

| Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held in the Council Chamber, City Hall and virtually via Zoom on Monday 8th January 2024 at 3.00p.m. | |
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| Presiding | Cllr. E. Hoare, Mayor of the City of Galway |
| Present (Elected Members) | Councillors: A. Cheevers, J. Connolly, M.J. Crowe, A. Curran, C. Higgins, P. Keane, D. Lyons, D. McDonnell, N. Murphy, M. O'Connor, T. O'Flaherty |
| Present (virtually) | Councillors: I. Byrne, C. Connolly, M. Cubbard, F. Fahy, N. McNelis |
| Apologies | Councillors: N. Larkin |
| Present (Executive) | Ms. P. Philbin, Chief Executive – Interim Mr. P. Greene, Director of Services Mr. B. Barrett, A/Director of Services Ms. H. Kilroy, Head of Finance Mr. U. Finn, Director of Services Ms. E. Fanning, A/Director of Services Mr. E. Lynch, Senior Planner Ms. F. Holland, Senior Engineer Mr. C. O'Riordan, Senior Engineer Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator Ms. A. Kenny, Administrative Officer |

Note: The Minutes of the Meeting and Agenda Items are recorded in the order of their consideration.

Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator commenced the meeting with a statement of intent to conduct the business of the meeting in line with Standing Orders followed by a moment of silent reflection.


Mayor E. Hoare welcomed all to the meeting and proposed a minute's silence for Mr. Peadar O'Dowd, a well-known local historian, who recently passed away. This was Seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and agreed. The Mayor informed members that a Book of Condolence will be opened and available for signing at Galway City Museum and will also be available online. Councillors paid kind tributes to the legacy of Mr. O'Dowd and acknowledged that a Civic Reception was held in 2013 in honour of his contribution to local history and heritage in Galway City.

Mayor E. Hoare proposed that the meeting finish at 6.30pm with a 15-minute break at 4.45pm. This was Seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and agreed.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

(a) Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on 11th December 2023

Mayor E. Hoare referred members to agenda item 1 and invited comments.


Minutes, Confirmed & Signed

 Mayor of Galway

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| Proposed By: Cllr. T. O'Flaherty Seconded By: Cllr. D. McDonnell |
| 1(a) Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on 11 th December 2023 |
| The minutes of the December meeting were agreed and adopted. |

Mayor E. Hoare invited matters arising or matters of accuracy.

Matters of accuracy were as follows:

Cllr. J. Connolly referred to Page 2 of the minutes and to the following paragraph:

"Cllr. J. Connolly Proposed an amendment to Cllr. F. Fahy's motion and suggested that Members wait until the Master Plan is finalised. This was Seconded by Cllr. P. Keane and agreed."

Cllr. J. Connolly clarified that he proposed that it would be debated when the masterplan was "initiated" and not "finalised" as stated in the minutes and asked for this to be amended.

Ms. A. Rohan agreed to amend minutes as per Cllr. J. Connolly's request under matters of accuracy.

The matters arising were as follows:

Cllr. D. Lyons referred to the letter to the Office of the Planning Regulator seeking clarification and requested an update from the executive.

Cllr. A. Curran referred to the motion regarding Gaza resolved at the December Council meeting and asked the executive for clarification on what their understanding of this motion was.

Cllr. T. O'Flaherty referred to the cleaning of the Walter Macken flats plasterwork and to a recent telephone conversation with Ms. E. Fanning, who confirmed that this work will commence next month.

Mr. U. Finn & Mr. B. Barrett responded to the above matters.

2. BUSINESS PRESCRIBED BY STATUTE

(a) Draft Local Economic and Community Plan 2024 - 2029 and Implementation Plan 2024-2025.

Mayor E. Hoare referred members to agenda item No. 2 and invited Mr. B. Barret to present on this item.

Mr. B. Barrett gave a presentation on the draft LECP and Implementation Plan and informed members that the draft LECP has been the subject of screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and screening for Appropriate



Assessment (AA) as required under legislation noting that both reports accompany the plan and have informed Galway City Council's determination that full SEA and Stage 2 AA are not required for the Plan.

A discussion followed where a number of queries were raised by Members and responded to by the Executive.

Cllr. N. Murphy referred to a motion he submitted in October 2022 as follows:

"To develop and adopt section 5.1.1 of the 2013 Galway adopted anti-racism strategy protocols to agree an anti-racism protocol with all elected representatives and work with all elected representative to develop an anti-racist protocol charter for the conduct of business in Galway City Council in conjunction with the Galway City Partnership and groups representing minorities including the Galway Traveller Movement, and to have the protocol in place within twelve months. "

He informed the executive that this motion has not been incorporated into the LECP and that no formal response to the motion was presented to Councillors. He added that as it is now over 12 months since the motion was passed, and as it states "within 12 months" in the motion, this motion can now not be successfully implemented.

Cllr. J. Connolly referred to disadvantaged areas in the City and proposed the following motion which was Seconded by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty. Ms. A. Rohan recorded a vote on the motion by a show of hands.

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| Proposed By: Cllr. J. Connolly NOM 01/2024 | Seconded By: Cllr. T. O'Flaherty | | |
| Galway City Council calls on the Department of Community Development to re-establish and appropriately fund the RAPID Programme for the revitalisation of disadvantaged communities within Ireland's urban areas. | | | |
| In Favour: 17 | Against: 0 | Abstain: 0 | Present: 17 |
| The motion was carried. | | | |

Mayor E. Hoare called for a proposer and seconder for agenda item 2(a), to adopt or reject the LECP 2024-2029 and Implementation Plan 2024-2025. Ms. A. Rohan recorded a vote on the motion by a show of hands.

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| Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons | Seconded By: Cllr. M. O'Connor | | |
| 2(a) To adopt the Draft Local Economic and Community Plan 2024 - 2029 and Implementation Plan 2024-2025. | | | |
| In Favour: 17 | Against: 0 | Abstain: 0 | Present: 17 |
| The draft LECP 2024-2029 and Implementation Plan 2024-2025 were adopted. | | | |

A break was taken at 4:41pm and the meeting resumed at 5.00pm

3. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(a) Note of Corporate Policy Group Budget Meeting held on 17th November 2023

Mayor E. Hoare referred members to agenda item 3(a) and invited comments. A number of queries were raised by Members and responded to by the Executive.

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| Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons | Seconded By: Cllr. C. Higgins |
| 3(a) Note of Corporate Policy Group Budget Meeting held on 17 th November 2023 | |
| The notes were noted. | |

(b) Note of Corporate Policy Group Budget Meeting held on 23rd November 2023

Mayor E. Hoare referred members to agenda item 3(b) and invited comments.

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| Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons | Seconded By: Cllr. M. O'Connor |
| 3(b) Note of Corporate Policy Group Budget Meeting held on 23 rd November 2023 | |
| The notes were noted. | |

Mayor E. Hoare referred to a Section 34 motion submitted by Cllr. D. McDonnell for the purpose of dealing with urgent business and proposed to take this motion before agenda item no. 4. This was agreed.

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| Section 34 Motion submitted on 8th January 2024 | |
| Proposed By: Cllr. D. McDonnell | Seconded By: Cllr. P. Keane |
| NOM 02/2024 | |
| In the interest of facilitating fundraising endeavors of Clubs to whom Pitch Licenses are granted, Galway City Council resolves to insert an amendment to the current Licenses to allow for Pitch-side Advertisement Hoardings. | |

Mayor E. Hoare invited comments.

A number of queries were raised by Members and responded to by the Executive.

Cllr. M.J. Crowe proposed that the motion be left on the agenda until the February meeting. Cllr. D. McDonnell agreed to this proposal.

Cllr. F. Fahy proposed that if this is a change to policy, it should be brought before the Strategic Policy Committee for discussion. This was Seconded by Cllr. C. Connolly.

Mr. P. Greene informed members that the current licence allows a club to come forward and seek permission to erect signage. He added that the next SPC meeting is scheduled to take place on 21st February 2024, and he will raise this matter at the next SPC meeting.

Following discussion, Cllr. D. McDonnell agreed to leave his motion on the agenda, and for it to be discussed at the next SPC meeting in February and to be further discussed at the Council meeting scheduled for the 4th March 2024. Cllr. F. Fahy agreed to withdraw his motion based on this. This was agreed by all.

Cllr. M.J. Crowe proposed to amend standing orders and to consider agenda item 4(c) next. This was Seconded by Cllr. E. Hoare and agreed.

Mayor E. Hoare called for a Proposer and Seconder for agenda items, 7, 8, 9 & 10.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

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| Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons | Seconded By: Cllr. T. O'Flaherty |
| (a) Resolution passed at December meeting of Clare County Council, received on 13/12/23 (publication of the Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme). | |
| (b) Resolution passed at December meeting of Clare County Council, received on 13/12/23 (Government to revisit current model of Policing). | |
| (c) Resolution passed at December meeting of Clare County Council, received on 13/12/23 (review of Part V Obligations). | |
| (d) Resolution passed at November meeting of Limerick City & County Council, received on 12/12/23 (Wind Energy Development Guidelines). | |
| It was agreed by Council to note correspondence. | |

8. ITEMS FOR COUNCILLORS' INFORMATION

None

9. CONFERENCES

Approved Training

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| Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons | Seconded By: Cllr. T. O'Flaherty |
| Training title and Provider | Date and Location |
| i. 2024 AILG Annual Training Conference | 14 th and 15 th February 2024 in the Arklow Bay Hotel, Co. Wicklow. |
| ii. Celtic Conferences – Conference on The Finance Act 2023 | 12 th , 13 th & 14 th January 2024, McKeivitt's Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth |
| iii. LAMA Spring Seminar – Building for success | 19 th & 20 th January 2024, Abbey Hotel, Co. Donegal |

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| iv. | National Transport Authority – Keynote PFFi Seminar | 22 nd of March 2024 (Online) |
| Approved training was noted and approved by Council | | |

10. VOTES OF SYMPATHY / CONGRATULATIONS

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| Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons | Seconded By: Cllr. T. O’Flaherty |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sincere sympathy to Helen & Colman Walsh on the passing of Helen’s brother Padraig Naughton, R.I.P. • Sincere sympathy to Donal Dillon on the passing of his brother-in-law Padraig Naughton, R.I.P. • Sincere sympathy to Hilary Molloy and family on the passing of her husband Daithi O’Connor, R.I.P. • Sincere sympathy to Florrie O’Connell on the passing of her husband Mathew (Matt) O’Connell, R.I.P. • Sincere sympathy to Deirdre Finan on the passing of her father Joe (JJ) Lally, R.I.P. • Sincere sympathy to Mary Lally and family on the passing of her husband Joe (JJ) Lally, R.I.P. • Sincere sympathy to Tom Hackett on the passing of his wife Finula Hackett, R.I.P. • Sincere sympathy to Barry Lloyd on the passing of his father Eddie (Edward) Lloyd, R.I.P. • Sincere sympathy to Mark Lloyd on the passing of his father Eddie (Edward) Lloyd, R.I.P. • Sincere sympathy to Tom Regan on the passing of his wife Mary Regan, R.I.P. • Sincere sympathy to Barry Cummins on the passing of his father Tommie Cummins, R.I.P. | |
| Votes of Sympathy were noted and agreed by Council. | |

4. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF OFFICIALS

(c) Section 4 - Update on Cross Street rejuvenation under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund scheme

Mayor E. Hoare referred Members to agenda item 4(c) and invited Mr. E. Lynch, Senior Planner to present on this item.

A number of queries were raised as follows and responded to by Mr. E. Lynch, Mr. U. Finn & Ms. P. Philbin.

Mayor E. Hoare proposed that agenda item 4(c) proceed. This was Seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and agreed. Ms. A. Rohan recorded a vote by requesting the raising of hands by Councillors.

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| Proposed By: Mayor E. Hoare | Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons |
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Section 4 - Update on Cross Street rejuvenation under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund scheme

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

Section 4 – Cross Street rejuvenation under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund scheme was approved .

4. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF OFFICIALS

(a) Chief Executive's Report - December 2023 (report issued 06/12/23) – Not Considered

(b) Chief Executives Report for January 2024 & Quarterly Reports for period October to December 2023 (reports issued 05/01/24) – Not Considered

5. NOTICES OF MOTION – Not Considered

NOM 8/2022

Submitted by Cllr. A. Cheevers on the 16th May 2022

Response issued 18/05/2023

Response issued 06/10/2023 - Request to leave on the agenda.

I am calling on Galway County Council to have full consultation with Galway City Council public representatives in relation to the Master Plan for the Galway Airport Site.

I believe that as it is jointly owned with the county council the city council need to have full consultation in this process and it should not be solely for County Council.

NOM 17/2022

Submitted by Cllr. D. Lyons on the on the 10th Oct 2022.

Response issued 05th April 2023 Resubmitted 10th April 2023 (Not included in Special meeting on 22/05/23 as Cllr. Lyons had three motions on this agenda).

I request Galway City Council to progress the installation of a lighted pedestrian crossing on the Barna Road at the laneway that exits from the Rusheen Woods to the Barna Road. This laneway since upgraded is widely used by residents who walk the back Promenade. It is my understanding that the necessary drawings have been completed for some time for a pedestrian crossing at this location.

NOM 18/2023

Submitted by Cllr. A. Curran on the 23rd June 2023

That the council will create a warm weather response contingency plan for the city to be actioned during forecasted spells of warm and dry weather. This contingency plan will consider amongst others the council's approach to water safety, transportation, refuse and waste, public spaces, sanitation facilities and recreational areas.

NOM 19/2023

Submitted by Cllr. D. Lyons on the 22nd June 2023

In view of the recent petition by the Mincloon Residents seeking a footpath in their area from the junction of the Clybaun Road to the junction of Bóthar Stiofáin, I

request Galway City Council to forward this request to the National Transport Authority and pursue it as a pilot Active Travel Project, which could be replicated in other parts of the city which is similar to the Ragoon Road, lacking the necessary infrastructure like footpaths and public lighting.

NOM 22/2023

Submitted by Cllr. D. McDonnell on 7th July 2023

Call on Galway City Council to re-examine the junction at Roscam and consider removing a number of bollards in order to facilitate motorists trying to get out of the estate to get to work and to school.

NOM 26/2023

Submitted by Cllr. D. Lyons on the 26th July 2023

I request Galway City Council, Roads Department/Active Travel Department to prepare the necessary drawings and seek funding from the National Transport Authority for the provision of a lighted pedestrian (zebra) crossing south of the roundabout on the Cappagh Road. The provision of a lighted zebra crossing at this location would make it safer for users of the Cappagh Park facilities to cross this busy road.

NOM 27/2023

Submitted by Cllr. A. Cheevers on the 8th August 2023

I am Calling on Galway City Council to support the retention of VAT at 9% for the food related businesses and we are calling on the Minister for Finance to extend the 9% vat rate to the end of 2024.

NOM 29/2023

Submitted by Cllr. N. Larkin on the 11th Sept 2023

The people of Roscam really need us as elected representatives to properly represent their needs. Considering the unsustainable return junction at Roscam between South Doughiska Road and the Road up to housing estates - Ros Caoin, Renaissance, Boireann Beag , I am calling on this Council to support the democratic campaign fought by residents in 2019 and commitments from Galway City Council to formalise two vehicular lanes to alleviate traffic congestion and after such Galway City Council liaises with stakeholders to create a safe cycle network for exiting the estates.

NOM 30/2023

Submitted by Cllr. C. Higgins on the 11th Sept 2023 Seconded by: Cllr. D. Lyons

That this Council commits to placing double yellow lines outside the front driveways (only) of properties on Threadneedle Road on the grounds of safe access and egress as per resident's requests.

NOM 37/2023

Submitted by Cllr. J. Connolly on the 2nd November 2023

That the planning notices provided to elected members would include all applications made for licences to Galway City Council under section 254 of Planning and Development Act, 2000.

NOM 50/2023

Submitted by Cllr. N. Murphy on the 14th November 2023

I propose that when the next council is formed following the 2024 local elections, that an SPC dedicated to climate action be created. This will require changes to the Strategic Policy Committee Scheme. This was committed to in the program for government, and the formation of the next SPC's will be the first opportunity to implement this step.

Rational: It was committed to in the PFG. Currently climate action shares an SPC with multiple functions and it simply does not get enough time when the recreational and amenity and environment functions take up so much time. This may mean that we have 6 SPC's, as happens in some other LAs, or we could redistribute the other functions if it was decided to keep the number of SPCs at 5.

6. QUESTIONS – Not Considered

Q4/2023

Submitted by Cllr. N. McNelis on the 10th April 2023

Can Galway City Council urgently look at the design of Upr and Lwr Clybaun Road and Upr and Lwr Ballymoneen roads as pedestrian crossings at this roundabout are not safe and the speed coming off these is very high. Elected members of the West Ward met with Garda Superintendent last week and also raised this but there needs to be a design change to make these areas safe.

Q7/2023

Submitted by Cllr. A. Curran on the 31st August 2023

What are the constraints and barriers (financial, legal, resource based or otherwise) that is stopping the installation of red light cameras at busy traffic junctions in the city, which record and fine motorists who break red lights.

Q8/2023

Submitted by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty on the 6th November 2023

Please outline a time frame for completion of the Renmore Neighbourhood Project Framework Scheme, which will provide junior and senior playgrounds, if there are no objections; to include target dates for each of the following stages:

Stage I: Feasibility and Concept Design

Stage II: Preliminary Design for Planning Consent and Development for Initial Pre-Tender Cost estimate

Stage III: Tender Action, Evaluation and Award

Stage IV: Construction

Stage V: Handover

Q9/2023

Submitted by Cllr. J. Connolly on 20th November 2023

Can the Council be provided with a list of all the Traffic Signal Controlled Junctions and the Pedestrian Crossing Signal Locations that are connected to the UTC system?"

11. OTHER BUSINESS SET FORTH IN THE NOTICE CONVENING THE MEETING – Not Considered

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr. D. Lyons requested that the National Transport Authority be invited to a future Council meeting to discuss BusConnects for the Westside of the city. This was seconded by Cllr. N. McNelis and agreed.

The meeting concluded at 18:49.