

**Minutes of Galway City Local Community Development Committee  
Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at 3.00pm (MS Teams)**

**Present:**

Mr. Brendan McGrath, Chief Executive, Galway City Council  
Ms. Elaine Harvey (Chairperson), Trade Union  
Ms. Anne O' Neill, Health Service Executive West  
Cllr. Owen Hanley, Galway City Council  
Cllr. Martina O'Connor, Galway City Council  
Mr. Declan Brassil, Galway City Partnership  
Mr. Frank Greene, Galway Chamber  
Mr. James Coyne, Galway City Community Network  
Ms. Maria Molloy, Galway City Community Network  
Mr. Niall Ó Brolcháin, Galway City Community Network  
Ms. Aoibheann McCann, Galway City Community Network

**Apologies:**

Ms. Sinead Morgan, GRETB  
Ms. Regina Higgins, Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection  
Ms. Breda Fox, Local Enterprise Office  
Ms. Anne Marie Stokes, Galway City Community Network

**In attendance:**

Ms. Caitriona Morgan (Chief Officer), Galway City Council  
Mr. Brian Barrett, Galway City Council  
Ms. Theresa Donohue, Galway City Council  
Ms. Elaine Clifford, Galway City Council  
Ms. Michelle Lyons, Galway City Council  
Ms. Aisling Colreavy, Healthy Galway City Co-Ordinator

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Elaine Harvey, Chairperson welcomed all members to the meeting and apologies were noted for the meeting as per above.

**2. Confirmation of the minutes of the Galway LCDC meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

In terms of Matters Arising, Aoibheann McCann enquired if an environmental impact study had been done in advance of the street lighting upgrade as presented at the last meeting. James Coyne welcomed the Decarbonisation Zone (Westside Area) and asked if a copy of the implementation plan could be circulated in addition to a point of contact on this. Caitriona Morgan advised that she would follow up on these queries with Carmel Kilcoyne, Environment Section who presented on this at the last meeting. The minutes of the Meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021 were

**Proposed:** Cllr. Martina O'Connor

**Seconded:** Aoibheann McCann

And agreed by all members.

### **3. Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)**

#### **(i) Approval of SICAP Annual Plan 2022**

Caitriona Morgan outlined the process the LCDC is required to follow, in line with Pobal guidance, noting in particular the role of the LCDC in relation to reviewing and approving the SICAP Annual Plan 2022 as circulated in advance. She reminded members on the purpose and timeline for completing this in line with the guidance and the SICAP budget for 2022 which is €702,389, also noting that the KPI targets for 2022 would remain the same as the 2021 targets. She advised that the LCDC SICAP Subgroup met on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022 to review and assess the above in line with the guidance, with final approval by the LCDC by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022. She invited Declan Brassil to outline some of the key local programme priorities for 2022. Declan Brassil referred to their experience in delivering SICAP in 2021, emerging trends and a particular focus on the needs of priority target groups and local community groups. He noted the agreed lot level priorities for 2022, focussing on Mental Health, Long Term Unemployed and Travellers / Roma with detail on actions and interventions clearly shown in the SICAP Annual Plan 2022. He also advised that actions and supports for Older People, as the emerging needs target group for 2022 were also included. At this stage Declan Brassil declared a conflict of interest.

Cllr. Martina O'Connor, on behalf of the LCDC SICAP Subgroup gave a verbal report to the members following their meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022. She noted the key areas reviewed which included a financial check and KPI targets which were in order and as agreed. She referred to the detailed actions as included with a clear link to a specific target group named in the priorities for 2022. She stated that Pobal had carried out their high level review which included positive feedback and no issues raised. Cllr. Martina O'Connor stated that overall the LCDC SICAP Subgroup recommends the approval of the SICAP Annual Plan 2022 which was approved and agreed.

#### **(ii) Annual Performance Review of SICAP 2021 & SICAP Annual Progress Report 2021**

Caitriona Morgan introduced this item as circulated in advance, reminding members on the purpose, guidance and timeline for completing this in line with the guidelines issued by Pobal. She invited Declan Brassil to outline the role that SICAP played in responding to the needs of target groups during 2021 and approaches used, in addition to challenges faced and lessons learnt. He advised members that targets had been exceeded for 2021, referring to an adaptive and flexible response which had been taken to address the local needs at community and individual level throughout the year. He referred to the collaborative approach and existing relationships that were leveraged in a variety of ways to ensure an informed and coordinated local response to support the most vulnerable through SICAP during 2021. He also referred to some issues outlined in the progress report which included the reluctance of some local community groups to engage online and continue their work and the need for health and wellbeing supports for all ages was greater than it had ever been in schools. The education and employment support videos were also noted, in addition to the Case Study and project with Older People that it highlighted. At this stage Declan Brassil declared a conflict of interest.

Cllr. Martina O'Connor, on behalf of the LCDC SICAP Subgroup gave a verbal report to the members following their meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022. She noted all aspects of the review including achievement of targets across both Goal 1 and Goal 2, with excellent progress achieved. She also noted financial reports are also included with all spend compliant with programme requirements for SICAP. She referred to high levels of engagement, in addition to creative approaches taken by staff in delivering

and managing SICAP during a very challenging year. She confirmed that Pobal had carried out their high level review with positive feedback and no issues raised. Cllr. Martina O'Connor stated that the LCDC SICAP Subgroup recommends to the LCDC that the SICAP Annual Performance Review 2021 be approved which was

**Proposed:** Aoibheann McCann

**Seconded:** James Coyne

And agreed by all.

Following a query from Cllr. Owen Hanley on the minimum 5% increase in the SICAP budget for 2022, Caitriona Morgan advised that concerns on this had already been raised with the DRCD and Pobal. Declan Brassil also referred to the use of the resource allocation model and limitations arising from using this only in this regard.

### **(iii) SICAP Audit for years 2019 and 2020**

Caitriona Morgan referred to the report on the above as previously circulated. She advised members that from 2018 the responsibility for the annual audit under SICAP is assumed by the Internal Audit Unit, Galway City Council. She noted the scope of work and approach taken for the above, referring to the audit report with findings and recommendations. She further noted that mitigating actions had been agreed with Galway City Partnership, including a timeframe for implementation and review of same. The report was agreed by all.

## **4. Community Activities Fund – Approval of LCDC Subcommittee recommendations**

Caitriona Morgan reminded members on purpose, timeframe and allocation to Galway City under this fund which was €264,910. She noted that this fund is to support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas with their non-pay running and operating costs. Group will also be able to use this funding to carry out necessary repairs and improvements to facilities. She referred to the report on funding recommendations from the LCDC Subcommittee, following their assessment which had been circulated to the members for their information only in advance of the meeting. She reminded members on conflict of interest on this item. At this stage the following members declared a conflict of interest in this item by Elaine Harvey, James Coyne, Aoibheann McCann, Cllr. Martina O'Connor, Declan Brassil and Maria Molloy. Niall Ó Brolcháin noted his concern in relation to the number of conflict of interest declared.

Caitriona Morgan invited Cllr. Owen Hanley, on behalf of the LCDC Subcommittee to give a verbal update to members in line with the report as circulated. He outlined the breakdown of funding between current funding (non-pay) and capital funding as required. He confirmed that 121 applications were received online by the closing date of 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022, with total funding requested of €658,929 noting this was massively oversubscribed and the largest number received to date under a fund. He advised that the LCDC Subcommittee met online on 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022 to review and assess the applications in line with an approach which he outlined, with funding to 47 applications recommended towards running / operating costs in addition to 36 applications recommended towards capital funding as set out in the report. Approval of the allocation of funding in the amount of €264,910 under the above programme as set out in the report was proposed by Frank Greene, seconded by Anne O'Neill and agreed.

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

Aisling Colreavy gave an update to the members in line with the written report as circulated in advance of the meeting. She noted in particular key dates for completion of projects and submission of final financial and progress reports to Pobal. She advised that Pobal are expecting communication / guidance in the next week from the Department of Health in relation to Round 4 as engagement and implementation of same is required. Following a number of concerns raised by members in relation to the delay in the planning, communication, funding, timeline and next steps for Round 4 in addition to a request that a transition period is needed between rounds in order to assist with planning for Round 4 it was agreed that the LCDC would contact the Department of Health and Pobal outlining these concerns and requesting an update and timeline.

Aisling Colreavy outlined other updates under the Healthy Galway City programme, which included healthy eating in the community, addressing barriers to physical activity, community sexual health programme updates etc. She also noted that Galway City Partnership were successful under the Safefood Community Food Initiative leader 2022-2024. Following a query in relation to the application submitted under 'Creative Ireland: Creativity in Older Age Fund 2022' she noted that this application was submitted by Healthy Galway City and Galway City Partnership (GCP), in partnership with Galway Contact, Age Action Galway and COPE Galway.

## **6. Galway City LCDC Annual Report 2021**

Theresa Donohue presented to the members the draft LCDC Annual Report 2021 as circulated in advance of the meeting, thanking those for their inputs as requested. She noted the requirement, purpose and timeframe for its preparation and adoption by the LCDC. She referred to key activities and areas of work during 2021, noting and highlighting in particular achievements and progress in respect of the performance of its functions within the context of Covid-19. Members complimented the comprehensive annual report, acknowledging the work in drafting it. The Galway City LCDC Annual Report 2021, as drafted was adopted by members.

## **7. Guidelines, methodology and timeframes on LECP as recommended by LECP Advisory Group**

Brian Barrett presented to the LCDC members and advised that a meeting had taken place with the LECP Advisory Group on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022 to discuss and agree a methodology and timetable for the preparation of the LECP. He reminded members on the context and introduction to the guidelines, as circulated and went through the development stages and timeframe as set out. He referred to some of the funding through various funding streams harnessed to deliver on actions in the LECP, noting that a key stage will be the development of measurable objectives and outcomes in line with resources available which will require engagement with all relevant stakeholders and partners. He referred to the socio-economic analysis, noting some of the data sources as outlined in the guidelines that maybe available to support the development of this. A number of members commented on the importance of specific measureable objectives with clear outcomes and indicators to support the ongoing monitoring, consideration of the resources available to implement actions and consultation regarding the development of the LECP.

## **8. Local Economic and Community Plan – Workshop on High Level Goals and Outcomes**

Brian Barrett presented an LECP briefing and discussion document as circulated to the members. He advised that the existing high level goals were still relevant, noting that it had been agreed to retain these in the next LECP by the LECP Advisory Group as follows:

1. A world-class, creative city region
2. An innovative city
3. An equal and inclusive city
4. A sustainable, resilient urban environment that is the regional capital of the West
5. A city that promotes the health and well-being of all its people

He again referred to some of the funding through various funding streams / programmes, many of which could be in place and harnessed to deliver on actions in the next LECP in addition to a broad list of outcomes that have been achieved in order to facilitate and stimulate a workshop discussion. A number of members gave input into this discussion with the following points referenced and noted.

- Social Impact Measurement for Social Enterprise
- EU Urban Development Network / SMART City network
- Healthy Ireland plan to inform the LECP, reference to include HSE national lottery grant scheme in the list of funding streams / programmes
- Engagement and buy in from all key / relevant stakeholders and partners is key. All stakeholders and partners should be accountable for actions and outcomes
- Very clear outcomes and indicators needed, this should inform and assist
- Objectives of the LECP should be climate proofed and if there is a budget associated to an outcome then real change should occur
- Reference to an increase in employment for Travellers and People with a disability and also quality of employment
- Stakeholders and partners to be clearly identified, clear terms of reference in place for the delivery of actions and objectives so that commitments can be met and monitored
- Objectives and actions detailed in the LECP are designed to support the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty where appropriate

It was requested that a further / specific LECP workshop would take place with the LCDC.

## **9. Any Other Business**

Elaine Harvey advised that Frank Greene, Galway Chamber was resigning from the LCDC and this was his last meeting. Members thanked him for his contribution and input to the LCDC over the number of years and wished him well. Caitriona Morgan will seek a replacement representative from Galway Chamber as the nominating body.

In relation to the next meeting of the LCDC which is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 3.00pm it was discussed that this would take place in person, if possible, in line with and following public health advice re: Covid-19. Further details on this to circulate to members in advance.