

Minutes of Galway City Council Economic, Community and Cultural Development SPC Meeting held in Council Chamber City Hall & MS Teams on 12th May 2023 at 2.00pm

Presiding: Cllr. Niall McNelis.

Present:

Councillors: Cllr. Donal Lyons, Cllr. Eddie Hoare,
Cllr John Connolly,

Sectoral

Representatives: Dominick Whelan, Dave Hickey.

<u>In Attendance:</u>	Brian Barrett, Director of Services,	Galway City Council
	Gary McMahon, Senior Executive Officer,	Galway City Council
	Dermot Mahon, Senior Executive Officer,	Galway City Council
	Caitriona Morgan, Administrative Officer,	Galway City Council
	Ruairi Lehmann, Tourism Officer,	Galway City Council
	John Waters, Administrative Officer	Galway City Council
	Ruth Mulhern, Arts Officer ,	Galway City Council
	Theresa Donohue, Senior Staff Officer,	Galway City Council
	Ruth Mulhern, Arts Officer	Galway City Council
	Thomas Melly, Staff Officer ,	Galway City Council
	Breda Glynn, Clerical Officer	Galway City Council

Apologies: Cllr John Connolly, Geri Slevin, Cllr. Clodagh Higgins, Cllr. Michael Crowe, Cllr. Declan McDonnell, Cllr Noel Larkin

Absent

1. Confirmation of minutes of the Economic Community and Culture Development SPC meeting held on Friday 10th March 2023.

Proposed: Cllr. Donal Lyons

Seconded: Cllr. Eddie Hoare

Agreed by all members.

2. Matters Arising

The Chair, Cllr Neil McNelis requested a update on the Tourist Office progression. Mr Brian Barrett advised that they are currently engaged with Planning on the project and a further update will be issued once completed. It was agreed that a report be issued on same.

Cllr McNelis also requested that the committee get an update on the current situation with regards to housing and the Ukrainian Response. Mr Barrett advised of the current figures which are remaining static and of the growing pressure being felt on the educational and health services in response. He updated on the "Offer a Home Scheme" and also regeneration projects, both private and commercial properties.

2. Atlantic Technological University (ATU) - Presentation by Dr Des Foley, ATU

Cllr Neil McNelis welcomed Dr Des Foley, Strategic Planning Co-ordinator, Atlantic Technological University to the meeting. Dr Foley gave a comprehensive presentation which outlined:

- Atlantic Technological University Background
- ATU in context of Galway city Development Plan
- ATU Capital Projects
- ATU Strategic Plan

He advised of the challenges in merging the 3 organisations, the socio-economic profile of the university and highlighted the Galway City Plan pointers including climate change and population growth. Plans for the Murrough site were outlined and also current projects including the STEM and CREW Buildings and also the Living Labs. In conclusion he highlighted ATUs focus on student focus and its outward facing vision and drive to collaborate and co-create. ATUs unique characteristics and ability to address national and global challenges through local action were emphasised.

The presentation was welcomed by members of the committee and a questions and answers session followed in which Dr Foley addressed queries and concerns raised by members on issues such as transport and accommodation and remote learning options.

3. West Regional Enterprise Plan (WREP) – Update on implementation of actions/projects for Galway City – Presentation by Helena Deane, WREP Programme Manager

Ms Caitriona Morgan welcomed to the meeting Ms Helena Deane, Programme Manager Western Development Commission who presented to the meeting on the West Regional Enterprise Plan. The scope of the presentation covered;

- Implementation
This is managed through a Regional Steering Committee and Working Groups
- Strategic Objectives 1 -7
 1. Advance the development of the Regional Entrepreneurship and Innovation Ecosystem.
 2. Strengthen and harness the Cultural and Creative Sector to attract new investment, commercialisation, and collaboration opportunities.
 3. Realise the Atlantic West region's potential for enterprise and job creation in the Renewable Energy sector.
 4. Drive the Global Competitiveness of the Life Sciences sector underpinned by an expanded regional footprint and coordination.
 5. Grow the AgTech and Food sector in the West, underpinned by an integrated innovation network, facilitating the transition towards a sustainable Bioeconomy.
 6. Expand prospects for sustainable Entrepreneurial, employment and upskilling in Tourism.
 7. Facilitate an equitable Digital and Green Transformation in the West.

Brian Barrett thanked Helena Deane for her overview of the plan, adding that as a region we are attracting interest and funding from areas such as Educational, Local and National Government and the Private sector. He advised the committee that over the next number of SPC meetings we will see more of the delivery of these projects and roll-out of actions.

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

Gary McMahon updated the SPC on the progress of the LECP and the recommendations from the group on Galway City's High-Level Goals and corresponding Framework Objectives. He gave an outline

of the guiding principles and values of the LECP, and monitoring and evaluation process involved.

High Level goals identified were:

- A World class Creative city region
- An innovative city
- An equal and inclusive city
- A sustainable and resilient city
- A city that promotes health and well-being

The members engaged in discussion and feedback was given on queries made. The acceptance of the recommended High-Level Goals and Objectives was put to the committee and agreed. The acceptance was Proposed by: Cllr Neil McNelis and Seconded by Cllr Donal Lyons.

5. A.O.B.

Cllr Donal Lyons requested a report be given to members with an overview of the Commercial Enterprise Units owned by Galway City Council in Westside and Sandy Road. It was agreed that a report will issue prior to the next meeting of the SPC.

Cllr John Connolly requested that an invite be issued to Gaillimh le Gaeilge and also the new Galway City Council Irish Language Officer.

Cllr Neil McNelis suggested that the issue a “Bed Tax” be discussed at the September meeting of the SPC.

Mr Gary McMahon introduced the new Galway City Arts Officer Ruth Mulhern to the meeting. Ms Mulhern gave a brief outline of her background to the group, and she was congratulated and welcomed by all.

The meeting concluded at 3.50pm.