

**Minutes of Galway City Local Community Development Committee
Meeting held on 14th December 2022
at 3.00pm (Council Chamber & Virtually on
MS Teams)**

Present:

Ms. Elaine Harvey, (Chairperson), Trade Union
Cllr. Martina O'Connor, Galway City Council
Cllr. Owen Hanley, Galway City Council
Mr. Declan Brassil, Galway City Partnership
Ms. Anne O' Neill, Health Service Executive West
Ms. Breda Fox, Local Enterprise Office
Ms. Fiona McDonagh-Delaney, Galway City Community Network / PPN
Ms. Lorraine Lally, Galway City Community Network / PPN

Present virtually:

Ms. Joanne Laffey, Galway City Community Network / PPN
Ms. Anne Marie Stokes, Galway City Community Network / PPN
Mr. Gary McMahon, Galway City Council
Mr. TJ Hughes, Galway City Council
Mr. Jason Craughwell, Galway City Council
Ms. Rebecca Jackson, Galway City Community Network

Apologies:

Mr. Brendan McGrath, Chief Executive, Galway City Council
Mr. James Coyne, Galway City Community Network / PPN

In attendance:

Mr. Brian Barrett, Galway City Council
Mr. Dermot Mahon, Galway City Council
Ms. Caitriona Morgan, LCDC Chief Officer, Galway City Council
Ms. Theresa Donohue, Galway City Council
Mr. Liam Kitterick, Galway City Council
Ms. Aisling Colreavy, Healthy Galway City Co-Ordinator, Galway City Council
Ms. Emma Johnston, Galway City Council
Ms. Linda Sice Brogan, Galway City Partnership

1. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. E. Harvey, Chairperson welcomed all members to the meeting and apologies were noted as above. She noted that this was the last LCDC meeting for both Mr. D. Brassil and Ms. B. Fox and thanked them both for their long-standing service and support to this committee and wished them both the very best for the future. She reminded all members of the online meeting protocol regarding the use of teleconferencing and video conferencing.

**2. Confirmation of the minutes of the Galway City LCDC meeting held on 9th
November 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 2022 were:

Proposed: Cllr. Owen Hanley

Seconded: Ms. Breda Fox

And agreed by all members.

Under matters of accuracy Ms. C. Morgan noted the minor corrections to the minutes in relation to spelling correction for Ms. L. Lally and Vice Chair for Cllr M. O'Connor.

3. Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

i. SICAP Internal Audit Report 2021

Ms. C. Morgan reminded members that the LCDC is the contracting authority, and its role is to manage and administer the programme which is delivered at a local level by Galway City Partnership as programme implementer. She noted that from 2018 the responsibility for the annual audit of programme implementers under the programme is assumed by the Internal Audit Unit in Galway City Council. As noted in the report circulated, Galway City Council appointed Crowleys DFK as Internal Audit and in line with the Internal Audit Plan agreed and approved by Galway City Council for 2022, they conducted a SICAP audit on Galway City Partnership for the financial year 2021. She referred to the objective of the audit and approach undertaken, noting in particular findings and recommendation as outlined. She further added that Galway City Council will follow up on the implementation of recommendations with Galway City Partnership during Q1 2023 with an update to the LCDC thereafter.

ii. SICAP Annual Plan 2023

Mr. L. Kitterick stated that since the last LCDC meeting communication has been received from Pobal advising that the deadline for the submission of the SICAP Annual Plan 2023 had been extended, confirming the new date for submission of 13th January 2023. He confirmed that the SICAP Lot budget allocation for Galway City for 2023 is €723,461, which includes a 3% increase on the 2022 allocation. In addition, the Ukrainian budget allocation was confirmed in the amount of €227,239, bringing the total SICAP budget for 2023 of €950,700. In line with the revised guidelines received Galway City Partnership will submit their Annual Plan 2023 by Friday 13th January 2023, with a meeting of the LCDC SICAP subgroup to be arranged thereafter in line with the timeline set out by Pobal. He advised that the LCDC must make a decision on the formal approval of the 2023 Annual Plan by 28th February 2023. Linda Sice Brogan advised that the priorities for 2023 would remain the same. Caitriona Morgan advised that the LCDC SICAP subgroup would be convened by the end of January in line with the timeframe to review the Annual Plan for 2023. In response to Ms. E. Harvey's query, she advised that the membership of the LCDC SICAP subgroup is Ms. E. Harvey, Ms. B. Fox and Cllr M. O'Connor and that she was aware that Breda is leaving and that her replacement on the committee will be looked at in January.

4. Presentation from Rebecca Jackson, GCCN on Dormant Accounts Funding – Engagement Project

Ms. R. Jackson, GCCN presented her report on pilot project currently funded under the Dormant Accounts Funding – Engagement Project which was circulated in advance of the meeting to all members. She outlined how the project was working so far, progress to date with the 5 communities engaged and lessons learned. She noted the collaboration with key stakeholders and spoke about the participatory principles. In terms of learnings, she referred to the ability of the system to respond to inputs by marginalised groups, in addition to lessons about barriers and enablers for local authorities / decision making structures to take up input from marginalised groups. A number of comments and queries were raised by members and Ms. R. Jackson responded to same as follows:

- In relation to her meetings with the Deaf community, Ms. R. Jackson advised that a sign language interpreter was present at those meetings.

- In relation to the interview process for minority groups, she confirmed that there was a standardised set of questions asked and where relevant an adult was present for safeguarding purposes.
- In relation to the DAF project, she confirmed that engagement will finish at the end of January 2023 and the report will follow in February 2023. She also spoke about the possibility of a closure meeting with panel members and communities engaged.
- In relation to consultations, it was noted that any initiatives that come through would be brought back and included in her report.

Mr. B. Barrett referred to the consultation process and asked if anything had come back about services provided by other stakeholders. He wanted to quantify the level of resources required to engage more and participate more. As this is resource heavy, it needs to be factored into national programmes. Ms. R. Jackson advised that she had not heard back from other stakeholders. She requested that a representative from GCCN would be able to join the LECF Advisory Steering Group. This was agreed by members of the LCDL. Ms. C. Morgan advised on the process that was followed in relation to seeking members in line with the role and function of the Advisory Steering Group.

5. Healthy Galway City – To receive an update from the Healthy Galway City Coordinator

Ms. A. Colreavy presented her report on Healthy Galway City which was circulated to all members in advance of the meeting. She outlined the work done to date on planning and the application process for the Healthy Ireland Fund Round 4 2023 – 2025, including the approach taken, consultations, budget confirmed by Pobal and timeline agreed with the Healthy Galway City Steering Committee. A number of comments and queries were raised by members and Ms. A. Colreavy responded to same as follows:

- In relation to a focused approach being taken going forward she confirmed that this will happen and stated that Pobal acknowledge outcomes focused and targeted approach rather than actions focused.
- In relation to complimenting work being done and bridging the gap it was noted that this is not just for Galway City Council to undertake. It also requires the LCDL members, representing their own agencies to support the Healthy Ireland funding, it cannot be a one agency approach.
- In relation to engaging with communities, it was noted that the GCCN is a member of the Healthy Galway City Steering Committee and will communicate information back to the communities.
- In relation to priorities and resources it was noted that this needs to be done by identifying projects that need to take priority and giving resources to those projects.

As outlined in the report circulated, she referred to the outcome indicators selected for having the most impact on the health and wellbeing of the people of Galway City in addition to the target groups for prioritisation. She noted that the Healthy Galway City Steering Committee had met on 9th December 2022 to consider further points including project outcomes, project outputs, target group selection and budget allocation. Members complimented Ms. A. Colreavy for her work and comprehensive reporting to date on this.

6. Update on Galway City Ukrainian Community Response Forum

Mr. B. Barrett reminded members on the purpose, role and members of the Forum which now includes the 4 support workers providing assistance to the Ukrainian refugees funded by Galway City Council and Galway City Partnership through SICAP. He noted current numbers in the city, in particular approx. 1,300 Ukrainian refugees in emergency accommodation across the City. He stated that approx. 75,000 Ukrainian refugees are due to arrive nationally by the end of 2022, noting there is a range of measures being delivered

one being the recently launched 'Offer a Home Scheme'. Mr. T.J. Hughes gave an update on this scheme to members, which launched nationally in late November 2022 and focuses on vacant properties suitable for non-shared accommodation for displaced Ukrainians. He advised that a tax-free recognition payment of €800 per month is available for such properties offered through the scheme. Interested parties register their interest on the offer-a-home website, and the local authority coordinates the process with the property owner from there – further details are available here: <https://offerahome.ie/?faq=1>. In terms of Galway City he advised that to date 13 enquiries have been made which requires matching people to the right location once properties have been inspected. Mr. B. Barrett responded to some queries raised by members into proposed sites / buildings in the City for larger scale emergency accommodation.

7. Community Support Fund

Ms. C. Morgan gave an update on the recently launched Community Support Fund being administered by Galway City Council on behalf of the LCDC. She noted the allocation to Galway City under the fund in the amount of €274,070 with additional ring-fenced funding in the amount of €2,768 for Women's sheds. She advised that the fund will support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas with their non-pay running or other non-pay operating costs. Groups will also be able to use the funding to carry out necessary repairs, purchase equipment as outlined. She noted that the fund will be advertised and promoted with a closing date for online applications of Friday 27th January 2023.

8. To agree a schedule of meeting dates for 2023

Ms. E. Harvey noted that a proposal had been received from the GCCN requesting that the meeting times for 2023 would be alternated between afternoon and evening time to give members a better chance of attending meetings. It was suggested that the first meeting in 2023 would be held in person at 3pm with the April meeting held online at 5pm. The meeting in July would be held in person at 3pm and the September meeting could be agreed at a later time. The proposed schedule of meeting dates for 2023 which was circulated in advance of the meeting was agreed on by all.

9. Any Other Business

Ms. C. Morgan advised the Committee that this was her last meeting as Chief Officer and introduced and welcomed the new Chief Officer, Mr. D. Mahon. She advised that Mr D. Mahon would be taking on the role as Chief Officer from January 2023. She thanked all members of the LCDC, both past and present for their support and also thanked colleagues in the Community Department for all their support and commitment throughout.

Mr. L. Kitterick referred to the recent allocation of funding under the Sports Club Grants being administered by Galway City Sports Partnership, noting that there was a total of €140,000 allocated to 53 clubs and groups across the city.

Ms. C. Morgan referred to the DRCD Community and Voluntary Energy Support Scheme noting that the fund has been extended until the 20th of January 2023.

Ms. F McDonagh-Delaney advised the group that AMACH! were successful in receiving the maximum amount in funding of €100,000 under the 2022 LGBTI+ Community Services Funding Call. She also added that Galway Traveller Movement were also successful in securing funding through the FRC project.

Ms. E. Harvey thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished everyone a Happy and safe Christmas. The date for the next meeting of Galway City LCDC was noted for Wednesday 22nd February 2023 starting at 3.00pm. The meeting then concluded.