

**Minutes of Galway City Local Community Development Committee
Meeting held on 13th December 2023 at 3.00pm
(Held in the Council Chamber and virtually on MS Teams)**

Present:

Ms. Elaine Harvey (Chairperson), Trade Union
Cllr. Alan Curran, Galway City Council
Cllr. Martina O'Connor, Galway City Council
Ms. Adrienne Lynam, Health Service Executive West
Ms. Linda Sice Brogan, Galway City Partnership
Ms. Lorraine Lally, Galway City Community Network / PPN
Ms. Fiona McDonagh-Delaney, Galway City Community Network / PPN
Ms. Sinead Morgan, Galway & Roscommon ETB
Ms. Valerie Kelly, Local Enterprise Office
Mr. Brian Barrett, Galway City Council

Apologies:

Ms. Patricia Philbin, Interim Chief Executive, Galway City Council
Ms. Regina Higgins, Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection
Ms. Anne Marie Stokes, Galway City Community Network / PPN
Ms. Joanne Laffey, Galway City Community Network/ PPN

In attendance:

Mr. Dermot Mahon, LCDC Chief Officer, Galway City Council
Ms. Caitriona Morgan, Galway City Council
Ms. Theresa Donohue, Galway City Council
Mr. Liam Kitterick, Galway City Council
Mr. TJ Hughes, Galway City Council
Ms. Chelsea McConn Joyce, Galway City Council

1. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Elaine Harvey, Chairperson introduced and welcomed all members to her last meeting as Chairperson. Apologies were received from Ms. Patricia Philbin, Ms. Anne Marie Stokes, Ms. Regina Higgins, and Ms. Fiona McDonagh – Delaney.

2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Galway City LCDC meeting held on 8th November 2023

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th November 2023 were:

Proposed: Ms. Linda Sice Brogan

Seconded: Cllr. Martina O' Connor

And agreed by all members.

3. Draft Local Economic and Community Plan – Framework Plan 2024 – 2029 and Implementation Plan 2024 – 2025

Mr. Dermot Mahon provided an update on the LECP, noting that there have been several text changes to the document overall but advised no amendments to the high-level goals and objectives have been made since the September meeting. The vision and high-level goals remain with a number of additional actions added since the last LCDC Meeting.

Mr. D. Mahon advised that following engagement with the Northern & Western Regional Assembly (NWRA) it was noted that the NWRA had its meeting 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 the LECP is 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.

He noted that it was determined the Draft LECP demonstrates consistency between the economic and community objectives of the plan. He noted that the Draft Plan has been subject to screening for both a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) and he confirmed that the Draft LECP has been subject to both screening for SEA and AA as required. These screening exercises examine the need to undertake full SEA and/or Stage 2 AA. He advised that screening for the SEA and 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.

A discussion then took place with a couple of amendments suggested including to the first objective under High Level Goal 5 to reflect the value of nutrition to healthy lifestyles. Further clarifications to member's queries and questions with clarity provided on same by Mr. D. Mahon and Mr. B. Barrett. Mr. B. Barrett extended thanks to all involved in the work of the LECP to date, adding that it was great to be able to move on to the implementation stage.

The Draft LECP Framework Plan 2024 – 2029 was:

Proposed: Cllr Martina O'Connor
Seconded: Ms. Linda Sice Brogan

And agreed by all that the LCDC recommends to Galway City Council to adopt the LECP Framework Plan 2024 – 2029 at the Ordinary Council Meeting in January 2024.

In addition, the LECP Implementation Plan 2024-2025 was:

Proposed: Ms. Sinead Morgan
Seconded: Ms. Adrienne Lynam

And agreed by all that the LCDC recommends to Galway City Council to adopt the LECP Implementation Plan 2024 – 2025 at the Ordinary Council Meeting in January 2024.

4. Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2024 - 2028

Mr. D Mahon noted that the tender to deliver the SICAP Programme 2024- 2028 had gone through a rigorous procurement process during 2023 under which Galway City Partnership were awarded the tender. He added that it was a very positive programme with a €5m fund in place, and looked forward to getting the contract signed today by Ms. E. Harvey, Mr. B. Barrett, and Ms. L. Sice Brogan. Ms. E. Harvey congratulated the GCP team for being awarded the contract and to GCC staff for managing and facilitating the tender process.

Ms. L. Sice Brogan thanked the LCDC and GCC. She then proceeded to deliver a presentation on the SICAP 2024 - 2028 to all members. The following points were covered:

- Programme aims;
- Goal 1 & Goal 2;
- Target groups;
- Local priority groups for Galway City;
- Thematic areas;
- Priorities with the programme;
- Core areas Goal 1 & 2;
- Contract information.

The presentation was welcomed by members and a discussion then took place with queries raised by Mr. B. Barrett which were addressed by Ms. L. Sice Brogan.

Finally, Mr. Liam Kitterick informed members that notification was received from Pobal last week in relation to the 2023 Annual SICAP Performance review. A few key dates were provided:

- GCP must upload their reports on the IRIS system by Tuesday 16th Jan 2024;
- LCDC must review the reports and complete checklist and submit to POBAL by Wednesday 31st January;
- A subgroup of the LCDC will be convened between 16th Jan – 31st Jan 2024 to review reports and complete the checklist for submission to Pobal;
- Pobal to review the LCDC submitted checklist and provide feedback by Friday 2nd Feb 2024;
- Annual Progress report is to be formally approved by the LCDC by Thursday 29th February 2024.

5. Nomination of Interim Chairperson Galway City LCDC January 2024 – June 2024

Ms. E. Harvey advised members that she will be completing her 3-year term as Chairperson of the LCDC today. It has been agreed that an Interim Chair will be appointed for the period January to June 2024 with a new Chairperson agreed at the end of that period for the full 3-year term following the local elections in 2024 and reconstitution of the LCDC with new elected representatives. Ms. E. Harvey thanked all the staff who have made the job of Chairperson of the LCDC very easy. Mr. D. Mahon also added that a replacement for Mr. James Coyne PPN rep will be joining the LCDC in the new year. Mr. B. Barrett thanked Ms. E. Harvey for the work she has done in her 3 years as Chairperson, noting that she was always available to be contacted and represented the community strongly.

Mr. B. Barrett proposed Cllr. M. O'Connor as Interim Chairperson and Ms. Valerie Kelly seconded the motion. This was agreed by all.

6. To agree a schedule of meeting dates for 2024

Ms. E. Harvey advised members of proposed dates which were circulated in advance of the meeting. Mr. D. Mahon informed members that the dates proposed will roughly follow the same frequency of dates as in previous years and to fall in line with SICAP reporting requirements. The timing of meetings will range from either a 3pm or 5pm start time to facilitate those who cannot attend earlier in the day. Finally, it was agreed that all meetings will continue to have the online option.

Proposed dates agreed by all. Ms. E. Harvey noted there will be a review of meeting starting times in July.

7. Any Other Business

Mr. L. Kitterick advised members that the Department of Rural and Community Development recently announced capital funding under the Local Enhancement Programme 2024 which will be administered by the LCDCs with support from LAs. This funding is capital in nature with a particular focus on small capital works / improvements, and the purchase of equipment for community use. The funding may also be used but is not limited to the following: improving access for persons with a disability; enhancing community participation for disadvantaged and marginalised groups; improving energy efficiency of community facilities to reduce ongoing costs.

There is also a ring-fenced amount of capital funding for Women's Groups under this scheme. The Department requests that LCDCs ring-fence 30% of its funding for grants of €1,000 or less. This is guidance only, and the LCDC can adjust this depending on the needs in its area. The allocation to Galway City LCDC is as follows:

- Total Allocation €134,322.62
- DRCD LEP Allocation €111,935.52
- Women's Groups Allocation €22,387.10

Applications will be invited online from early January 2024.

Mr. L. Kitterick also mentioned that the LCDC is required to prepare a report to the LA on its activities in the previous year, no later than 31st March in relation to the performance of its functions during the year. He advised that inputs will be requested in early January 2024 from the relevant organisations to feed into the report. At the February 2024 LCDC meeting a draft Annual Report 2023 will be issued for consideration and adoption.

Ms. Caitriona Morgan informed members that the Department of Rural and Community Development launched a public consultation for the second National Social Enterprise Policy. The consultation is a chance for all interested parties to have their say about the new policy, ensuring all voices are heard during its development. The consultation is open until 31st January 2024. All interested parties are encouraged to make a submission to the consultation, details can be found [gov.ie - National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland – Closing Phase Public Consultation \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/en/national-social-enterprise-policy-for-ireland-closing-phase-public-consultation/)

The date for the next meeting of the LCDC was agreed for Wednesday 21st February 2024 at 3:00pm in the Council Chamber and Online.

Ms E. Harvey wished all members a Merry Christmas and The meeting then concluded.