

**Minutes of Galway City Local Community Development Committee
Meeting held on 26th April 2023 at 5.00pm on MS Teams**

Present virtually:

Mr. Brendan McGrath, CE, Galway City Council
Ms. Elaine Harvey, (Chairperson), Trade Union
Cllr. Martina O'Connor, Galway City Council
Cllr. Alan Curran, Galway City Council
Ms. Lorraine Lally, Galway City Community Network / PPN
Ms. Sinead Morgan, GRETB
Ms. Linda Sice Brogan, Galway City Partnership

In attendance:

Mr. Brian Barrett, Galway City Council
Mr. Dermot Mahon, LCDC Chief Officer, Galway City Council
Mr. Gary McMahon, Galway City Council
Ms. Caitriona Morgan, Galway City Council
Ms. Theresa Donohue, Galway City Council
Ms. Aisling Colreavy, Healthy Galway City Co-Ordinator
Mr. Liam Kitterick, Galway City Council
Mr. TJ Hughes, Galway City Council
Mr. Vinnie O'Shea, WHO European Healthy Cities

Apologies:

Ms. Anne O' Neill, Health Service Executive West
Ms. Valerie Kelly, Local Enterprise Office
Ms. Regina Higgins, Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection
Ms. Joanne Laffey, Galway City Community Network

1. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Elaine Harvey introduced and welcomed the newest member of the LCDC, Councillor Alan Curran. She also acknowledged the role of CE Brendan McGrath considering his pending retirement, commending his enduring commitment to community development in the City and wishing him well in retirement. She informed the members they were still waiting on a replacement for Mr. Oliver Daniels of the Galway Chamber.

Apologies were noted, and introductions were provided from all present.

2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Galway City LCDC meeting held on 1st March 2023

Mr. Dermot Mahon, LCDC Chief Officer, provided an update to the members on two points within the minutes. He advised that under the Community Support Fund, all groups that were allocated funding have received the first 50% instalment of their grants. Secondly, The Community Recognition Fund application was submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) and we are awaiting a decision on same.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 1st March 2023 were:

Proposed: Councillor Martina O'Connor

Seconded: Linda Sice Brogan

And agreed by all members.

3. WHO European Healthy Cities Network - Healthy Cities in the European Region

Mr. Vinnie O'Shea provided a presentation to the members which focused on the following points: Galway as a European Healthy City; WHO Phase VII – European Healthy Cities Network; Galway City – platform for aligning agendas; Galway Opportunity – intersectoral work; Galway – if interested – next steps.

Mr. V. O'Shea added that it was evident the more recent iteration of the LECP hit all the key themes relevant for a healthy city. He also pointed toward Cork City as a case-in-point of embracing a healthy city approach, particularly in terms of benefit.

Ms. Lorraine Lally asked if there was additional cost to the state in delivering the goals of a healthy city approach. She also queried whether such an initiative would be in danger of duplicating other programmes already in existence.

Mr. V. O'Shea informed the group that any cost would be supported by funding from the Department of Health on behalf of the national network. He stated that the Department already fund many other initiatives, but the key aim of this approach is to develop a network of cities in Ireland that foster and implement a healthy city approach. He added that it is unusual, vis-à-vis other European countries, that the state would be responsible for any cost, so it is a positive position to be in. He also referred to the role of the resident Healthy Ireland Coordinators in Local Authorities which will steadfast the focus on concerted agendas which would avoid any potential duplication. He referred specifically to the Healthy Ireland Fund in this context.

Ms. E. Harvey speculated if it was in the gift of the LCDC to make a recommendation to action the above. Mr. D. Mahon stated that if the LCDC were to make such a recommendation it would then fall on the SMT and CE to progress same for any potential input from a political and resourcing standpoint.

Mr. Brian Barrett asked if the steering committee for same could be facilitated through the LCDC platform, or does it need to be independent. Mr. V. O'Shea stated that the Health and Wellbeing substructure would be the expected platform to carry out the role.

In considering the executive function of the Mayor in a European context, Mr. Brendan McGrath pointed out the need for awareness around their role in leading out in a similar way in Ireland. He also echoed Mr. D. Mahon's point around resourcing and supporting the network in terms of existing challenges on the LCDC team. He added that as desirable and beneficial such a network would be, the resourcing of same may not there in the current structure.

The Chair proposed if there would be an openness toward allowing an exploration of how such a network would find expression. Mr. O'Shea said he is open and respectful of any proposal but insisted that the resourcing of the network would be minimal, and he would not see a huge wrench on existing resources within GCC, but rather provide an opportunity for alignment as discussed earlier. He added that his team and the Department would be available for any further queries around same.

It was agreed by all members that the proposal would be considered further by the LCDC Team.

4. Healthy Galway City

Healthy Galway City Coordinator, Ms. Aisling Colreavy provided a detailed update. Healthy Ireland Round 4; Healthy Ireland Fund Local Strategy for Galway City 2023-2025 – approved by Pobal and now with Department of Health for final approval. Expected in the coming weeks.

Nutrition initiatives and programmes were outlined together with initiatives under Physical Activity. Ms. Colreavy also detailed activities underway under Community Engagement and Mental Health and spoke in relation to Men's Mental Health Week in June. It was also noted that in relation to the Period Poverty Project, Galway City Council was awarded €10,000 by Department of Health to deliver pilot project relating to the provision of free period products in certain locations managed by the LA. Healthy Galway City Coordinator is leading on this project.

There was positive feedback from the members regarding the update, with the Chair asking for further details around where venues would be located regarding the Period Poverty Project. Ms. Colreavy informed the members that a mix of GCC-owned buildings, and venues with an existing link with GCC, such as ARD and Westside Family Resource Centres, are initial spaces for use. The aim is to have a strong geographical spread across the city in public accessible spaces, with the aim of extending to public accessible toilets going forward.

5. SICAP Internal Audit Report 2021 – update on implementation of Recommendations

Galway City Partnership CEO, Ms. Linda Sice Brogan, provided a summary of the progress made on the recommendations detailed below:

- Purchasing Procedures and Supplier Payments - Recommendations have been implemented and GCP policies updated. GCP changed the wording on the prompt payment act to we will endeavour to meet the required period in line with recommendation from the Department Auditors.
- Travel and Subsistence - This recommendation has been implemented, all claims are being met within the policy guidelines and signed off by senior

management where the claim is submitted outside the timeline. GCP policy has been updated.

- Fixed Assets - The policy has been updated in line with recommendations and circulated to the relevant staff members. The fixed Assets register has been reviewed by the Board and updated by our company accountants.
- Bank and Reconciliation - The Board has discussed the opening of a separate bank account for SICAP. At present all overheads and salaries for the company go through one account. This matter will be discussed further with the company accountants and GCP will transition to a separate bank account for SICAP over the coming months.
- Iris beneficiary file creations - Measures have been put in place for new beneficiaries file approvals. The CEO or Administrator approve all files prior to input on IRIS system. A further measure has been put in place for deletion of files by the two super users of IRIS.

Mr. Dermot Mahon added that GCC have received the Report and are satisfied with the responses and actions outlined in the update.

6. Local Economic and Community Plan – Review & Discussion on Draft LECP Vision, Goals and Objectives

Mr. D. Mahon provided a summary of the Report, with a focus on the 5 High-Level Goals and the 17 Framework Objectives. The high-levels goals are as follows:

- A world class creative city region
- an innovative city
- an equal and inclusive city
- a sustainable and resilient city
- a A city that promotes health and wellbeing

He also provided an outline of the current stage of the LECP. To this end, he emphasised that the objectives written into the 6-year strategy would not be changing, once agreed. Working from the previous plan from 2015-2022, he provided context of timeline developments to-date in developing this new iteration, in terms of guidelines and engagement. He provided details around the 6-year framework plan and 2-year implementation plans which are designed to allow for more agility to change and respond to changing circumstances as the life of the LECP progresses. He reminded the members of the purpose of LCDC and LECP roles in terms of agreeing community and economic elements of the plan, respectively, adding that they will overlap at times.

Members were informed that the final document will be available after the summer and will be guided by the following principles: Equality, human rights, and respect; Sustainable development and a resource efficient and inclusive society and economy; Maximising outcomes through collaboration; Active participation and meaningful community engagement; Empowering communities to achieve social inclusion; Accessibility and ownership to ensure the plan is easy to read and understand.

Adding to the guiding principles, Mr. Mahon reminded the members that all goals must be consistent with the National Planning Framework / Project Ireland 2040, the core strategies, and objectives of GCC City Development Plan 2023 – 2029 (10 objectives), and the Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy (NWRA) 2020 – 2032. It was made clear that all objectives must be consistent with these priorities, in addition to all relevant environmental assessment requirements. In terms of monitoring and

evaluation, the implementation plan will be going into the details of how certain targets will be delivered.

Mr. Mahon informed the members that agreement was required to move from draft to final draft. Once the implementation process commences, there may be reflection on objectives, indicating this is not a rigid roadmap ahead. Ms. Caitriona Morgan added that the link between economic and community is clear and evident across the 17 framework objectives reflecting the broader targets of the LECF. Mr. Gary McMahon highlighted that the approach employed is also infused with cultural elements in addition to various consultation processes and other platforms over last number of years and does not stand in isolation.

Ms. L. Lally queried a perceived absence of reference to public sector duty, SDGs, human rights and flagged a worry that investment will not be targeted.

In response, Mr. Mahon reminded the members that there were not seeing the full background in this present guise, adding that full details would become clearer in the final document. However, he confirmed that all elements would incorporate inclusivity and public sector duty obligations. He acknowledged that no specific groups are mentioned, as the programme objectives are generic and intended for all citizens, including minorities. SDGs will be specifically linked in cross-cutting priorities. In the first draft of the implementation plan this will become clearer, which is envisioned to be available for the LCDC Meeting in September. Mr. B. Barrett reminded the members that at this stage endorsement was sought for the Framework Objectives, with a finalised document coming back in Autumn for approval. He added that if gaps remain it will not proceed without endorsement and will also be proofed against public sector duty requirements/responsibilities.

Through the MS Teams chat facility, Ms. Sinead Morgan added that she agreed “that high level objectives need to be just that – otherwise we run the risk of not naming a group. The proof of its worth will be in its implementation over its lifetime. This will also play a central role in GRETBs business case for FET College funding for Galway City”.

Through the Chair, endorsement was sought for the Draft LECF Vision, Goals and Objectives to proceed:

Proposed: Cllr. Martina O'Connor

Seconded: Ms. Linda Sice Brogan

Agreed by all.

7. Any Other Business

Ms. E. Harvey drew attention to the forthcoming Mayor's Awards due to take place on 24th May in the Galway Bay Hotel.

Finally, the Chair informed the members of the next meeting due on 19th July at 3pm meeting in City Hall with no objections to same. The meeting then concluded.