

**Draft Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group (CPG) Meeting of  
Galway City Council held in the Boardroom & online via MS Teams  
1.30pm on Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024**

<b>Presiding:</b>	Mayor E. Hoare
<b>Present Councillor:</b>	Cllr. D. Lyons, Cllr. N. McNelis
<b>Online:</b>	Cllr. M. O'Connor, Cllr. F. Fahy
<b>In attendance</b>	P. Greene, Deputy CE, H. Kilroy, DoF, B. Barrett, SEO, E. Fanning, A/DoS, A Rohan, SEO, R. Lehmann, Tourism Officer, G. Reilly, ASO
<b>Online:</b>	D. Mahon, A/DoS, A. Finn, Communications Officer, M. O'Conaire, Irish Officer, R. Mulhern, Arts Officer

---

Mayor E. Hoare welcomed all to the meeting & proposed to take the agenda as set out.

**Item 1: Draft minutes of CPG Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

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

The draft minutes of CPG meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024 were adopted

The Chair invited matters arising or matters of accuracy.

Matters arising were as follows:

- Update on Salthill Tourist Office
- Polling date for the Local Elections

Mr. R. Lehmann advised that a proposal for the use of the site is being examined by the National Transport Authority and once they have provided a response to this, a report will be presented to Members as soon as it is available. Cllr. McNelis requested that the Tourist Office be cleaned. Ms. A. Rohan advised that the polling day order issued to Elected Members on 5<sup>th</sup> April with polling date confirmed for 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

**Item 2: Marketing Fund**

Mr. R. Lehmann referred to the documentation circulated in advance of the meeting and it was taken as read and noted. He gave an overview of the fund and advised that it is proposed to proceed with the recommendations outlined in Appendix I.

The Marketing Fund has built up a significant sinking fund. Funds are reserved each year as a sinking fund for use on major projects and events. The current sinking fund stands at €804,760. GCC is proposing to add €10,000 to the sinking fund from the 2024 budget bringing the new total €814,760.

The meeting was advised that Druid celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025 and it is recommended that a contribution of €50,000 be given to the organisation which will be a major benefit to the City. This money to be donated from the sinking fund.

Contributions from the members included: the need for exposure for Galway City Council from successful applicants; if there is a plan to decrease funding for those well-established groups, allowing for more funding for new applicants; an allocation for running groups.

R. Lehmann advised the members that the marketing fund has been declining and Galway City Council must work within the budget. Each application is assessed as it is received and the aim is to bring people into the City during the off season.

B. Barrett also advised that new groups / festivals are availing of other sources of funding such as Creative Ireland for help to get started. Galway City Council continue to provide soft supports & help on the ground to such applicants.

Members thanked Ruairi for the comprehensive report and all his hard work.

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

To accept the recommendations in the Marketing Fund Report & put forward to full Council for approval.

This was agreed.

### **Item 3: Proposal from the Civic Naming Committee - proposed naming of the Salmon Weir Pedestrian & Cycle Bridge**

Ms. A. Finn gave a presentation and advised the meeting that the Naming & Civic Commemorative Policy was adopted by Galway City Council on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023. Submissions were invited from the public for a name for the bridge from late December 2023 until 11 February 2024 and outlined the clear criteria used to evaluate any proposal. 65 names were proposed (some more than once) which included people, events and sentiments. At a meeting of the Civic Naming Committee held on 9 April 2024 it was unanimously agreed that the recommendation to name the bridge Droichead an Dóchais, '**as Gaeilge**' **only** be put forward to the Corporate Policy Group for approval.

Members thanked A. Finn, A. Rohan & M. O'Conaire for all their hard work & all agreed the name Droichead an Dóchais was a suitable name. Members expressed their disappointment in the name appearing in the media without full agreement of the Council. The importance of Galway City Council controlling the narrative of the name was stressed by members.

Queries raised included; the need for signage; the current damage to the glass panel on the bridge; safety issues at the cathedral end of the bridge and the pedestrian crossing; the need to remove one of the footpaths on the Old Salmon Weir Bridge.

A. Rohan advised that signage would be erected in due course. P. Greene advised that the damage to the glass panel was being looked into and the removal of the footpath on the Old Salmon Weir Bridge is incorporated into the Cross City Links.

**Proposed by:** Cllr. E. Hoare    **Seconded by:** Cllr. M. O'Connor

To accept the recommendation of the naming committee & name the new pedestrian bridge Droichead an Dóchais. Recommendation to be brought to full Council.

This was agreed.

#### **Item 4: Any Other Business**

Item raised:

- The new mechanism for the appointment of chairpersons of Joint Policing Committees

Mr. D. Mahon gave an update on the timelines provided by the Department.

The Mayor thanked the executive & officials for their co-operation during his term as Chair of the CPG. He also thanked the members & wished them well in the upcoming local elections.

=====

The meeting concluded at 2.20pm

## Appendix I

### Recommendations

Applicant	Description	Amount Proposed	Amount Sought	2023 Funding	Score
Comedy Festival  Tues 22 - Mon 28 Oct 2024	Ireland's biggest comedy festival will have a capacity of 20,000 attendees, with 100+ artists performing in 70+ shows and will attract thousands of visitors to the city, making it the biggest comedy festival in the EU	€25,000	€30,000	€30,000	205
Galway Master Basketball  1st - 3rd Nov 2024	It is planned that his Years Tournament will have 48 teams. Of the 48 Teams, the usual allocation of where the teams will be travelling from will be as follows: 24 Teams are from Overseas -UK & Scotland, Europe and the USA / Canada, 20 Teams are from Ireland (from outside of Galway County) and there will be 4 Teams representing Galway Masters.	€8,300	€8,378	€8,800	205
Connacht Rugby  Throughout the year	Hosting over 40 games per season (25 Club and Schools games, 12 Senior Men's and 2 Women's Interprovincial games). The application is not for any single event or festival but for a concerted effort to attract more visitors to Dexcom Stadium over the course of the season in particular fans from teams from across Ireland and Europe.	€20,000	€27,500	€25,000	180
Food on the Edge  18 <sup>th</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct 2024	Food on the Edge is a unique international food symposium with a programme of events that will run across 6 days.  The central objectives of Food on the Edge are to showcase Galway and the West of Ireland's food, food culture, tourism and hospitality - exposing the quality of our food products to leading influencers in the culinary world and enhancing our reputation both as a food producer and as a culinary and tourism destination.	€10,000	€15,000	Returning last funded 2019	170
Blas Na Gallimhe  Nov 2024	To support, market and promote 'Blas na Samhna', which run throughout the month of November. Objectives of the festival include Supporting and	€10,000	€20,000	New	160

	<p>promoting the Galway food industry, their businesses and venues. Promoting and marketing Galway city as a food destination. Drive domestic tourism and help to improve the visitor experience. To increase bed-nights and benefit the local economy. Build a strong food network. Facilitate a collaborative approach to the marketing and promotion of Galway as world class food destination.</p>				
<p>Tonnta Festival</p> <p>31<sup>st</sup> Jan – 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2025</p>	<p>Déanfaidh an fhéile Tonnta ceiliúradh ar an nGaeilge agus ar Ghaillimh ina cathair dhátheangach . Beidh sé ar siúl ón Aoine 31 Eanáir go dtí 2 Feabhra. Ó tharla gur deireadh seachtaine na Féile Bríde a bheidh ann, beidh roinnt téamaí i gceist ach is é príomhthéama na Féile ná ceiliúradh a dhéanamh ar stádas na Gaillimhe ina cathair dhátheangach.</p> <p>Tonnta - Galway's Bilingual Festival, will celebrate the Irish language and Galway as a bilingual city. Tonnta will run from Friday 31st January until February 2nd. There are a number of themes, but the primary one is to celebrate Galway's status as a bilingual city.</p>	€10,000	€35,000	€15,300	160
<p>Galway Rally</p> <p>Sat 1<sup>st</sup> – Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2025</p>	<p>The 2025 Galway International Rally is planned to take place on the February Bank Holiday Weekend. The event will be organised on the new February bank holiday weekend. The weekend date contributes significantly to the local economy (many millions of euros) and the long weekend format is a significant boost to the local nighttime economy also.</p>	€7,500	€15,000	Returning last funded 2023	155
<p>An Tóstal</p> <p>April 2025</p>	<p>The project is An Tóstal 2025; a two-day event to be held at the end of April / early May with Hooker Sailing races and Currach Racing.</p> <p>The Galway Hookers will take to the bay on the Saturday with several races contested. Hooker Racing will be located adjacent to the Seapoint/Aquarium area. On the Sunday, it will be high octane Currach racing with An Tóstal being a fixture on the Currach Racing national League.</p>	€7,500	€10,000	€8,350	150

Galway Drum Show 22nd - 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2025	The Galway Drum Show is a unique festival of all thing Drums. The Galway Drum Show (GDS) will take place on March 22nd and 23rd with street performances in Eyre square, Shop Street and the Spanish arch on Saturday March 22nd and the Expo will take place in the Clayton Hotel on March 23rd.	€4,500	€25,000	€3,500	135
Galway Fest 27th Feb - 2nd March 2025	Galway Fest is a whitewater kayaking festival that runs in early March each year in Galway. 2025 will be the 13th edition of the event. The event attracts kayakers from all over Europe and further afield to Galway City each year. The festival caters to a maximum of 300 competitors with many more spectators accompanying the competitors to the event each year.	€2,100	€6,000	New	125
Galway Love Festival 16 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2025	Galway Love Festival is an annual festival which celebrates the culture, food, art and music of Galway. The culture and character of Galway is always central to the festival, and they theme each year around icons of Galway. They work closely with venues to create novel and unique events which draws a great crowd.	€2,100	€3,000	New	125
Galway Cartoon Festival	The Galway Cartoon Festival has four main strands to our project, a suite of exhibitions of cartoons in major city-centre venues, guest cartoonists and a series of interactive public events, a programme of other events, during the festival itself	€1,500	€4,000	2,500	120