

**Minutes of Galway City Local Community Development Committee  
Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 at 3.00pm in the Council Chamber**

**Present:**

Ms. Valerie Kelly, Local Enterprise Office  
Ms. Anne O' Neill, Health Service Executive West  
Cllr. Martina O'Connor, Galway City Council  
Mr. Brian Barrett, Galway City Council

**Present virtually:**

Ms. Elaine Harvey, (Chairperson), Trade Union  
Ms. Joanne Laffey, Galway City Community Network  
Ms. Lorraine Lally, Galway City Community Network / PPN  
Ms. Linda Sice Brogan, Galway City Partnership

**Apologies:**

Ms. Sinead Morgan, GRETB  
Ms. Regina Higgins, Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection  
Mr. James Coyne, Galway City Community Network  
Mr. Oliver Daniels, Galway Chamber  
Ms. Fiona McDonagh-Delaney, Galway City Community Network  
Ms. Anne Marie Stokes, Galway City Community Network

**In attendance:**

Mr. Dermot Mahon, LCDDC Chief Officer, Galway City Council  
Mr. Gary McMahon, Galway City Council  
Ms. Theresa Donohue, Galway City Council  
Mr. John Waters, Galway City Council  
Mr. Liam Kitterick, Galway City Council  
Mr. Jason Craughwell, Galway Sports Partnership Co-Ordinator  
Ms. Aisling Colreavy, Healthy Galway City Co-Ordinator  
Ms. Michelle Lyons, Galway City Council

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Ms. E. Harvey, Chairperson welcomed all members and apologies were noted. The Chair formally welcomed Ms. Valerie Kelly who replaced Ms. Breda Fox on the Committee. Ms. E. Harvey also informed members that Mr. Oliver Daniels from Galway Chamber will be stepping down from the Committee and a replacement nominee will be advised in due course. She also advised a replacement for former Cllr. Owen Hanley has not been agreed yet. Ms. E. Harvey requested that as she was attending the meeting online that Vice Chair Cllr. Martina O'Connor would chair the rest of the meeting in person. This was agreed by all.

## **2. Confirmation of the minutes of the Galway LCDC meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022 were:

**Proposed:** Ms. Anne O'Neill

**Seconded:** Ms. Elaine Harvey

And agreed by all members.

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

### **(i) Approval of SICAP Annual Plan 2023**

Mr. L. Kitterick outlined the process the LCDC is required to follow, in line with Pobal guidance, noting the role of the LCDC in relation to reviewing and approving the SICAP Annual Plan 2023 as circulated in advance.

He reminded members of the purpose and timeline for completing this in line with the guidance and the SICAP budget for 2023 which is €950,700. This is made up of the LOT Budget of €723,461 & Ukrainian Budget of €227,239 and the KPI targets are to remain the same as 2022. He advised that the LCDC SICAP Subgroup met on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023 to review and assess the above in line with the guidance, with final approval by the LCDC by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023. He invited Ms. Linda Sice Brogan to outline some of the key local programme priorities for 2023. Ms. L. Sice Brogan referred to their experience in delivering SICAP in 2022, emerging trends and a particular focus on the needs of priority target groups and Ukrainian communities and families. She 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 2023. She also advised that actions and supports for another part time worker for the Ukrainian refugees. Ms. L. Sice Brogan declared a conflict of interest as an employee of Galway City Partnership.

### **(ii) Annual Performance Review of SICAP 2022 & SICAP Annual Progress Report 2022**

Mr L. Kitterick introduced this item as circulated in advance, reminding members of the purpose, guidance and timeline for completing this in line with the guidelines issued by Pobal. He outlined that the review had to take place before Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and a checklist was submitted to Pobal for their high-level review. The LCDC SICAP Subgroup met on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023 to review & assess the Annual Performance review in line with the guidance document received from Pobal with final approval required by the LCDC.

The SICAP Annual Plan 2023, Annual Performance Review of SICAP 2023 and the Annual Progress Report 2022 was:

**Proposed:** Ms. Valerie Kelly

**Seconded:** Ms. Elaine Harvey

Agreed by all.

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

Mr. D. Mahon reminded members of the purpose, timeframe and allocation to Galway City under this fund which was €278,188. He noted that the fund is to support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas with their non-pay running and operating costs. Groups will also be able to use this funding to carry out necessary repairs and improvements to facilities. He 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. He advised members to note there was no conflict of interest as they groups were looked at as an overall percentage and not individually, once they were each deemed eligible.

Mr. D. Mahon invited Ms. E. Harvey, on behalf of the LCDC Subcommittee to give a verbal update to members in line with the report as circulated. She outlined the breakdown of funding between current funding (non-pay) and capital funding as required. She confirmed that 74 applications were received online by the closing date of 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023, with total funding requested of €329,323.97.

She advised that the LCDC Subcommittee met on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023 to review and assess the applications in line with an approach which she outlined. With funding of €135,651 recommended towards running / operating costs in addition to €138,419 recommended towards capital funding and €2,768 to one group under the Women's Shed Fund as set out in the report. She also advised that it is recommended that 25 of the groups who applied for funding will receive grants of €1,000 or less to a total value of €21,550. Following discussion, approval of the allocation of funding in the amount of €278,199 under the above programme and as set out in the report was:

**Proposed:** Ms. Elaine Harvey

**Seconded:** Ms. Lorraine Lally

Agreed by all.

#### **5. Community Recognition Fund 2023**

Mr. D. Mahon advised the Committee that the Community Recognition Fund launched on the 24<sup>th</sup> January aims to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities in recognition of the contribution being made by communities across the country in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries. Galway City Council has been allocated €1,911,918 under the Fund and funding proposals are due from the local authority by 15<sup>th</sup> March.

An overall proposal containing a number of projects to be supported was circulated to members that could be completed with this funding subject to the Department's approval. The projects proposed are located in the 3 electoral areas of the city broadly reflective of the location of refugees across the city. Mr. D. Mahon answered the members queries around the funding and projects. An announcement on the approved projects is expected in April. The submission of the projects as outlined in the report was:

**Proposed:** Cllr Martina O'Connor

**Seconded:** Ms. Valerie Kelly

Agreed by all.

## **6. Local Economic and Community Plan**

Mr. B. Barrett gave an update to the members on the LECP plan. He outlined the timeline set out for the planning stage in 2023, he listed the 5 goals chosen for the plan. The LECP Advisory Steering Committee will meet on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 to agree the plans broad format and ensure it complies with the guidelines set out. It is planned that the 1<sup>st</sup> draft will be ready to be brought to the LCDC at the next meeting in April. The final draft of the plan has to be approved by the LCDC and SPC before consideration of the elected members. The final draft of the LECP must be adopted by the end of 2023.

## **7. Galway City LCDC Annual Report 2022**

Mr. D. Mahon presented to the members the draft LCDC Annual Report 2022 as circulated in advance of the meeting, thanking those for their inputs as requested. He noted the requirement, purpose and timeframe for its preparation and adoption by the LCDC. He referred to key activities and areas of work during 2022. Members complimented the comprehensive annual report, acknowledging the work in drafting it. The Galway City LCDC Annual Report 2022, as drafted was adopted by members.

**Proposed:** Ms. Anne O'Neill

**Seconded:** Ms. Linda Sice Brogan

Agreed by all.

## **8. Update on Galway City Ukrainian Community Response**

Mr. J. Waters gave an update on the Ukrainian Community Response in Galway City. In particular, Mr. J. Waters mentioned that Galway City Partnership are currently in the process of recruiting a new Project Leader. Under the Offer a Home scheme, 14 properties have been registered in Galway City and 36 displaced Ukrainians have so far been accommodated. Under the Offer of Commercial Accommodation, there are three properties under consideration, one in the west and two in the east side. If all three progressed to completion, they could potentially house up to 250 refugees. Galway City Council was approved grant funding in December 2022 in the amount of €28,575 under the Ukrainian Refugee Health and Wellbeing Support Fund. Galway Sports Partnership, Healthy Galway City, the Galway City Council Arts Office are partnered with Galway City Partnership and Volunteer Galway to deliver activities to promote health and wellbeing of Ukrainian's.

## **9. Any Other Business**

Mr. L. Kitterick advised members the Galway City Mayor's Awards launched on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023 for 4 weeks. He invited members to circulate this information to others and community groups and welcomed any of their nominations. The awards ceremony will be held on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023 in the Galway Bay Hotel.

Ms T. Donohue advised members that the government recently launched 'A Resource Guide for Inclusive Community Engagement in Local Planning and Decision Making'. The Resource Guide was developed as part of a Department of Rural and

Community Development Dormant Accounts funded project to enhance engagement of marginalised and seldom heard groups in local planning and decision-making processes.

As part of that initiative, Pobal organised training workshops to further support LCDCs in their role of promoting inclusive community engagement in the planning and evaluation of development programmes. These workshops were intended for the Chief Officer and members of Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs), local authority staff, local development companies (LDC), public participation networks (PPNs), and Education and Training Boards (ETBs) involved in local consultation processes. The workshop took place on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023 where a presentation was given by Ms. Ann Irwin from Community Work Ireland and Rebecca Jackson from GCCN. Ms. T. Donohue advised that the presentation and resource guide will be circulated after the meeting.

The date for the next meeting of Galway City LCDC was noted for Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023 starting online at 5.00pm.

The meeting then concluded.