

Draft Minutes of the Economic, Community and Cultural Development SPC Meeting held in the Council Chamber, City Hall & virtually via MS Teams on 22nd February 2024 at 2.00pm	
Presiding	Cllr. N McNelis, Chairperson
Present (Elected Members)	Cllr. Eddie Hoare Cllr. Donal Lyons
Present (Sectoral Representatives)	Dominick Whelan, Galway City Community Network Megs Morley, Galway City Community Network Dave Hickey, Galway Chamber
Apologies	Geri Slevin, Galway Trades Council Theresa Donohue, A/Administrative Officer
Present (Executive)	Elizabeth Fanning, A/Director Services Brian Barrett, A/Director of Services Gary McMahon, Senior Executive Officer Dermot Mahon, Senior Executive Officer Caitriona Morgan, Administrative Officer Ruairi Lehmann, Tourism Officer Kate Howard, Nighttime Economy Officer Ruth Mulhern, Arts Officer Adam Stoneman, Creative Communities Engagement Officer Nicola Gilchrist, Arts Development Officer Thomas Melly, Staff Officer Emma Johnston, A/Assistant Staff Officer Stephen Doyle, Clerical Officer

1. Confirmation of minutes of the Economic, Community & Cultural Development SPC meeting held on Friday 8th December 2023

Proposed: Cllr. Donal Lyons

Seconded: Cllr. Niall McNelis

Agreed by all members.

2. Matters Arising

Cllr. Donal Lyons advised that he had requested at the last meeting to receive a presentation from the Galway Culture Company and requested that the minutes reflect this request. Gary McMahon advised that a number of other presentations, in line with the SPC work programme had been scheduled for this meeting, noting that Galway Culture Company can be contacted and invited to present at the next SPC meeting which was agreed.

3. SPC Work Programme for 2024

Gary McMahon referred to the SPC work programme for 2024 as circulated in advance, noting that some of the items were being presented at this SPC meeting. He advised that the work programme reflects the period up until the local elections in June 2024. In relation to the Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) Caitriona Morgan

confirmed that Galway City Council, at their January Ordinary Council meeting formally adopted both the LECP Framework 2024 – 2029 and LECP Implementation Plan 2024-2025 as recommended by the SPC, noting final documents had circulated by email to the SPC on this.

Following a number of queries from Cllr. Niall McNelis, Ruairi Lehmann advised that he was meeting with the new Tourism Officer in Galway County Council in the coming weeks to progress some of the items. Caitriona Morgan advised that she would contact Ireland West Airport Knock (IWAK) requesting an update on activity and developments at the airport as requested.

4. Night Time Economy Presentation by Kate Howard, Night Time Economy Adviser

Kate Howard gave a presentation on the Night Time Economy, including context, aims and objectives, key deliverables, and an update on some key initiatives to date in this regard which was welcomed by all. She outlined the timeline and referred to the work undertaken to date in relation to research and engagement, stakeholder and public engagement including surveys and workshops with a view to preparing a NTE action plan informed by this. She also advised that both Galway and Salthill had received interim Purple Flag renewal accreditation, which forms part of her work. She noted that her role as an adviser is a two-year pilot, developed and funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport, and Media. Cllr. Niall McNelis complimented Kate on her work to date in terms of engagement with the community and stakeholders. Several comments and queries were raised by members and Kate responded as follows:

- In relation to the NTA and their final new bus network provision was included for a new 24-hour bus service operating from Knocknacarra through the city centre to Doughiska and Parkmore.
- In relation to using public spaces for more than one use it was noted that this is already happening but needs to spread across the city and make it an initiative.
- In relation to business engagement and the low level of feedback to date, a couple of suggestions were given in terms of ongoing engagement.
- In relation to footfall counters and data, it was noted that work was being progressed internally on this.

5. Creative Communities Presentation by Adam Stoneman, Creative Communities Engagement Officer

Adam Stoneman gave a presentation on Creative Communities noting its context in the Creative Ireland programme, and in particular his role to support the Culture & Creativity Team to deliver the strategic priorities of the Galway City Culture & Creativity Strategy 2023-2027 through implementing a number of approaches. He referred to a large number and range of initiatives funded and supported by Galway City Council since 2017 under Creative Ireland, with a particular update on 2023 funding and anticipated funding for 2024. He also referred to Cruinniú na nÓg, the national day of free creativity for children and young people under 18. A couple of comments and queries were raised by members and Adam Stoneman and Ruth Mulhern, Arts Officer responded as follows:

- In relation to the Per Cent for Art scheme it was noted it is an important source of funding but needs to be a large fund in order to develop public art across the city.

- A new national Public Art policy is being developed, guidance will be taken from this in terms of street art and engagement with our Planning Department.

6. AOB

In relation to the Local Enhancement Programme, Dermot Mahon advised that this had now closed for applications, noting that the decision on these was going before the LCDC at their next meeting. He also reminded members on the Mayor's Awards and closing date for nominations.

Ruairi Lehmann gave an update on the St. Patrick's Festival 2024, which will take place in Galway city from 16th – 18th March in celebration of this year's St. Patrick's Day.

In relation to the Marketing Fund & Regional Festival Promotion Fund 2024, Thomas Melly advised that this was opening for online applications in the next week, further details will be available on www.galwaycity.ie

Gary McMahon referred to the recently launched Galway Economic Monitor by Galway Chamber and THRIVE programme funding under the Northern and Western Regional Programme which is currently open for applications.

Caitriona Morgan advised on an upcoming Interceltic Business Forum, taking place in Galway on 19th April 2024, details to circulate on this.