

**Draft Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group (CPG) Meeting of
Galway City Council held in the Council Chamber & online via MS Teams
10am on Tuesday 2 July 2024**

Presiding: Mayor P. Keane

Present Councillor: Cllr. D. Lyons, Cllr. N. McNelis, Cllr. C. Higgins, Cllr. D. McDonnell

Online: Cllr. M. Cubbard, Cllr. J. Connolly

In attendance L. Cleary, CE, P. Philbin, DoS, H. Kilroy, DoF, E. Fanning, A/DoS, D. Pender, DoS, A Rohan, SEO, R. Lehmann, Tourism Officer & G. Reilly, ASO

Online: S. Connolly, A/DoS

Mayor P. Keane welcomed all to the meeting and proposed to take the agenda as set out.

Item 1: Draft minutes of CPG Meeting held on 22 April 2024

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

The draft minutes of CPG meeting of 22 April 2024 were adopted.

The Chair invited matters arising or matters of accuracy.

Matters arising were as follows:

- Update on Salthill Tourist Office

Ms. E. Fanning advised that a proposal for the use of the site is being examined by the National Transport Authority (NTA) and once they have provided a response to this, a report will be presented to Members as soon as it is available.

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Keane **Seconded by:** Cllr. D. Lyons

Galway City Council to make contact with the NTA and inform them to have a proposal submitted to Galway City Council by the end of August 2024. Item to be included on the Agenda for the September Ordinary Meeting.

This was agreed.

Item 2: Draft Agenda for the July Ordinary Council Meeting

Cllr. M. Cubbard requested that the masterplans for Renmore / South Park / Kingston be put on the agenda for the July Council Meeting.

A discussion took place around the lack of presence in the Council Chamber by the NTA. Mr. L. Cleary informed the members that a joint meeting between Galway City Council, Galway County Council and the NTA / TII had taken place on 19 June 2024 and a range of issues were discussed. It was agreed that the NTA be contacted and requested to attend and present at the September Council Meeting.

Item 3: Draft Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2024- 2029

Mr. L. Cleary gave an overview of the proposed updated directorate structure within Galway City Council and advised that the draft SPC Scheme mirrors the new structure. It is agreed that Notice of Motions submitted (excluding Motions for the purposes of dealing with urgent business) will come before the Corporate Policy Group for consideration in the first instance and it will be decided whether said motions are to be placed on the agenda for the plenary meeting or referred to a Local Area Committee meeting. Members of the Local Area Committee's may wish to consider increasing the number of meetings held per year. Ms. A. Rohan advised that the nominations from sectoral interests for SPC's is a reserved function.

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Keane **Seconded by:** Cllr. D. McDonnell

Chairs for SPC's to be filled as follows

1. Social Development – **Cllr. Declan McDonnell**
2. Operational Development – **Cllr. John Connolly**
3. Project Development – **Cllr. Mike Cubbard**
4. Joint SPC – Tourism Development (Tourism, Arts, Culture, Community) – **Cllr. Níall McNelis**
5. Urban SPC – deferred to council meeting on 8 July 2024
6. Corporate SPC – deferred to council meeting on 8 July 2024

This was agreed for notification to full Council.

Item 4: Corporate Plan 2024 - 2029

Ms. A. Rohan gave a brief outline of the guidelines and advised that a significant amount of work is to be done, further details to be brought to the next meeting of the CPG. Mr. L. Cleary advised that the corporate plan is a public statement of our intent for the next 5 years. He referred to the upcoming workshop with Elected Members and Senior Management team where Councillors and the Executive could discuss their Strategic Objectives and Priorities for Galway City and priority projects for each of the three Wards.

Item 5: Mayoral Chain

Ms. A. Rohan referred to the memo circulated in advance of the meeting. Members referred to the status the old chain gives along with the huge history associated with it. However, the need for repair & protection of the old chain was recognised and this work would be completed. Councillors requested that the production of a replica chain of similar appearance and quality of the original chain be examined. Also, for options in relation to the Deputy Mayoral chain to consider the inclusion of the crest of the City Council.

Item 6: Mayoral Car & Driver Service

Ms. A. Rohan gave an update as per the memo circulated in advance of the meeting. Members referred to the volume of events attended by the Mayor and stressed that a mayoral car and driver service is needed.

Mr. L. Cleary acknowledged the contributions made by Councillors on the matter. But added that procurement must be adhered to in all cases.

It was agreed to proceed with a tender process to procure services. Also, to seek expressions of interest from motor companies for the sponsorship of a car and examine other options for a driver into the longterm.

Item 7: Twinning

Ms. A. Rohan referred to the memo circulated in advance of the meeting. It was agreed by members to provide the funding request of €2,000 to support a Galway – Lorient twinning initiative.

The need for a twinning team was discussed and Mr. L. Cleary advised that a recommendation be made to the Tourism Strategic Policy Committee to develop a policy on a twinning committee and bring to the Corporate Policy Group.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons **Seconded by:** Cllr. C. Higgins

A recommendation that the Local Improvement Scheme allocation be increased to €20,000 per Councillor in the next budget & be brought to full council for agreement.

This was agreed.

Item 8: Any Other Business

- Cllr. M. Cubbard requested that the intranet be updated to include contact details and photographs of Elected Members;

- Cllr. D. Lyons advised the members of the death of Gay Corr, former President of Galway RTC (now ATU), RIP. Member expressed and requested a vote of sympathy issue on their behalf;
- Coverage of the AGM on the Six One News facilitated by the Communications team was complimented, the minimal coverage by local media was noted.
- Ms. A. Rohan updated members on the new parking system coming into effect in the customer car park in the coming weeks and advised that a press release will issue to Councillors on same.
- Workshop for Elected Members & Management in the Galmont Hotel on Friday 5 July 2024

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The meeting concluded at 11.50am

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