

**Draft Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group (CPG) Meeting of
Galway City Council held in the Boardroom & online via MS Teams
10am on Monday, 26th February 2024**

Presiding:	Mayor E. Hoare
Present Councillor	Cllr. D. Lyons, Cllr. N. McNelis
Online:	Cllr. M. O'Connor & Cllr. F. Fahy
Absent:	Cllr. P. Keane
In attendance	P. Philbin, Interim CE, H. Kilroy, DoF, B. Barrett, A/DoS,
Online:	U. Finn, A/DoS, E. Fanning, A/DoS, A Rohan, SEO, G. Reilly, ASO
Online:	S. Connolly, A/DoS

Mayor E. Hoare welcomed all to the meeting & proposed to take the agenda as set out but that the supplementary agenda item issued be considered after the consideration of minutes from the last meeting.

Item 1: Draft minutes of CPG Meeting held on 23rd November 2023

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons **Seconded by:** Cllr. F. Fahy

The draft minutes of CPG meeting of 23rd November 2023 were adopted

The Chair invited matters arising or matters of accuracy.

Matters arising were as follows:

- Update on Salthill Tourist Office
- Delay in access to online meetings

Ms. E. Fanning advised that work is ongoing regarding the Salthill Tourist Office & a report will be presented to Members as soon as it is available.

Ms. A. Rohan will link in with Cllr. Lyons and consult with ICT if required.

Supplementary Agenda – To consider the recommendation received from the Public Appointments Service (PAS) in relation to the appointment of Chief Executive for Galway City Council: (Local Government (Appointment of Chief Executive) Regulations, 2014)

The Mayor recognised Ms. Philbin's role as Interim Chief Executive and thanked & complimented her on the great service to Galway and wished her all the best in her role as Director of Services. These sentiments were echoed by Cllr. Lyons, Cllr. McNelis, Cllr. Fahy & Cllr. O'Connor.

The members of the CPG considered and expressed their views in relation to the proposed appointment of Mr. Leonard Cleary as Chief Executive of Galway City Council. Mr. Cleary was wished all the best in his future role by the Members and the Senior Management team subject to appointment.

Proposed by: Mayor E. Hoare **Seconded by:** Cllr. D. Lyons

Recommendation to full Council pursuant to S.I. No. 589 of 2014 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE) REGULATIONS 2014 to appoint the recommended person Mr. Leonard Cleary as Chief Executive of Galway City Council for consideration at the March Ordinary Council meeting.

In Favour: 5 **Against:** 0 **Absent:** 1 **Present:** 5

Recommendation approved to go to full Council.

Councillors were requested to keep any information circulated to them confidential until an official appointment has been made.

Item 2: Strategic Policy Committees' Work Programmes 2024

Cllr. McNelis complimented and thanked the staff of the Community Department for all their hard work on the Local Economic Community Plan. The Night Time Economy Officer was also complimented on her work to date. Cllr. McNelis suggested that Galway City Council request an update from Ireland West Airport Knock due to the fact that the Council makes an annual financial contribution to the airport.

Proposed by: Cllr. M. O'Connor **Seconded by:** Cllr. N. McNelis

The Strategic Policy Committees' Work Programmes 2024 were discussed and noted.

Item 3: Establishment of a joint CPG to discuss the Airport Site and its potential use for concerts

Mr. U. Finn outlined to Members the background behind the request for a joint Corporate Policy Group (CPG) meeting. As the County Council is initiating the process of preparing a masterplan for the site, which would involve the establishment of a steering group comprised of representatives of both councils, it was advised that this broader role concerning the use of the airport site should be the focus. Councillors discussed the matter and some proposals by members. Concerns raised by Members included; value for money and the strategic value to the city; request for inclusion of Galway City Council as joint owners in the decision making process and involvement in the masterplan.

Proposed by: Cllr. E. Hoare **Seconded by:** Cllr. D. Lyons

Request a formal update from the Chief Executive of Galway County Council on masterplan process including the process of forming a Steering Committee and the involvement of Galway City Council.

Item 4: Twinning / Friendship Agreements

Mr. B. Barrett advised that an internal working group has been established representing the various units within the Council. A report on this issue is being finalised and will be presented at the next meeting of the Corporate Policy Group and it was agreed to leave the matter on the agenda. Cllr. Lyons referenced two upcoming Twinning anniversaries i.e. Cambridge and Lorient.

Item 5: Training & Development Programme for Councillors for 2024

Councillors discussed the training and development programme for 2024. Mayor Hoare suggested part of the training budget be used for collective sessions throughout the year. Members are requested to forward any topics they would like to receive training on. Ms. A. Rohan advised that GDPR training would be provided as a priority.

Proposed by: Cllr. N. McNelis **Seconded by:** Cllr. D. Lyons

The Training & Development Programme for Councillors for 2024 was noted.

Item 6: Request from Polish Ambassador to fly Polish Flag outside City Hall on the 3rd of May, 2024

The Mayor advised the meeting that he met with the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland, Prof. Arkady Rzegocki on Tuesday 20th February in the Council Chamber and referred to a request to fly the Polish Flag outside City Hall on 3rd May, 2024. Members discussed the matter

Proposed by: Cllr. E. Hoare **Seconded by:** Cllr. N. McNelis

Recommendation to full Council to fly the Polish Flag outside City Hall on 3rd May, 2024 for the national day of the Polish Constitution.

This was agreed.

Councillors discussed and agreed that a recommendation issue to full Council to fly a peace flag outside City Hall.

Proposed by: Cllr. E. Hoare **Seconded by:** Cllr. N. McNelis

Recommendation to full Council to consider flying a peace flag outside City Hall.

This was agreed.

Item 7: Correspondence from Chief Superintendent, Gerard Roche in relation to NOM 44/2023, noted at Ordinary Council meeting held on 11/12/2023, agenda item 7(a)

It was proposed by Cllr. D. Lyons and seconded by Cllr. E. Hoare to note correspondence received from the Chief Superintendent. Councillors discussed the matter and it was agreed that correspondence would issue to the Chief Superintendent requesting an update regarding a meeting.

Item 8: Nomination of members to the Audit Committee

Ms. H. Kilroy, Director of Finance outlined that following the resignation of Mr. Aidan Horan in Q4 of 2023 and the pending resignation of Mr. Niall Bradley from the Audit Committee the positions are recommended to be filled by Ms. Deirdre Bane and Mr. Dermot Byrne. Profiles of experience of the proposed new members of the Audit committee circulated was noted.

Cllr. Fahy thanked and complimented those retiring and welcomed the new members. The Mayor wished Joseph Merrigan all the best in his new role as Internal Auditor. Ms. Philbin referenced the change in title from Head of Finance to Director of Finance.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons **Seconded by:** Cllr. N. McNelis

To appoint two new members to the Audit Committee:

Ms. Deirdre Bane & Mr. Dermot Byrne in place of Mr. Aidan Horan and Mr. Niall Bradley

This was agreed.

Item 9: Schedule of Meetings for 2024

The following dates were agreed for 2024 (subject to change following the formation of the Council in June 2024)

- Tuesday 26th March at 10am
- Wednesday 4th September at 10am
- Friday 4th October at 10am (incorrectly stated Wednesday on Agenda)
- Wednesday 20th November at 10am
- Wednesday 27th November at 10am

Item 10: Any Other Business

Items raised included the following issues:

- Communication regarding the infill site at Ballinfoile – Mr. U. Finn advised that protocol was not followed in this case and apologised for any upset caused
- Lack of response to representations made by Councillors – the matter will be discussed with the relevant Director of Services
- Lights at the Aldi development in Knocknacarra out of order – Correspondence to issue to the Management Company

- Housing Development at Ballyburke with no affordable housing - Officials have issued requests to the Department to have affordable housing at this site but as a criteria of an accelerated delivery site it must be social housing;
- Commercial rates and the re-evaluation process. Director of Finance examining a PR campaign on how the monies are being spent;
- Launch of Eglinton Canal and the Changing places facilities - A launch will be carried out at a future date;
- Damage at Millars Lane during the weekend 23rd-25th February - Ms. S. Connolly advised that the damage was being accessed, the damaged trees will be examined and replacement or repair will be considered;
- Recent change in legislation regarding CCTV - Ms. P. Philbin advised that a meeting took place with the Chief Superintendent regarding CCTV across the city. A further meeting was held between officials from GCC, members of the Garda Síochána and the Head of ICT in Limerick City Council. The members were advised that a new CCTV scheme brings challenges with it and a report will be prepared;
- Fraud incident at Westmeath County Council – Ms. H. Kilroy advised that she is examining Galway City Council’s procedures alongside the Internal Auditor;
- Update on Crown Square – Mr. B. Barrett advised that consultations are being undertaken with the design team, there are no changes to the schedule at this point, however it is challenging timeframe and the executive is endeavouring to get the move completed as quickly as possible, Members will be kept updated with the progress. He confirmed that the design team have viewed the current activities and service delivery at City Hall including features such as the traffic control room and the designs for the new building will replicate the current service delivery;
- Accessibility of Westside Park to be examined;
- Cllr. F. Fahy raised the matter of e-mails issued to & from Member’s old e-mail address – the ICT Department will be consulted regarding the issue.

The Mayor advised that the Mayoral Ball will take place on Friday 26th April 2024 in the Galmont Hotel.

The next CPG meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 26th March at 10am.

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The meeting concluded at 11.50am.