

**Minutes of Special Meeting of Galway City Council
held on Wednesday 13th July, 2022, at 10am
in the Hardiman Hotel, Galway and online via zoom platform.
Consideration of the Draft Development Plan 2023-2029 and the Chief
Executive's Report on the Draft Development Plan Consultation Process
Meeting No. 4**

Presiding:	Cllr. C. Higgins, Mayor of the City of Galway
Present:	Councillors: I. Byrne, A. Cheevers, J. Connolly, M.J. Crowe, O. Hanley, P. Keane, D. McDonnell & N. McNelis
Present Virtually:	Councillors: M. Cubbard, F. Fahy, E. Hoare, N. Larkin, D. Lyons, N. Murphy, M. O'Connor & T. O'Flaherty
Apologies:	Cllr. C. Connolly
In Attendance:	Ms. P. Philbin, Director of Services Ms. S. Connolly, Senior Engineer Mr. C. O'Riordan, Senior Executive Engineer Mr. M. Lally, A/Senior Executive Engineer Ms. C. Phelan, Senior Planner Ms. H. Coleman, Senior Executive Planner Ms. K. Moloney, A/Executive Planner Ms. M. Kilgarriff, Assistant Staff Officer Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator Ms. S. King, Assistant Staff Officer
In Attendance Virtually:	Mr. B. McGrath, Chief Executive Ms. S. Watson, Senior Staff Officer

Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator commenced the meeting with a statement of intention to conduct the business of the Meeting in line with Standing Orders followed by a moment of silent reflection. A presentation was then made with regards to Member's statutory obligations concerning:

- Ethics Framework
 - o Ethical Framework for the Local Government Service
 - o Code of Conduct for Councillors advising chapters on Conflict of Personal and Public Interest and Planning
- Disclosure at Meetings
- Disclosure in Advance of Meetings
- Planning Legislation
- Code of Conduct and Regulation of Lobbying information

Councillors were advised that they are individually responsible for being compliant and that it is an offence if you fail to comply with some sections of the Ethical Framework.

The Meetings Administrator advised Councillors that they will be requested to indicate if they are 'In Favour', 'Against' or wish to 'Abstain' when making a resolution by raising their hand. She advised that this will be done for each resolution taken at the meeting. This was noted by Council.

It was agreed to consider Motions submitted by Councillors in relation to Chapter 4: Sustainable Mobility and Transportation. Cllr. O. Hanley proposed a Motion relating to Chief Executive's Recommendation 7 & 8: In addition, and as per the NTA recommendation, to amend policy 4.8.27 to add the text in italics: 'Implement general road widening and street improvements for safety and convenience to facilitate improved infrastructure and safer environments for sustainable modes of transport such as walking, cycling and public transport.'" This was seconded by Cllr. M.J. Crowe.

Councillors discussed the Motion. Cllr. F. Fahy requested to include School Road, Castlegar and Cllr. T. O'Flaherty requested to include Bóthar an Choiste. Cllr. O. Hanley accepted the additions.

Proposed by: Cllr. O. Hanley **Seconded by:** Cllr. M.J. Crowe

Chief Executive's Recommendation 7 & 8: In addition, and as per the NTA recommendation, to amend policy 4.8.27 to add the text in italics:

'Implement general road widening and street improvements for safety and convenience to *facilitate improved infrastructure and safer environments for sustainable modes of transport such as walking, cycling and public transport.*' This also includes School Road, Castlegar, and Bóthar an Chóiste.

In Favour: 11 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 11

This was approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. O. Hanley **Seconded by:** Cllr. D. McDonnell

Amend: Policy 4.5.6 page 108 of Draft City Development Plan 2023 -2029 to add text in italics. "Promote the implementation of Travel Plans with employers and schools, *including Area Based Transport Assessments (ABTA) and Traffic and Transport Assessments (TTA) where the scale of development determines the need for integrated land use and transport planning policies.*"

In Favour: 11 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 11

This was approved by Council.

Cllr. C. Connolly had sent apologies that she was unable to attend the meeting. She had submitted Motions relevant to Chapter 4 and requested that they be deferred for consideration until Friday 15th July, 2022. This was agreed.

Motion submitted by: Cllr. C. Connolly

I would like to propose the following insertion of text on p.14 Ch. 4.8.17

Insert the following text before 'Prioritise' *Develop a plan to address the pedestrian infrastructure deficit in the city.*

It was agreed by Council to defer this Motion for consideration until Friday 15th July 2022.

Motion submitted by: Cllr. C. Connolly

I would like to propose the following deletions on p.107 re: car parking: Delete text p. 107 2nd para. Referring to' exceptions.... of Ceannt Station and Dyke Rd car parks.

It was agreed by Council to defer this Motion for consideration on Friday 15th July 2022.

Cllr. T. O’Flaherty proposed to amend the Chief Executive’s Recommendation in Section 4.1 under Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) heading. Following comments from the Chief Executive, Cllr. T. O’Flaherty agreed to remove specific reference to the Gluas Committee. It was agreed that the word ‘all’ be added before ‘stakeholders’.

Proposed by: Cllr. T. O’Flaherty **Seconded by:** Cllr. A. Cheevers

Amend text in Section 4.1 under Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) heading to add text in italics: “

This Draft Development Plan will continue to progress a sustainable transport solution for the city and identify how it is intended to deliver and build upon the work of the GTS, while continuing to support the measures set out in the GTS. A planned evidenced based review of the GTS is due to commence ~~be carried out~~ in 2022 and be completed in 2023 in ~~conjunction~~ *collaboration* with Galway County Council and, the National Transport Authority (NTA) and *all* other stakeholders, ~~including the Gluas Committee~~. This process will include for public consultation, which will consider all transport modes including the feasibility of a very light rail/light rail option and will not preclude the advancement of the Cross City Link route or the planning of other projects already commenced within the Galway Transportation Strategy to planning consent stage.”

In Favour: 12 **Against:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Present:** 12

This was approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons **Seconded by:** Cllr. T. O’Flaherty

Amend Section 4.8 Specific Objectives – no. 6 to add text outlined in italics and to delete text as shown by strikethrough.

Identify appropriate locations in the city to accommodate tour bus parking facilities and drop off/pick up points in accordance with ~~the~~ *a proposed* Tour Bus Parking Study.

In Favour: 12 **Against:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Present:** 12

This was approved by Council.

The following Chief Executive’s Recommendation was considered.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons **Seconded by:** Cllr. T. O’Flaherty

Amend Section 4.3 Public Transport, Bus Network - Regional - to add text outlined in italics and to delete text as shown by strikethrough.

Bus Network - Regional

Investment in the bus services will be focused on improving connectivity between regional settlements, including Galway City and Dublin, and enhancing the reliability and the level of service within and between key settlements. For regional and long distance bus and coach services, journey speed and reliability are the crucial issues. The import role that Galway City plays as a Regional City, providing connectivity to a large hinterland is recognised in the RSES and the plan supports the major national public transport initiative, NTA Connecting Ireland: Rural Mobility Plan, which will increase connectivity, particularly for those living outside the major cities. Principal destinations of regional buses within the city will remain at Ceannt Station, *and* Fairgreen Coach Station ~~and Eyre Square~~. These will be complemented by controlled drop off and pick up locations in the city centre area following investigation in the context of the designated access routes into this area. The proposed Cross City Link efficiencies

will also enable a much better regional service. This includes for traffic restrictions along College Road as proposed in the GTS, which will significantly benefit connectivity for these regional services in conjunction with the priority measures proposed for the local bus network coming from the west, including the restrictions proposed on Salmon Weir Bridge. This regional service offers a valuable service for tourists, particularly for trips to and from Dublin and Shannon airport and to other tourist destination cities and towns. ~~Coach parking for tourists will continue to be provided at Merchant's Road and adjacent to Galway Cathedral.~~

The GTS sees the attraction of these services being enhanced further by the provision of interchanges between regional and local public transport at key locations in the city centre. The infrastructure proposals provided as part of the local bus network will enhance the regional services also, as the regional buses will be able to avail of the priority routes in the city and others, such as that proposed along the Dublin Road. Sufficient access to and from the termini in the city centre will also be required to be provided.

With a growing number of private tour coach services and private commuter coach services, the current set down/pick up arrangements need to be examined so that these services can be directed to more adequate locations which can be linked to existing and proposed transport hubs.

In Favour: 12 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 12

This was approved by Council.

Cllr. O. Hanley spoke on the Motion he submitted to amend 4.8 Specific Objectives: 'Amendment to 4.8 Specific Objectives: Road and Street Network & Accessibility: Page 115 to add: "Collaborate with Galway County Council to progress where feasible cycling infrastructure on existing roads connecting the city with nearby towns not upgraded as part of the National Greenway Strategy such as Oranmore along the R338, with Bearna on the R336, and with Baile Chláir on the N83. This was seconded by Cllr. F. Fahy.

Cllr. E. Hoare requested the inclusion of Moycullen on the N59, Cllr. O. Hanley accepted same.

Ms. C. Phelan, Senior Planner suggested amended wording and Cllr. O. Hanley accepted same with the inclusion routes outlined.

The Chief Executive advised that a consultation process is expected to be held in September, 2022.

Proposed by: Cllr. O. Hanley **Seconded by:** Cllr. F. Fahy

'Work collaboratively with the Galway County Council and other agencies (TII and NTA) in the delivery of cycle infrastructure connections between the city and the adjoining rural towns and villages ***which may include Oranmore along the R338, with Bearna on the R336, Moycullen on the N59 and with Baile Chláir on the N83*** as will be considered ***under the imminent National Cycle Network Plan.***

In Favour: 12 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 12

This was approved by Council.

Cllr. O. Hanley proposed a motion in relation to the provision of a continuous footpath on the N84. 'Insert a Specific Objective on the N84, Headford Road north of Bóthar an Chóiste, on the City Development Plan map to ensure a continuous footpath to Ballindooley Cross.'

Mr. M. Lally, A/Senior Executive Engineer advised that wording in relation to this would need to be carefully considered. The Local Authority can bring forward improvements in collaboration with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). A continuous footpath may interfere with objectives for national routes to move transport between urban centres.

Ms. C. Phelan, Senior Planner suggested amended wording and this was accepted.

Proposed by: Cllr. O. Hanley **Seconded by:** Cllr. F. Fahy

Insert a Specific Objective in the Development Plan: 4.8.33

Galway City Council in conjunction with Transport Infrastructure Ireland will investigate the provision of a continuous foot path on the N84, Headford Road north of Bóthar an Chóiste.

In Favour: 13 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 13

This was approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. N. McNelis **Seconded by:** Cllr. D. McDonnell

Private Coach tours and buses visiting the City to be provided with a drop off and collection area of parking for short term periods that allows easy access to the City Centre pedestrian area.

Ms. C. Phelan, Senior Planner suggested amended wording for the motion submitted by Cllr. N. McNelis and this was accepted.

Proposed by: Cllr. N. McNelis **Seconded by:** Cllr. A. Cheevers

Policy 4.3 public transport

Ensure ease of access to all bus termini in the city centre and facilitate tourist coach drop-off /pick up locations ***convenient to the city centre that accommodates*** bus layover areas.

In Favour: 11 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 11

This was approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. E. Hoare **Seconded by:** Cllr. D. Lyons

Include additional point at policy 4.4

Investigate the potential to provide footpaths along all local roads.

Cllr. D. Lyons requested the addition of Ballymoneen Road and Cappagh Road to Cllr. Hoare's motion. Cllr. T. O'Flaherty requested that Castlegar Road and Ballinfoile be included.

Mr. M. Lally, A/Senior Executive Engineer suggested that the wording be left at 'all local roads'.

Ms. C. Phelan, Senior Planner suggested amended wording and Cllr. E. Hoare accepted this with the addition of specific wording to ensure priority is given to certain roads.

Proposed by: Cllr. E. Hoare **Seconded by:** Cllr. D. Lyons

Specific objective 4.8 no.34

Carry out an audit of the road network relative to pedestrian services and standards in all areas outside of the city centre and implement a programme of improvements in accordance with a scheme of priorities relative to accessibility, safety and convenience. Priority of investigation will be given to the following roads namely: Circular Road, Letteragh Road and Ballagh Road, Ballymoneen Road, Clybaun Road, Cappagh Road, Castlegar Road, Ballinfoile and all other local roads as deemed necessary.

In Favour: 10 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 10

This was approved by Council.

Cllr. T. O’Flaherty proposed a motion to facilitate road widening at Ballyloughane. Concerns were raised that widening the road might narrow or remove the existing pedestrian pathway. Mr. M. Lally, A/Senior Executive Engineer cautioned that road widening in this area may lead to increased traffic and speed and would not increase the capacity of the road.

Ms. C. Phelan, Senior Planner advised that there are a number of policies to support the amenity, heritage and recreational value of Ballyloughane Beach. Following discussion, Cllr. T. O’Flaherty withdrew the Motion she submitted and advised that she may consider same for inclusion at an Ordinary Council Meeting. Cllr. A. Cheevers was in agreement with same.

Proposed by: Cllr. T. O’Flaherty **Seconded by:** Cllr. A. Cheevers

We wish to include in the 2023-2029 Galway City Development Plan road widening on the roadway from the bridge to beach including the beach road in Ballyloughane as currently both roads are very narrow and potentially are a health and safety risk for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists alike.

The Motion was Withdrawn.

The Council agreed a ten minute break at 12.16pm. The Meeting resumed at 12.30pm.

Proposed by: Cllr. N. McNelis **Seconded by:** Cllr. E. Hoare

To accept the text of Chapter 4: Sustainable Mobility and Transportation.

In Favour: 11 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 11

This was approved by Council.

It was agreed to discuss Chapter 7: Community and Culture. Councillors were invited to make contributions in relation to the chapter.

Chapter 7: Community and Culture

Following discussion, Ms. H. Coleman, Senior Executive Engineer clarified that Galway City Council does not have a requirement for a linguistic impact statement for planning applications. The policy is to support a diverse range of communities. Policy does exist to support the implementation of language plans. Planning applications are only referred to Údarás na Gaeltachta, when relevant. Ms. H. Coleman advised that zoning allows for the provision of schools and educational facilities and does not require a designation.

It was advised that the number of schools listed in the Draft Plan is based on information from the Department of Education.

Concerns were raised in relation to Policy 7.9 – institutional land and queries were responded to by Ms. C. Phelan and Ms. H. Coleman.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons **Seconded by:** Cllr. N. McNelis

To accept the Chief Executive’s Response regarding Chapter 7 - Community and Culture 7.1 – Context relating to the submission received.

In Favour: 11 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 11

This was approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons **Seconded by:** Cllr. D. McDonnell

To accept the Chief Executive’s Response regarding Chapter 7 - Community and Culture 7.2 Creative City relating to the submissions received.

In Favour: 11 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 11

This was approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons **Seconded by:** Cllr. D. McDonnell

To accept the Chief Executive’s Response regarding Chapter 7 - Community and Culture 7.3 Inclusive City relating to submissions received.

In Favour: 11 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 11

This was approved by Council.

Cllr. J. Connolly made a contribution in relation to Chapter 7 - Community and Culture 7.4 Bilingual City.

Ms. C. Phelan, Senior Planner advised that there is no obligation to attach linguistic conditions to planning permissions in Gaeltacht areas, however, Galway City Council is obliged to protect linguistic heritage, which is done through policy.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons **Seconded by:** Cllr. D. McDonnell

To accept the Chief Executive’s Response regarding Chapter 7 - Community and Culture 7.4 Bilingual City relating to submissions received.

In Favour: 10 Against: 1 Abstain: 0 Present: 11

The Motion was approved by Council.

The Council agreed to take a break at 13.04p.m. The meetings resumed at 14.00p.m.

Cllr. O. Hanley made a contribution in relation to Chapter 7 - Community and Culture 7.5 Community Facilities.

Ms. H. Coleman, Senior Executive Planner responded to queries raised.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons **Seconded by:** Cllr. D. McDonnell

To accept the Chief Executive's Response regarding Chapter 7 - Community and Culture 7.5 Community Facilities relating to submissions received.

In Favour: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 7

This was approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. McDonnell **Seconded by:** Cllr. D. Lyons

To accept the Chief Executive's Response regarding Chapter 7 - Community and Culture 7.6 Institutional Lands relating to submissions received.

In Favour: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 7

This was approved by Council.

Following consideration of the submissions, Councillors moved to consideration of the Chief Executive's Recommendations on Chapter 7: Community and Culture.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. McDonnell **Seconded by:** Cllr. O. Hanley

To Accept the Chief Executive's Recommendation to Amend Preface, Strategic Policy Framework UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) as guiding document.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) - Irelands ratified the UNCRPD in 2018. The purpose of the Convention is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.

In Favour: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 7

This was approved by Council.

Cllr. D. McDonnell proposed to amend Policy 7.1.1 General Policies and to remove the specific mention of Galway City Community Network as a stakeholder, as there are not the only stakeholder. Cllr. O. Hanley proposed an Amendment Motion that Galway City Community Network be retained in the motion. There was no seconder, the motion failed.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. McDonnell **Seconded by:** Cllr. D. Lyons

To Accept the Chief Executive's Recommendation to Amend Policy 7.1.1 General Policies to include the italicised text:

Support and facilitate the sustainable development of community, social and cultural infrastructure in collaboration with *all stakeholders* ~~key stakeholders, including all community stakeholders such as the Galway City Community Network,~~ that affords inclusive opportunities for everyone to shape their own lives, enables communities to realise their full potential and that contributes to a high quality of life and wellbeing for all who live work and visit the city.

In Favour: 7 Against: 1 Abstain: 0 Present: 8

This was approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. O. Hanley **Seconded by:** Cllr. N. McNelis

To Accept the Chief Executive's Recommendation to Amend Policy 7.2 Creative City to add text in italics:

In conjunction with the Arts Office and in line with the aims of 'Everyone Matters A Cultural Sustainability Strategy Framework For Galway 2016-2025' seek to develop a feasibility model for the provision of artist live-work space during the lifetime of the Development Plan.

In Favour: 7 **Against:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Present:** 7

This was approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons **Seconded by:** Cllr. O. Hanley

To Accept the Chief Executive's Recommendation to Amend Policy 7.2 Creative City to add text in italics:

Promote a high standard, sustainable quality and innovativeness in architecture and design, recognising Places for People - the National Policy on Architecture and the contribution of architecture to culture and its value as an art form.

In Favour: 7 **Against:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Present:** 7

This was approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons **Seconded by:** Cllr. O. Hanley

To Accept the Chief Executive's Recommendation to Amend narrative text - Section 7.3 Inclusive City, People with disabilities to include italicised text:

People with disabilities Galway City Council is committed to working with people with disabilities and their representative groups to facilitate their access to housing, transport, **employment** and the built environment. *Ireland's ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in 2018 places an obligation on the Irish state to ensure people with disabilities have equal civil and political, social and economic rights across all sectors.* Having regarding to obligations under the UNCRPD, *the Council will work with relevant stakeholders to support the implementation of the UNCRPD at the local level. In addition, the Council is a signatory to the Barcelona Declaration of 1995,* which promotes universal access in the public realm, public buildings and services and encourages participation of people with disabilities in the social, economic and cultural life of the city.

Galway City Council ~~would support~~ **supports** the installation of Changing Places facilities (specialised toilet facilities) in the City and particularly in recreational and amenity spaces. In addition, Galway City Council supports and encourages the provision of these facilities in any new building developments where the public have access in large numbers, such as, educational establishments, cultural buildings, health facilities and sport and leisure facilities. The Council will continue to support the development of a high quality, inclusive, accessible and affordable housing, transport, **employment**, built environment and public realm though the implementation of disability legislation, the building regulations, Universal Design Guidelines and the Galway City Public Realm Strategy.

In Favour: 8 **Against:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Present:** 8

This was approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons **Seconded by:** Cllr. N. Murphy

To Accept the Chief Executive’s Recommendation to Amend Policy 7.3 Inclusive City 7.3.2 to add text in italics:

Proactively promote the various aims of the Council to give effect to the *UNCRPD*, Barcelona Declaration and support universal design principles to make Galway a more accessible and disability friendly city.

In Favour: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 8

This was approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons **Seconded by:** Cllr. N. Murphy

To Accept the Chief Executive’s Recommendation to Amend Policy 7.3.7 to add text in italics:

Co-operate with the Access for All Network and other organisations representing people with disabilities to provide equal access for all citizens particularly in the area of housing, transport, *employment*, built environment and the public realm within the city.

In Favour: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 8

This was approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. O. Hanley **Seconded by:** Cllr. J. Connolly

To Accept the Chief Executive’s Recommendation to Amend Policy 7.4.4 Bilingual City to add text in italics:

Support the implementation of the Plean Teanga Chathair na Gaillimhe 2020-2026 and the designation of the city as a Gaeltacht Service Town. *Support the implementation of language plans for Bearna & Cnoc na Cathrach LPA, Galway City East LPA and the Eachréidh LPA.*

In Favour: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 8

This was approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons **Seconded by:** Cllr. J. Connolly

To Accept the Chief Executive’s Recommendation to Amend Figure 7.3 to show language boundaries of language planning areas as Gaeltacht GIS viewer:

<https://dahg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7090794ee2ca4b53bb785b84c2bd9ad8>.

In Favour: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 8

This was approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons **Seconded by:** Cllr. N. McNelis

To Accept the Chief Executive’s Recommendation to Amend Policy 7.8 Healthcare Facilities. Insert policy no.5:

Support the delivery of key strategic healthcare infrastructure, including a new Elective Hospital, within the city.

Following discussion, the Motion was withdrawn.

Following queries, Ms. C. Phelan, Senior Planner clarified that the site at Merlin Park has not been finalised as the location for a new elective hospital. A site selection process is underway. Cllr. M.J. Crowe proposed additional wording be added to the Chief Executive’s Recommendation to ensure that priority consideration be given to the Merlin Park Hospital campus.

Proposed by: Cllr. M.J. Crowe **Seconded by:** Cllr. J. Connolly

To Amend the Chief Executive’s Recommendation to Amend Policy 7.8 Healthcare Facilities. Insert policy no.5: *Support the delivery of key strategic healthcare infrastructure, including a new Elective Hospital, within the city with a preferred location at Merlin Park Hospital campus.*

In Favour: 10 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 10

This was approved by Council.

Following queries from Councillors, Ms. C. Phelan, Senior Planner advised that the information provided to amend Section 7.5 is fact and there is no conflict of interest.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. McDonnell **Seconded by:** Cllr. N. Murphy

To Accept the Chief Executive’s Recommendation to Amend Section 7.5 Community facilities, Education: The city is also home to ~~33 primary schools and 12 secondary level schools~~, ***25 primary schools, 12 post primary schools, 5 special schools and*** a number of private colleges and language schools.

In Favour: 12 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 12

This was approved by Council.

Cllr. M.J. Crowe proposed the Chief Executive’s Recommendation under 7.7 Specific Objectives. This was seconded by Cllr. D. McDonnell.

Cllr. I. Byrne proposed that this motion be deferred until the Chief Executive is present.

Proposed by: Cllr. I Byrne **Seconded by:** Cllr. N. Murphy

To defer motion ‘7.7.15 Undertake an analysis study on City Hall and its associated site and services during the development plan period with a view to assessing the best sustainable options for the future of the site which can include the option of unlocking the potential of the site for regeneration opportunities’ until the CE is present.

In Favour: 6 Against: 7 Abstain: 0 Present: 13

The Motion was defeated.

Cllr. O. Hanley proposed to add wording 'with an emphasis on social and affordable housing'. Councillors discussed the proposal.

Proposed by: Cllr. O. Hanley **Seconded by:** Cllr. M. O'Connor

7.7.15 Undertake an analysis study on City Hall and its associated site and services during the development plan period with a view to assessing the best sustainable options for the future of the site which can include the option of unlocking the potential of the site for regeneration opportunities, with an emphasis on social and affordable housing.

In Favour: 5 Against: 8 Abstain: 0 Present: 13

The Motion was defeated.

Ms. P. Philbin, Director of Services, confirmed that any proposals for the sale of lands would have to come before the Council. As the amendments were defeated, a vote was taken on the original motion.

Proposed by: Cllr. M.J. Crowe **Seconded by:** Cllr. D. McDonnell

To Accept the Chief Executive's Recommendation: 7.7.15 Undertake an analysis study on City Hall and its associated site and services during the development plan period with a view to assessing the best sustainable options for the future of the site which can include the option of unlocking the potential of the site for regeneration opportunities.

In Favour: 9 Against: 4 Abstain: 0 Present: 13

This was approved by Council.

Motions submitted by Councillors in relation to Chapter 7: Community and Culture were then considered.

A discussion took place in relation to the Motion submitted by Cllr. O. Hanley and the pressure it may put on resources in the timeframe attached to same. Mr. B. Barrett, A/Director of Services, responded to queries. Cllr. O. Hanley agreed to amend the timeline for the Audit to three years.

Proposed by: Cllr. O. Hanley **Seconded by:** Cllr. M. O'Connor

Amend Policy 7.7.4 on Page 198:

Undertake a Social and Community Infrastructure Audit within ~~two~~ **three years of the adoption of the City Development Plan** in conjunction with the LECP/LCDC and relevant stakeholders to establish a baseline of services in the city and to ensure adequate community facilities are provided to serve the existing and future targeted population of the city.

In Favour: 13 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 13

This was approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. O. Hanley **Seconded by:** Cllr. J. Connolly

Add policy objective to 7.4. Bilingual City page 191:

Support infrastructure and interventions in Gaeltacht areas of the city that preserves and promotes Irish in the Gaeltacht, conserves and protects the heritage, culture and richness of the language as well as strengthens the position of the Irish Language in the public realm.

In Favour: 13 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 13

This was approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Connolly **Seconded by:** Cllr. I. Byrne

Proposed Amended Text - 7.4. (2)

Promote the use of the Irish language in the naming of new residential developments, public roads and parks and seek the use of Irish/bilingual signage in the commercial and public realm.

Mr. M. Lally, A/Senior Executive Engineer advised that road signs must be in English and Irish.

Ms. C. Phelan, Senior Planner stated that branding and trademarks and registered business names may not be in Irish. The policy priority is to encourage bilingual signage.

Cllr. J. Connolly agreed to amend the wording of the motion.

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Connolly **Seconded by:** Cllr. I. Byrne

Proposed Amended Text 7.4. (2) to include text in italics:

Promote the use of the Irish language in the naming of new residential developments, public roads and parks and encourage the *preferential* use of Irish *and* bilingual signage in the commercial and public realm.

In Favour: 13 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 13

This was approved by Council.

Cllr. M.J. Crowe submitted a Motion that Policy 7.9 be removed from the Plan. He subsequently withdrew the motion.

Cllr. I. Byrne submitted a Motion to amend policy 7.3.3 to include 'the construction provision of an Intercultural Centre.'

Ms. H. Coleman, Senior Executive Planner advised that the Executive would not recommend this amendment of Policy 7.3.3. She recommended that the matter be considered under the Local Economic Community Plan. Amended wording was suggested and this was accepted by Cllr. I. Byrne.

Proposed by: Cllr. I. Byrne **Seconded by:** Cllr. D. McDonnell

Propose to amend policy 7.3.3 to include '~~the construction~~ provision of an Intercultural Centre.'

This was approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons **Seconded by:** Cllr. D. McDonnell

To accept the text of Chapter 7: Community & Culture.

In Favour: 13 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 13

This was approved by Council.

Chapter 5: Natural Heritage, Recreation & Amenity

Mayor C. Higgins referred Councillor to Chapter 5: Natural Heritage, Recreation and Amenity and invited queries. As there were no queries in relation to the text of Chapter 5, the submissions received and the Chief Executive's Responses were considered.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons **Seconded by:** Cllr. M.J. Crowe

That the Chief Executive's Response to submissions in relation to Section 5.1 – Context be accepted.

In Favour: 12 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 12

This was approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. McDonnell **Seconded by:** Cllr. N. McNelis

That the Chief Executive's Response to submissions in relation to Section 5.2 – Green Network be accepted.

In Favour: 13 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 13

This was approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. McDonnell **Seconded by:** Cllr. M.J. Crowe

That the Chief Executive's Response to submissions in relation to Section 5.3 – Protected Spaces be accepted.

In Favour: 12 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 12

This was approved by Council.

The Council agreed to take a 10 minute break at 15.53p.m. The meeting resumed at 16.07p.m.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons **Seconded by:** Cllr. D. McDonnell

That the Chief Executive's Response to submissions in relation to Section 5.5 – Blue Spaces be accepted.

In Favour: 12 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 12

This was approved by Council.

Ms. S. Connolly, Senior Engineer advised that the tender for services in relation to the Green Spaces strategy is expected to issue in September with an estimated delivery timeline of 8 to 12 months.

Proposed by: Cllr. N. McNelis **Seconded by:** Cllr. O. Hanley

That the Chief Executive's Response to submissions in relation to Section 5.6 – Green Spaces be accepted.

In Favour: 11 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 11

This was approved by Council.

In response to queries, Ms. H. Coleman advised that boreens function independently of zoning and improvements may be informal recognising their particular character.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. McDonnell **Seconded by:** Cllr. J. Connolly

That the Chief Executive's Response to submissions in relation to Section 5.7 – Community Spaces be accepted.

In Favour: 12 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 12

This was approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. O. Hanley **Seconded by:** Cllr. D. McDonnell

That the Chief Executive's Response to submissions in relation to Section 5.8 – Open Spaces be accepted.

In Favour: 12 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 12

This was approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons **Seconded by:** Cllr. D. McDonnell

That the Chief Executive's Response to submissions relating to Section 5.10 – Specific Objectives be accepted.

In Favour: 11 Against: 1 Abstain: 0 Present: 12

This was approved by Council.

The Chief Executive's Recommendations were considered.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. McDonnell **Seconded by:** Cllr. N. McNelis

To Accept the Chief Executive's Recommendation to Amend Section 5.2 Green Network 2nd paragraph to include text in italics as follows:

The green network approach seeks to manage and protect the environment and in doing so, meet the requirements of a number of European Directives including Habitats, Birds, Water Framework and Floods Directives. *It also supports the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 which sets out a comprehensive framework of commitments and actions to tackle the main causes of biodiversity loss.* At national level it lends support to the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2025, National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. It is embedded in the MASP and at local level in the Galway Heritage Plan 2016-2021, the Galway City Biodiversity Action Plan 2014-2024 and the Climate Adaptation Strategy (2019-2024).

In Favour: 12 **Against:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Present:** 12

This was approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. N. McNelis **Seconded by:** Cllr. I. Byrne

To Accept the Chief Executive's Recommendation to Amend Policy 5.1 Green Network and Biodiversity no. 4 to include text in italics as follows:

Support the implementation of the National Biodiversity Action Plan (*NBAP*) 2017- 2021 (*and any subsequent NBAP*) and the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (2021-2025) and support the actions of the City Council's Heritage Plan 2016-2021 and Biodiversity Action Plan 2014-2024 relating to the promotion of ecological awareness, biodiversity and best practices.

In Favour: 12 **Against:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Present:** 12

This was approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. McDonnell **Seconded by:** Cllr. N. McNelis

To Accept the Chief Executive's Recommendation to Amend Policy 5.2 Protected Spaces: Sites of European, National and Local Ecological Importance and insert text in italics as follows:

14. Support and implement measures to control and manage alien/invasive species, where appropriate *in accordance with the EU (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011.*

In Favour: 12 **Against:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Present:** 12

This was approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. McDonnell **Seconded by:** Cllr. D. Lyons

To Accept the Chief Executive's Recommendation to Amend Table 5.6 Network of Local Biodiversity Areas and insert text in italics as follows:

Description	Details
Merlin Park Woods	Mature broad-leaf trees, mixed broad-leaf / conifer woodlands, <i>includes annex 1 habitat.</i>

In Favour: 12 **Against:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Present:** 12

This was approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons **Seconded by:** Cllr. E. Hoare

To Accept the Chief Executive's Recommendation to Amend Policy 5.2 Protected Spaces: Sites of European, National and Local Ecological Importance - include text in italics as follows:

10. Protect and conserve rare and threatened habitats and their key habitats, (wherever they occur) listed on Annex I and Annex IV of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43EEC) and listed for protection under the Wildlife Acts 1976-2000 *and plant species listed in the Flora Protection Order 2015.*

15. Protect the ecological integrity of statutory Nature Reserves, *Wildfowl Sanctuaries*, refuges for fauna and Annex 1 Habitats.

In Favour: 12 **Against:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Present:** 12

This was approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. McDonnell **Seconded by:** Cllr. O. Hanley

To Accept the Chief Executive's Recommendation to Amend Section 5.10 Specific Objectives No. 38 - include text in italics as follows:

38. Progress the acquisition of lands for recreation and amenity *and including land for nature conservation/biodiversity purposes*, and other lands which will enhance the extent of the green network, in particular key linkages and lands for active and passive recreation.

In Favour: 12 **Against:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Present:** 12

This was approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. M. O'Connor **Seconded by:** Cllr. I. Byrne

To Accept the Chief Executive's Recommendation to Amend Policy 5.3. Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways and insert no. 21 – text in italics as follows:

21. Ensure the conservation of the special recreational value of the riverside walk from Wolfe Tone Bridge to Salmon Weir Bridge and require that developments abutting the walkway incorporate measures to minimise noise levels in their design and reduce the emission and intrusion of any noise which might have potential to adversely impact on amenities and quiet space attributes.

In Favour: 12 **Against:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Present:** 12

This was approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. McDonnell **Seconded by:** Cllr. O. Hanley

To Accept the Chief Executive's Recommendation to Amend Section 5.7.1 Greenways, Boreens and Public Rights of Way- insert text in italics after the 3rd paragraph as follows:

The plan acknowledges that in order to conserve and protect sensitive ecological areas, greenway routes may need to be restricted or redirected to less sensitive areas. In this regard, the routes of proposed greenways shown on accompanying Development Plan maps are indicative only. Proposed greenways will be subject to a route selection process, which will take cognisance of site-specific circumstances

including consideration of ecological and environmental sensitivities. Such routes will only be developed within and adjacent to European Sites where it can be shown that there will be no adverse impacts upon the integrity of the sites as defined by their conservation objectives.

In particular, the section of the indicative coastal greenway route between Ballyloughane and the eastern city boundary will be further considered following the establishment of the National Galway to Dublin greenway preferred route option which is due to be finalised in Q4 2022.

In the event that this preferred national route option differs in alignment to the Galway City Council mapped indicative greenway route, the objective will not continue to accommodate a cycle route but will be to provide solely for an informal walking greenway route. All emerging schemes shall include for public consultation with landowners and relevant stakeholders.

In Favour: 12 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 12

This was approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Connolly **Seconded by:** Cllr. D. McDonnell

To Accept the Chief Executive’s Recommendation to Amend Policy 5.8 Community Spaces: Allotments, Community Gardens and Cemeteries- include text in italics as follows:

3. Protect historic graveyards within the city and ensure appropriate management and maintenance of those in the ownership or care of Galway City Council.

In Favour: 13 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 13

This was approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. McDonnell **Seconded by:** Cllr. J. Connolly

To Accept the Chief Executive’s Recommendation to Amend Section 5.5.2 Rivers, Canals and Waterways and insert additional text after the 3rd paragraph – set out in italics text as follows:

Proposed blueways will be subject to a route selection process, which will take cognisance of site-specific circumstances including consideration of ecological and environmental sensitivities. Such routes will only be developed within and adjacent to European Sites where it can be shown that there will be no adverse impacts upon the integrity of the sites as defined by their conservation objectives.

In Favour: 13 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 13

This was approved by Council.

Cllr. D. Lyons proposed to accept the Chief Executive’s Recommendation to Amend Section 5.10 Specific Objectives. This was seconded by Cllr. M. O’Connor.

Cllr. D. McDonnell suggested that the words ‘permanent’ and ‘where feasible’ be added to the motion. Cllr. M. Cubbard proposed the omission of ‘where feasible’. This was agreed by Cllrs. Lyons and O’Connor.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons **Seconded by:** Cllr. M. O'Connor

To Amend the Chief Executive's Recommendation Amend Section 5.10 Specific Objectives and insert additional text in italics and omit text using strikethrough as follows:

32. Investigate the potential of providing services, for example kiosks, ~~public toilets~~ and food trucks, in or in close proximity to public parks and open spaces and along the coast and waterways

33. *Seek to provide permanent public toilets, in or in close proximity to public parks and open spaces and along the coast and waterways.*

In Favour: 13 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 13

This was approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. O. Hanley **Seconded by:** Cllr. N. Murphy

To Accept the Chief Executive's Recommendation to Amend Policy 5.2 Protected Spaces: Sites of European, National and Local Ecological Importance, No. 9 by the inclusion of text in italics as follows:

Co-operate with the NPWS, landowners and stakeholders in the preparation and implementation of management plans for designated sites ***and support conservation objectives of lands within Designated Sites for nature conservation Natura 2000 (SAC/SPA) and NHA sites.***

In Favour: 13 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 13

This was approved by Council.

Following discussion on the Chief Executive's Recommendations, additional Motions proposed by Elected Members were considered. The Motion that was submitted by Cllr. C. Connolly was deferred for consideration until Friday 15th July, 2022, as Cllr. C. Connolly was not present at the meeting.

Motion submitted by: Cllr. C. Connolly

That the following statement be entered in the new City Development Plan:

"We will create a master plan for Galway's unique waterways during the life of this plan in cooperation with the responsible agencies for them at local and national level and with representatives from the user community"

The Motion was deferred.

Cllr. A. Cheevers submitted the following Motion 'I propose that a running track is inserted in development plan for Doughiska Park.' This was seconded by Cllr. N. Murphy.

Ms. H. Coleman advised that a similar provision has already been included in the Plan. Cllr. A. Cheevers withdrew the Motion.

Cllr. D. McDonnell proposed a full size running track. This was seconded by Cllr. N. McNelis. Cllr. N. McNelis proposed the inclusion of Knocknacarra. This was seconded by Cllr. J. Connolly. Following discussion, both Motions was subsequently withdrawn.

The Chief Executive made comments and referred to the Green Spaces Strategy which is to be prepared for Galway city.

Ms. H. Coleman, Senior Executive Planner, requested that Cllr. O. Hanley defer the motion he submitted for consideration until Friday 15th July as Cllr. C. Connolly has submitted a similar motion and they could be considered together. Cllr. O. Hanley agreed.

Proposed by: Cllr. O. Hanley **Seconded by:** Cllr. N. McNelis

Amend Policy 5.3.9 to include text in italics:

Work with stakeholders, including IW, OPW, EPA, Inland Fisheries and Corrib Navigation Trust in the management of the river and canal system *as well as in enhancing the public realm, heritage, safety, and character of these blue spaces in the city.*

The Motion was deferred.

Proposed by: Cllr. O. Hanley **Seconded by:** Cllr. N. McNelis

Amend objective: 5.10.12 to include text in italics:

Explore the potential for developing lands adjacent to Terryland Castle, Merlin Castle and Menlough Castle for public realm and landscaping to enhance the context of the Castles *while protecting the existing natural and built heritage of the area.*

In Favour: 13 **Against:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Present:** 13

This was approved by Council.

Mayor C. Higgins suggested that the Office of the Planning Regulator and Northern & Western Regional Assembly submissions be considered at the meeting scheduled for Friday 15th July, 2022 and then to consider to Chapter 3. This was agreed.

The meeting concluded at 17.18p.m.