July Atkins appointed before that –
- This is the review of the GTS -
- Bus connects is going to be part of it cycle connects
- Planning SPC will be circulated
- Who is leading it in the NTA? Will get back to you?

Colm O'Riordan (Executive):

- It is a review and update to the GTS - agrees there are other pinch points around the city
- Other documents: Colm O'Riordan (Executive) will bring that back to steering group

Paul O'Donnell (GCCN):

- Request to add guidelines on inclusive public engagement PD this would be a helpful thing to add.

Cllr Niall Murphy:

- Is review of light rail complete?

Colm O'Riordan (Executive):

- In progress - not doing it in house

- NTA re leading on this

Multimodal Transport Corridor Update

Cyril ???? (Executive):

- Reads from presentation – (circulated after meeting)
- Consider multimodal transport corridors.
- Refers to Section 4.8 Development plan.
- Out to tender for consultants
- Outputs - expect to have objectives identified - prioritised list of roads.
- Expect to have phased program for each of the roads -
- Hope to have final reports.

(SF Comment - Seems to driven by planning issues eg failure to get planning permissions)

Questions

Shane Foran (GCCN):

- Making observation - not a question - very welcome - How do you get to Castlegar? Must use Headford Road and Tuam Road. Tuam road is not a cycle route in the GTS and we are being told that as a result cyclists not considered in road designs. So how do you get to Castlegar and School Road on a bicycle?

Cllr Niall Murphy:

- Welcomes questions around Ballymoneen and Clybaun schemes - what about current Clybaun scheme
- Something about a pedestrian crossing on BM road

Paul O'Donnell (GCCN):

- Talking about transport analysis - looking at transit oriented development - is this looking at transport issues - what about planning?

Cllr Frank Fahy (Chair):

- Terryland Forest Park is an alternative route - should be looking at connectivity - only obstacle is Tuam road where you have to cross it
- Asks that look at that ? Should be looked at that?

Michael Lally (Executive):

- Under Cycle Connects there is an interurban cycle route coming in the Tuam Road
- Was a request of the elected members during the development plan process?

Pat Greene (DoS):

- First challenge is to build them up to a standard - some of the planning that have had refusals on this would not have been an issue: this is being funded by development schemes.
- Will look to the NTA for additional funding.

Cyril ???? (Executive):

- Will be working with with other teams.
- Looking at walking cycling and public transport -
- Transport Analysis we can look at land use - will look at land use –
- Development plan -

Shane Foran (GCCN):

- Can we look at boreens?
- Tuam road has boreens parallel to it that are a potential walking and cycling resource

School Wardens Update

- Struggled in certain areas of the city - come to end of panel.
- Open competition
- Try and promotes.
- Not hugely beneficial from salary point of view
- There is an investment in term of training etc.
- If one drops off then we are in trouble??

Cllr Frank Fahy (Chair):

- If we had more information - is there an age limit? if somebody is on a pension???

Paul O'Donnell (GCCN):

- Why is there a high turnover - are there exit interviews?
- Why are people leaving?

Pat Greene (DoS):

- Profile is typically retired - people - also geographically linked.
- People retire -

Cllr Clodagh Higgins:

- With regards to age profile have you linked into active retirement groups?

Shane Foran (GCCN):

- We can do the same thing - Age Friendly Galway are part of GCCN.

Cllr Colette Connolly:

- Representations with regard to Scoil? Breege? - safety of wardens - would not take up job if safety issues are not sorted out?

Pat Greene (DoS):

- Undertook a full review of all the crossings - Dublin Road had a near miss.

Shane Foran (GCCN):

- Does that man at hospice have enough time to get across the road?
- I have watched him trying to get kids across and lights seem to go green again before he has time to get back to kerb.

Fran McEvoy (Executive):

- Will look at timings.

Work Program Update

Pat Greene (DoS):

- Net zero transport
- Public lighting retrofit.
- Lot of cables quiet old.
- Traffic Calming - will come back on that.

Paul O'Donnell (GCCN): -

- Great to have a lot of bike parking –
- But bike parking taken out from Wylde at Forster St
- Bike parking over subscribed at Eyre Square

Michael Lally (Executive):

- Seek funding on an annual basis - parking at Wylde was private property - went out and put in bike parking where ever we can get agreement?

Cllr Colette Connolly:

- Ask order of work program is that the order of priority - ask that footpaths be moved up in priority - wardens - illegal parking –
- Need to leave provision of public toilets on the work program comment on the appalling state of public toilets - ?Eyre Square?
- Negative experiences with e- scooters an issue in Westend circulation of e- scooters in parking - compatibility needs to be addressed.

Shane Foran (GCCN):

- Question on Footpath funds can they be used to improve footpaths through housing estates – eg green areas

Fran McEvoy (Executive): Michael Lally (Executive): Discussion – has to be along roads

Pat Greene (DoS):

- Every penny is strictly audited - every road and every footpath is cross checked

Cllr Frank Fahy (Chair):

- Toilets at new Salmon Weir Bridge -

Colm O'Riordan (Executive):

- Looking at replacing

Any Other Business

Cllr Niall Murphy:

- Getting cycle lanes cleaned - how does this get organised?
- Yesterday approved new cycle lanes for Ballybane -

Pat Greene (DoS):

- NTA don't do any maintenance funding.
- Looking at getting new machines -
- All coming out of budget

Cllr Colette Connolly: My queries?

Pat Greene (DoS):

- Have an inspection regime on toilets - there is damage and misuse.
- Work program does not prioritise.
- We can discuss.

Cllr Colette Connolly:

- Wardens - and e scooters?

Pat Greene (DoS):

- Don't have legislation.

Michael Lally (Executive):

- Toilets Not managed by transport.

Pat Greene (DoS):

- Team of 12 wardens - not sure what else we can do?

Cllr Colette Connolly:

- Design footpaths so that they are safe - not just about issue of tickets -

Michael Lally (Executive):

- Footpaths standards are outlined nationally.

Cllr Frank Fahy (Chair):

- Items for the Agenda

Cllr Colette Connolly:

- Frustration on lane discipline for Dock Road - Spanish Arch - cars parked at fast food restaurant

Cllr Frank Fahy (Chair):

- There was a proposal for a bus lane - for the docks.
- Should run a bus lane – one lane often has little traffic.

Fran McEvoy (Executive): Have to have a yellow box at new dock street.

Michael Lally (Executive): Double yellow lines

Shane Foran (GCCN):

- Cllr Cubbard asked for traffic calming to be on the agenda

2. Gníomhaíochtaí / Action(s) required from GCCN:

The GMATS being the review of the Galway Transport Strategy is an opportunity for GCCN (but also a threat)

Cruinniú / Name of Meeting	Transportation SPC
Ionadaí LPCG (glacadóir - nótaí) / Name of GCCN Rep (note-taker)	Shane Foran
Dáta & Suite / Date & Location of Meeting:	Tuesday 7th November 2023 Zoom and council chamber
I láthair / Attendance	Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Frank Fahy (Chair) in chamber • Cllr Clodagh Higgins online • Cllr Mike Cubbard in chamber • Cllr Alan Cheevers in chamber • Cllr Niall Murphy in chamber • Cllr Peter Keane Online – later?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Noel Larkin Online <p>Community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shane Foran GCCN in chamber • Paul O'Donnell GCCN in chamber • Pat Hardiman SIPTU online <p>Chamber of Commerce:</p> <p>In Attendance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pat Greene DoS in chamber • Martin Kenny • Fiona Holland in chamber • Colm O'Riordan in chamber • Brendan Gallagher ??? online <p>In Apologies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Colette Connolly - apologies given
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3. **Príomhphointí pléite / Key Issues Discussed:**

Cllr Frank Fahy (Chair) :

Minutes and matters arising

=====

Proposes (SF: Notes don't say)

Shane Foran (GCCN): Seconds minutes but would like to raise matter of accuracy

Shane Foran (GCCN):

- Corrections –The minutes have me querying use of School Road to access Castlegar by bicycle I was referring to Tuam road and Headford Road

Cllr Niall Murphy:

- Turning Circle on Ballymoneen Road

Cllr Mike Cubbard:

- Pedestrian Crossing at Liosban??

Pat Greene (DoS):

- Multimodal corridors - funding remains to be seen
- Turning circle - bus routes to be finalised in 2024 when this is done will look at turning circle - can look at it separately as part of NTA project

Colm O'Riordan (Executive):

- Ballymoneen road forms part of ?
- Spoke to NTA yesterday regarding turning circle they will work with us
- Need to look at spatial constraints

Cllr Niall Murphy:

- Is there a specific location?

Colm O'Riordan (Executive):

- Looking at new estate
- Test conclusion was that it was very tight

Pat Greene (DoS): Liosban

Colm O'Riordan (Executive):

- Liaising with ability west have agreed a location. Drawing has been prepared.

Shane Foran (GCCN):

- Are we going to see design?

Pat Greene (DoS):

- We have to go with the standard

Paul O'Donnell (GCCN):

- There are options within the standards

Discussion around policy =

Paul O'Donnell (GCCN):

- Wants policy

Cllr Mike Cubbard:

- Wants crossing - people looking for this crossing for a long time

Cllr Niall Murphy:

- Wants crossings

Pat Greene (DoS):

- We can have a discussion do you want to prioritise crossings or traffic calming?

Cllr Mike Cubbard:

- Engineers know what they are doing

Shane Foran (GCCN):

- In response to Pat Greene (DoS): they are both the same issue - if we had an appropriate traffic calming policy then this could drive the crossing policy

Shane Foran (GCCN):

- Two very different crossing designs being used in the city at the same time one up at Western Distributor road and one up at Trappers

Cllr Frank Fahy (Chair):

- Concerns about Trappers crossing sees buses and trucks needing to pull out into the road.

Presentation on events Management

Brendan Gallagher? (Executive)

Questions

Cllr Alan Cheevers:

- Agrees with Cllr Alan Curran about concerns on traffic management plan for Macnas Parade
- What kind of traffic management plan was put in place?

- Traffic still going through roads that they should not have been going through until Guards intervened
- Where is the plan?
- Second Taxi drivers - Christmas market last year - because of the layout some of them got tickets - has there been some kind of direct contact?

Cllr Mike Cubbard:

- Complement council on management of Croi Run - also soccer matches
- Requests more information to councillors about traffic management issues prior to events - councillors need that information
- Public Reps kept in the dark on road closures etc

Cllr Niall Murphy:

- Croi run went smoothly
- Streets of Galway - runs with out major road closures
- Wolf Tone bridge felt very dangerous after Halloween event
- Why offering free parking? - encourages people to bring cars
- Buses stuck getting from Salthill to Town

Cllr Peter Keane:

- Thanks for presentation - more collaborative the better we are - smaller events particlary peqrse stadium that cause problems,
- Presentation very positive
- What involvement we have vis a vis what happened this morning? 2 car collision on bridge, large delays where is our role in that?

Pat Hardiman (SIPTU)

- GAA do e mail through the clubs and the clubs email down to the members.
- Run on Saturday nobody seemed to know about it
- Christmas market
- Able to go knock in hour 15 mins - trip in city 1hr 10mins
- Need our shops to survive
- Open Cross Street to taxis buses cyclists

Paul O'Donnell (GCCN):

- Larger events well organised in advance
- Is there a possibility to link in with BusConnects?
- Can we test BusConnects road closures and bus gates in advance get people used to the idea?

Cllr Frank Fahy (Chair):

- Free parking in Dyke Road every evening
- Match on Sunday walked to match home at 4
- Macnas parade lot of people with children
- GAA and Connacht Rugby need to have a chat with Galway United about parking on Dyke Road
- Parking on footpaths - and impeding disabled people forcing them out on the road
- Bugbear about parking on footpaths
- Issue that needs to be addresses
- Christmas Market - now extended but zero consultation
- Policing of Christmas market is a joke
- Taxi drivers discommoded so that private company can make money
- Taxi drivers can only park at ranks

Responses from Brendan Gallagher (Executive):

- Macnas - rolling closures - will look at the concerns in Cllr Currans article
- Will table that at the post review meeting
- Christmas market - asked them to contact taxi companies - disappointed to hear that he will contact milestone marketing.
- Worth noting that period is extended this year
- Galway United Matches
- Match at 2:45. Gardai were in place - were significant amount of Gardai - can bring up with Galway United
- Galway United did share details of traffic management through social media channels - BG will bring back to Galway United committee.

Cllr Frank Fahy (Chair):

- Situation this morning on Dyke Road (Crash on Quincentary bridge?)
- Sean Kyne TD could not get to Moycullen

Fiona Holland (Executive):

- Too much traffic which is why trying to move traffic out of the city under the GTS

Colm O'Riordan (Executive):

- Two lanes blocked -

Fiona Holland (Executive):

- At peak hours if there is an accident the traffic will stop

Brendan Gallagher (Executive):

- In relations to the Irish Water Works on Headford road – the thought process was to do the works during the school holidays

Cross Street (as side topic)

Pat Greene (DoS):

- Put in for outdoor dining - open for deliveries - would need to bring back to emergency services - can bring it back

Kenny Deery (Chamber of Commerce):

- Cross street = lot of pain = businesses having to adapt - reversing temporary closures could be a step back.
- Argument for outer ring road was that???? (notes incomplete)
- Is there room for a more agile management system?
- Close lanes in oncoming direction and adjust lights.
- Agile ability to deal with and react.

Cllr Mike Cubbard:

- Not here representing Galway United but a supporter of the club – making out GAA and Connacht Rugby as best boys in town not the case - from Coolagh road down to stadium its coned off by volunteers.
- (No?) Free parking sends out the wrong message - people are coming in from outside the city late at night there is no Public Transport for them
- Will be more matches - need a plan for the season - free parking from 5pm instead of 6pm
- Need a plan for the season 3-4k people every second Friday.

Brendan Gallagher (Executive):

- Bohemians game seen as a test game for next season - Guards aware of what is coming - working very hard at preparing

Cllr Frank Fahy (Chair):

- As soon as no-parking cones end people park on footpaths no reason people can't park in Dyke Road
- Can walk from Dyke Road

Cllr Alan Cheevers:

- Do get GAA fans parking on Dr. Mannix Road

Cllr Niall Murphy:

- Near Pearse Stadium people blocked into houses
- Had no effect on me - only need to get a percentage of people in cars
- Disappointed to hear words keep traffic flowing - people don't need to cross the city
- Traffic blocks private cars does not block emergency vehicles

Brendan Gallagher(Executive):

- Emergency services have and input
- Will table points

Cllr Noel Larkin:

- Highlighting all the problems = outer bypass is the key to traffic problems - gone back to ABP because we missed the climate action plan by 4 days
- Does not see occasional rugby events (as the issue?)
- Want people to come in to the city.
- Need to expedite outer bypass

Cllr Clodagh Higgins :

- Seconds

Shane Foran (GCCN): :

- Comments on Cross St
- Lower Salthill, Claddagh have the highest levels of cycling in the country outside Dublin
- The effect of the Cross Street and Flood Street changes was to push all cyclists crossing the Wolfe Tone Bridge down Merchants Roads a multilane one-way system.
- This is an unsuitable place to be pushing people on bikes

Paul O'Donnell (GCCN):

- Under IROPI need to look at alternatives - need to show that mobility shift was attempted
- Whether agree or disagree with the bypass other measures needed
- Will be waiting many many years for outer bypass to come

Pat Hardiman (SIPTU):

- Be no big matches this side of Christmas - Christmas Market - if takes an hour to take a bus from Eyre Square to Westside people will not get the bus
- Asking for a meeting with Christmas Market

Cllr Frank Fahy (Chair):

- Second that

Discussion of Letter to Minister re outer by pass

Pat Greene (DoS): :

- It's with ABP so sounds a note of caution
- Goes back to point at which they refused
- No date for decision

Cllr Niall Murphy:

- Is it available?

Pat Greene (DoS):

- Will have to get back to you

Cllr Noel Larkin:

- Should be making noise - will letter to Minister interfere with the process?

Pat Greene (DoS):

- Be cautious going to the Minister directly - go to regional politicians - rather than something in writing

Cllr Clodagh Higgins:

- Shares same frustrations - asked for a meeting with minsters last February - we are too quiet

Cllr Niall Murphy:

- Ring road is not the topic

Cllr Frank Fahy (Chair):

- Notes Frustration

Modal Shift

Colm O’Riordan (Executive):?? (SF My notes don’t say)

- Mobility Management plans
- Active Travel Team is growing - will be rolling those out
- Canal project is coming to a conclusion
- Ballybane Castlepark got approval
- Bus Gate - perhaps could be explored for Patricks Day - bus gate at Salmon Weir and at City Hall
- Could tell the public

Traffic Calming

Fiona Holland (Executive) -

- Verbal update -
- Thinking process - carrying out traffic calming at various different levels
- Isn’t an all-inclusive written policy
- Other councils
- Some have a traffic calming policy
- Some have a narrow focus

Standards

- A lot of the standards go back as far as 2003 all say should not be done in isolation
- DMURS - main document that most of those policies are quoting - reducing the width of the roads - will be used at the planning stage

Traffic Calming schemes

- Section 38
- Traffic Works
- Safe Routes to School
- Traffic Signs Manual
- Bus related infrastructure
- Own by laws
- Would all have to be referenced -
- DMURS - pinch points chicanes
- Pedestrianisation of streets
- Gateway and Entry treatments
- Build outs traffic islands

- Speed Ramps
- School Crossings
- Junction Enhancements
- Multimodal Study

Cllr Mike Cubbard:

- Asking for particular estates - asking for ramps - being told don't do ramps
- List off a set of measures estate roads - ramps at the bottom of the list.
- Estates are forgotten about.
- No policy - everything focussed on city centre -

Cllr Niall Murphy: :

- Don't want policy to be just follow national standards
- Kingston Road - very narrow - traffic at high speed
- Millers lane to XXXXX very narrow needs to signs do not overtake

Cllr Alan Cheevers:

- Thanks Fiona
- Priority is estates
- Merlin lane very high speed traffic - told that feedback signs - is all they can do

Shane Foran (GCCN):

- City Council executive seems to be allergic to speed ramps.

Shane Foran (GCCN):

- Comments on DMURS not being fit for purpose

4. Gníomhaíochtaí / Action(s) required from GCCN:

There is a clear desire among councillors for a considered traffic calming policy for the city.

SPC5: Climate Action, Environment, Recreation and Amenity

Report to follow

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Cruinniú / Name of Meeting	Climate Action, Environment, Recreation and Amenity SPC
Ionadaí LPCG (glacadóir - nótaí) / Name of GCCN Rep (note-taker)	Eleanor Hough
Dáta & Suite / Date & Location of Meeting:	4 October 2023 Online
I láthair / Attendance	<p>Present: Cllr. D. Lyons, Cllr. D McDonnell, Cllr. T O'Flaherty, Cllr. N Murphy, Cllr. A. Curran, Cllr. C. Connolly, Cllr. D. McDonnell, Cllr. C. Connolly, Ms. E. Hough, Ms. C. Stanley, Mr. B. Smith, Mr. B. Barrett, A/Director of Services, Mr. D. Redington, Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. J. Callan, Senior Executive Engineer, Ms. L. Smyth, A/Senior Executive Parks Superintendent, Ms. S. Carroll, Executive Scientist, Ms. M. Keane, Staff Officer, Ms. A. Mitchell, Assistant Staff Officer.</p> <p>Apologies: Mr. P. Greene, Director of Services, Ms. S. Connolly, Senior Engineer, Ms. P. Kearney, Biodiversity Officer.</p>
<p>Príomhphointí pléite / Key Issues Discussed: All documents sent to GCCN Report compiled from Minutes, with additional comments from notes in italics.</p> <p>Ms. Martina O' Connor (Chair)</p> <p>The Chair apologised for the postponement of the meeting but that it had been done due to the short notice between issuing of documentation and the initial date of the meeting.</p> <p>Members expressed their discontent regarding the short notice given for the meeting as well as the postponement of same without any consultation. The Chair agreed with the members on the short notice given and following a discussion with the Chief Executive on this matter, she assured members that at least one week's notice would be given going forward. It was requested that a more detailed minute of this meeting be provided due to the unavailability of members to attend the full meeting.</p> <p>The Chair advised that due to illness of the staff member, that Item 3 on the agenda would be deferred to the November SPC meeting. This was agreed by all members.</p>	
<p>Item 1. Minutes of Meeting held on the 24th May 2023</p>	

The minutes of the SPC meeting held on the 24th of May 2023 were proposed by Cllr. D. Lyons and seconded by Cllr. T. O' Flaherty and adopted by members.

Item 2. Matters Arising

The members requested updates on the following:

- Clarification sought on budget provision for additional staff ie. Outdoor staff.
- Though the meeting on additional steps at Blackrock was held, Cllr. D. Lyons had not been invited to this meeting.
- Members felt that there has been no progress in relation to the matter of the kissing gates at recreational spaces. – *specifically the three kissing gates prioritised at previous SPC*

The members wished to convey their condolences to Ms. S. Connolly on her recent bereavement.

The issues raised were responded to by Mr. B. Barrett.

- The organisation in line with the LA sector continues to face the challenge of retaining and replacing staff. Approximately 85 new staff have been appointed within Galway City Council so far this year but some may have been replacement staff, rather than additional staff.
- He advised he would request Mr. P. Greene, DOS to provide an update to members in relation to outdoor staff.
- He agreed to relay the Cllr. Lyons' disappointment to the relevant staff on his exclusion from the meeting held in relation to the steps at Blackrock.
- In relation to the kissing gates, Tobin Consulting Engineers have been appointed. An audit is being undertaken at Terryland Forest Park and an update will be provided at the next meeting in relation to Southpark.
- In relation to the appointment of a Tree Officer, sanction for this original post was on a contract basis, but due to the current recruitment climate, GCC has sought approval from the Department for a permanent Tree Officer post. A response is awaited.

Item 3. Galway City Biodiversity Action Plan Revision 2025-2030 - presentation

It was agreed to defer this matter to the November SPC meeting due to the absence of Ms.

P. Kearney, Biodiversity Officer.

Item 4. Mr. D. Redington, Climate Action Coordinator, review of submissions received - presentation.

The members thanked D. Redington for his presentation and raised the following items:

- Suggested community engagement through the Community network.
- Need to go to communities to highlight how the Climate Action Plan affects their lives and how they can incorporate it into their daily life- this has not yet been communicated.
- The plan needs to be more ambitious - no reference to the Ring road and how it will impact.
- Presentation based on a survey but should be a plan and should focus on actions with most carbon footprint.
- Health was not referenced in the submissions, yet the HSE had made a submission. Most plans referenced are already happening, e.g Biodiversity Plan.
- If this plan states that other Plans/Strategies e.g. Transportation Strategy should change, will they change?
- In relation to GCC buildings is there an energy saving plan in place? eg. turning off of lights, equipment, heating when not in use or required.
- How were the 118 submissions obtained ie. through what channels, e.g emails, adverts etc?
- It was suggested that a significant part of the industrial workforce based in Parkmore cannot use public transport due to their shift hours and the lack of routes.
- Where is GCC in its housing stock retrofitting programme?
- Disappointment on the low number of submissions.
- As a lot of consultations are online, they should be more door-to-door.
- Need to look at other alternatives such as Light Rail and Bus Connect.
- Only 130 of 2,400 Local Authority housing stock have been retrofitted which is way behind the programme- how can this programme be accelerated?
- Due to financial costs involved in retrofitting private homes, grants need to increase significantly.
- What form of advertising was used for this survey?
- GCC needs to meet the public in shopping centres/streets and be mindful of the timeframe given for the consultation process, ie. during Christmas period.
- Public transport needs huge review. *–including bus lanes, timetables and shelters.*
- Targets are very important for each action identified so progress can be monitored.
- Though the Green Spaces Strategy is being progressed, the GCCN has yet to be consulted.
- How does the 118 submissions compare to other consultations?
- Education is important

- As buses are at maximum capacity during rush hours, there will be a need to rely on private bus operators.
- Who submitted the HSE submission on their behalf?
- GCC needs to lead contractors on options given to local authority tenants in line with this plan.
- Difficulty in maintaining green spaces across the city due to staffing issues and a reduction in the amount of green space as a result of householders replacing their front garden with additional parking.
- Was a baseline taken when works were undertaken on Local Authority housing stock?
- In relation to public awareness campaigns, how effective is information through schools to parents?
- As the HSE is a huge landowner they should become a partner in this plan.

The items raised were responded to by Mr. D. Redington as follows:

- Agrees townhall events are the way forward by utilising community centres holding evening meetings/workshops in mid-November with a range of specialists available and providing information on grant funding.
- Only a sample of the submissions were given in the presentation. Some suggestions were not included in the presentation but the plan will be ambitious.
- Working on outlining actions that can influence private sector homes and businesses and advocate behavioural change and how GCC can include such actions and present a more robust plan.
- Survey- while the quantum of responses might be considered low, some of them were extensive in context.
- A significant level of baseline data on engineering requirements has been compiled and was issued as part of the consultation briefing documents.
- Emissions baseline for the city and the DZ have been completed and developing a pathway to achieving 2030 targets is being progressed.
- In relation to inclusion of the Biodiversity Plan and similar strategies, if actions were to be pulled from each Plan/Strategy, there would be over 1000 actions and therefore impractical. The LACAP will outline actions around supporting the implementation of existing plans that are already in place across the organisation.
- HSE submission refers to the measure of health impact on people. Though air quality monitors are installed across the city, this is more a role for the HSE but perhaps can be supported with air quality data obtained with the HSE.
- LED lights & sensors is part of a 5/6 year plan for all public buildings pending budget approvals.

- As part of the retrofitting work undertaken by the Housing Department baseline information on upgrades within housing stock is undertaken.
–€1m funding available from EU Net Zero Cities Pilot Cities programme <https://netzerocities.eu/galways-pilot-city-activity-net-zero-pilot/>
- In relation to the transportation side- internally, there is an EV charging strategy being developed.- *major challenge how to reduce use of cars and increase use of Public Transport*
- Link in with service providers on how they can increase the provision of public transport.
- Private sector retrofitting- at a national level, increasing the supply of contractors skilled in this area.- *agreed as essential*
- Pre-draft consultation process was advertised in local paper, social media, and website.
- Clear targets and KPIs will be robust.- *drafting at present*
- Clare County Council received 250 submissions and Galway City Council expects to receive more submissions as part of the statutory consultation process.
- Some workshops will be in person and all Elected Members will be invited.
- Climate Action Officer & Environment Officer will be linking in with educational institutions.

B. Barrett added the following:

- It must be noted that D. Redington has just presented a flavour of the submissions.
- Significant resources for implementation will be required.
- To put in context the level of submissions another LA received only 4/5 submissions from a population of 250,000. The LECP consultation received approximately 120 submissions.
- We need to assist the community to take on the challenges of Climate Change.-
- This Action Plan will look at what we can do to achieve our targets.
- The retrofit of housing stock is behind many other European countries and we can learn from them on how to progress rapidly.
- From the feedback, the main barrier to retrofitting is cost to the individual/organisation so GCC needs to see how this can be addressed in the plan.- *can learn from UK*

The members agreed to hold a special meeting in relation to the Draft Local Authority Climate Action Plan on Wednesday the 15th of November at 4.00 pm in the Council Chamber and via Teams.

Members asked that notice of this meeting would issue as soon as possible.

Item 6. AOB

- Members wished to thank Catherine Jennings, former staff member, for her service and the manner in which she dealt with requests as Councillor Liaison Officer. They requested that a letter of thanks issue to Catherine on their behalf.
- Due to the volume of seaweed along the beaches, a request was made for the Biodiversity Officer to examine same and explore potential solutions.
- An update on Westside Decarbonisation Zone was sought.

The issues raised were responded to by Mr. B. Barrett as follows:

- In relation to the Westside Decarbonisation Zone, GCC has secured funding under the Net Zero Cities programme to deliver a programme with University partners and the Westside Resource Centre.
- The Decarbonisation Zone plan will be incorporated into the LACAP and an Action Plan will be presented at the next SPC meeting.

A member enquired if the EPA had received adequate participants for the Clean Air Project.

D. Redington outlined that the minimum required was 300 and 360 participants were received. GCC plans to add in a number of other locations not covered by the public participation through the Environment Dept.

The meeting concluded.

Additional SPC Meeting to discuss the draft LACAP took place on November 20th

Main points raised and discussed

Documents sent already

Damian Redington – PPTs

GCC responsible for 1% of emissions – influence, co-ordinate and facilitate, advocacy role

Other strategies and plans, eg GSS, BAP, GMAT – won't be extracting actions – Will support

Decarbonisation zone, target 51% reduction in emissions by 2030 – successful pilots will be rolled out

Active travel 'get people out of cars'

Introductions – Tiernan McCusker – Community Climate Action Officer; Ger Forde – Climate Action Officer; Sharon Carroll – Net Zero Project Leader

Resources – people and finances

Discussion points

Staffing

Resources

Identify new actions, not included elsewhere

Measurements? CO2

Planning enforcement

Relying on other plans to work for LACAP to work

How to get it out there?

Public events – need to be well publicised

Building in flood plains

Big buy in needed -eg retrofitting

Flood alert project in UG using Cork as test city

Sharing information

Green spaces – HSE, businesses

Climate and Biodiversity Emergency

Ring Road

Responses

Brian Barrett, DoS

Resources – people being recruited, funding being sourced e.g. Net Zero Cities

Key element – Engagement over 5- 10 years

Willing to engage with GCCN

Targets set nationally in law

Quarterly review by SMT

Air Quality and deaths

Behaviour change

Damian Redington

5 year plan

Ring road – GMAT and GTS, LACAP to endorse outcome of review

CO2 2018 baseline, 2-3 years to assess progress – can measure via electricity bills

Net Zero City - target to retrofit 250 houses

Interim review

Climate action to be placed on work programme of all SPCs

3x public events, 28/11/12 12/12, community centres Knocknacarra, Renmore, Westside

Also info for public re solar panels etc.

GCC ahead of other local authorities

Funds - €1m for retrofitting GCC buildings

**Dáta don chéad
chruinniú eile /
Date of next
meeting :**

SPC November 29th

Joint Policing Committee

Cruinniú / Name of Meeting	Joint Policing committee
Ionadaí LPCG (glacadóir - nótaí) / Name of GCCN Rep (note-taker)	Nichola Tierney
Dáta & Suite / Date & Location of Meeting:	16/10/23 city hall ,council Chambers
I láthair / Attendance	<p>Chairperson Cllr Niall Mc Nelis</p> <p>Present Chief Superintendents Gerard Roche, Superintendent Damien Flanagan, Sergeant Mick Walsh Mr Brian Barrett, Olivia Maher, senior intelligence Analyst.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Council: Cllr Donal Lyons ,Cllr frank Fahy' Cllr Terry o Flaherty</p> <p>Community: Tommy Flaherty ,Nichola Tierney</p> <p>In Attendance: there was new face I haven't met, tommy may know the rest</p>
Príomhphointí pléite / Key Issues Discussed:	
<p>Garda Report</p> <p>Drug increase in Galway but there were more arrests 1.6 million drugs were seized between city and county</p> <p>Drunk driver up by 15% going on 2022 figures , chief super reported that there are calibrated with other agencies i.e. coastal watch and harbour intel on drugs coming by sea this is working quite well .</p> <p>Chief super advised the public to wear high vis jacket while walking or cycling as the number of road deaths are rising country wise.</p> <p>25 people were arrested due to circular k insentient and 16 of those were before the courts.</p> <p>There will be an increase in Garda in the city at the end of November 6 in total bring the total of Garda on the ground to 638 and 5 sergeants plus there will be 3 more sergeants .</p> <p>Question raised where is the salthill stations closing this was asked by a few councillors, Chief super solved this issues by the salthill station will remain open from 7am to 10 pm every day and will have a numbers of Garda working from there, it is not possible to keep the office part open after 10pm as there is no flow of phone calls.</p>	

Galway Sports Partnership

Cruinniú / Name of Meeting: Sports Partnership Steering Group Meeting

Ionadaí LPCG (glacadóir - nótaí) / Name of GCCN Rep (note-taker): David Kennedy

Dáta & Suite / Date & Location of Meeting: Via Teams 14th September 2023

GCCN Reps in attendance: Chris Hickey & David Kennedy

Príomhphointí pléite / Key Issues Discussed:

Minutes of last meeting delivered and accepted.

Beach chair purchased and will be stored in Leisureland, unlike other chairs you do not have to be part of an organisation to use this chair. They aspire to have chairs on all City beaches to use for everyone.

- Funding for Active Cities 3 year contract
- Two other position also looking to be filled
- Funding for Staff being sought from the Department

European Sports Week 23rd to 30th September, ask all to register on European Sports week web site.

Sport Ireland Application 2024 to be lodged with them last week in September. Matched funding, can be benefit in kind and not just money.

Club Development Grants close Sunday 17th September '23

A.O.B. Mick Molley RIP (Runner late of Oughterard)

Next Meeting Christmas Wednesday 6th December and venue yet to be approved.

May have a quick meeting on Monday 2nd October re SI funding

Report Template

Cruinniú / Name of Meeting	
Ionadaí LPCG (glacadóir - nótaí) / Name of GCCN Rep (note-taker)	
Dáta & Suite / Date & Location of Meeting:	
I láthair / Attendance	
Príomhphointí pléite / Key Issues Discussed:	
Socruithe déanta / Key Decisions Made:	
Gníomhaíochtaí / Action(s) required from GCCN:	
Dáta don chéad chruinniú eile / Date of next meeting :	
Moltaí breise /Any Other Comments:	