

Draft Minutes of Galway City Council Economic, Community and Cultural Development  
SPC Meeting held in Council Chamber City Hall & MS Teams on 08th December 2023 at  
2.00pm

Presiding: Cllr. Niall McNelis.

Present:

Councillors: Cllr. Donal Lyons, Cllr Noel Larkin, Cllr John Connolly,

Sectoral

Representatives: Dominick Whelan, Dave Hickey, Geri Slevin

In Attendance: Gary McMahon, Senior Executive Officer, Galway City  
Council

Dermot Mahon, Senior Executive Officer, Galway City Council  
Caitriona Morgan, Administrative Officer, Galway City Council

Ruairi Lehmann, Tourism Officer, Galway City Council

Theresa Donohue, Senior Staff Officer, Galway City Council

Kate Howard, Nighttime Economy Officer Galway City Council

Aisling Colreavy, Healthy Galway City Galway City Council

Thomas Melly, Staff Officer, Galway City  
Council

Chelsea McConn, Clerical Officer Galway City Council

Apologies: Ms. Lieze Fanning, Mr. Brian Barrett

Absent

1. Confirmation of minutes of the Economic Community and Culture Development SPC meeting held on Friday 22nd September 2023.

Proposed: Cllr. Donal Lyons

Seconded: Cllr. Dominick Whelan

Agreed by all members.

## 2. Matters Arising

Mr. Ruairi Lehmann gave an update on the Hub in Salthill, due to the zoning of the site we could be returning the space back to Park & Amenity. Active Travel could possibly progress with the hub, which would be an indoor bike hub.

Mr. Dominick Whelan noted he had a few queries and typo with the LECP documents, in which it was suggested for it to be email in so it can amended.

## 3. Local Enterprise Office, Galway (LEO)

Ms. Caroline McDonagh gave a presentation on the Local Enterprise Office on behalf of Ms. Valerie Kelly. The presentation was given to members and the following points were outlined:

- Soft supports
- Management Development programmes
- Financial Supports
- The 2022 LEO Galway Impact report
- Priorities for 2023/2024

- Focus for Q1 2024
- LEO client story

A discussion took place with quires from Cllr Niall McNelis, Mr. Dave Hickey and Ms. Majella O’Meara in which were answered by Ms. Caroline McDonagh. Mr. Gary McMahon thanked LEO and noted to help boost the Energy Efficiency Grant to be added the newsletter. Ms. Caitriona Morgan also added that LEO is 10 years in existence and has a presence in City Hall, in which we are happy and delighted with LEO.

#### 4. Irish Language Plan for Galway City

Mr. Gary McMahon welcomed Ms. Majella O’Meara to present Plean Teanga. Ms. Majella O’Meara introduced herself and presented on the following points:

- The main objective is to increase the usage & communication knowledge of the Irish Language as a community language on an incremental basis.
- Language Plan over a period of 7 years.
- Strong aspect: Services through Irish.
- 36 Measures in the plan.

The presentation was welcomed by members and a discussion then took place with queries from Cllr. John Connolly which was addressed by Ms. Majella O’Meara. Mr. Gary McMahon thanked Ms. M O’Meara for the work done, as it is an asset to the city. Aras Na Gael recommendation to coincide with a shared Irish Language space within the city. Mr. Ruairi noted that an Irish festival will be taking place this weekend through the Marketing Fund and an event on St. Bridget’s bank holiday.

Cllr. Niall McNelis thanked Ms. Majella O’Meara for her presentation.

#### 5. Draft Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

Ms. Caitriona Morgan provided an update on the LECP since the last meeting. She advised that following engagement with the Northern & Western Regional Assembly

(NWRA) it was noted that the NWRA had its meeting which was held on 17th November 2023, in accordance with the powers set out in Section 66C 2(c) and 3(c) of the Local Government Act 2001 and following consideration of the Draft Local Economic and Community Plan (Draft LECP) for Galway City, determined that its generally consistent with:

- (i) The Core Strategy and Development Objectives of the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029 and
- (ii) The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032 (RSES) for the Northern and Western Region.

She also noted that furthermore it was determined that the Draft LECP demonstrates consistency between the economic and community objectives of the plan.

In relation to the screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) she confirmed that the Draft LECP has been subject to both screening for SEA and AA as required. The screening exercises examine the need to undertake full SEA and/or Stage 2 AA. Screening for SEA and Screening for AA reports will accompany the plan and have informed the Council's determinations that full SEA and Stage 2 AA are not required for the Plan.

She advised that the Draft LECP had also been presented to the 3 Local Area Committee meetings which took place during November 2023, noting that several queries / questions were dealt with at the meetings. She further advised that no changes to the objectives or actions were required following this engagement and discussions.

Following a couple of minor corrections and some clarifications which were responded to by Ms Morgan and Mr D Mahon it was proposed by Cllr Neil McNelis, seconded by Ms Geri Slevin, and agreed by all that the SPC recommends to Galway City Council to adopt the LECP Framework Plan 2024 – 2029 at the January Ordinary Council Meeting in January 2024.

It was also proposed by Cllr Donal Lyons, seconded by Mr Dominick Whelan, and agreed by all that the SPC recommends to Galway City Council to adopt the LECP

Implementation Plan 2024 – 2025 at the January Ordinary Council Meeting in January 2024.

#### 6. Provisional dates for SPC meetings 2024

The proposed dates of Friday 26th January and Friday 12th April 2023 at 2:00pm were agreed by all members.

Mr Gary McMahan noted in January's meeting a workplan must be adopted to indicate what the new SPC approach will be. There was a review of Strategic Policy Committee which was an online survey which had to be completed by 24th November, Mr. McMahan expressed that he hoped people got a chance to do it. Also, on the 7th of June 2024 a new strategy policy plan will be under place.

#### 7. A.O.B.

Ms. Caitriona Morgan advised the DRCD had launched a consultation document to further inform the development of Ireland's new National Social Enterprise Policy, which it is planned to publish at the end of Q1 2024. This consultation will be live until 31st January 2024 and further information available on the DRCD website.

Cllr. Niall McNelis noted he had three queries, in relation to the Galway Airport it is a serious investment, what is going on? Followed by who's on the committee for the Culture Company from the Galway city council and how is money been allocated? Finishing with a query surrounding St. Bridget's Day should be a day to celebrate women, we can look at doing this in Galway.

A discussion took place and queries were addressed by Mr. Ruairi Lehmann and Mr. Gary McMahan.

Mr. Dominick Whelan asked will the Nighttime Economy Officer be presenting in the new year? Ms. Kate Howard responded that she will be doing a presentation in the January meeting.

Cllr. Donal Lyons suggested that the Culture Company to come to do a presentation in January.

Mr. Gary McMahon also advised that Creative Communities Engagement Officer, Adam Stoneman will be giving a presentation in January. A baseline funding increase to 177,000 with 30,000 to Cruinniú Na nÓg has been received.

The meeting concluded at 3:55 pm.