

**Minutes of Galway City Local Community Development Committee  
Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 3.00pm  
(Council Chamber and Virtually on MS Teams)**

***Present:***

Cllr. Helen Ogbu (Chairperson), Galway City Council  
Ms. Linda Sice Brogan, Galway City Partnership  
Ms. Elaine Harvey, Trade Union  
Ms. Sinead Morgan, Galway & Roscommon ETB  
Mr. Laurence Gaughan, Health Service Executive West  
Ms. Caroline McDonagh, Local Enterprise Office  
Ms. Fiona McDonagh-Delaney, Galway City Community Network / PPN  
Mr. Tommy Flaherty, Galway City Community Network / PPN  
Ms. Joanne Laffey, Galway City Community Network / PPN

***Apologies:***

Mr. Derek Pender, Galway City Council  
Ms. Charlotte May, Galway City Community Network / PPN  
Ms. Regina Higgins, Department of Social Protection

***In attendance:***

Mr. Dermot Mahon, LCDC Chief Officer, Galway City Council  
Ms. Katie Fahy, Galway City Council  
Ms. Ailish Rohan, Galway City Council  
Ms. Chelsea McConn Joyce, Galway City Council  
Mr. Nollaig McGuinness  
Mr. TJ Forde, SCCUL Enterprises  
Ms. Vernice Murray, Galway City Partnership  
Ms. Hannah Arosomade, Galway City Partnership

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Cllr Helen Ogbu, Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologised for the cancellation of the last meeting due to not meeting the quorum. A warm welcome was given to new member Mr. Tommy Flaherty whose presence will have a huge impact on the work of the LCDC. Cllr. Ogbu also asked everyone to raise a hand online if they had a question, so everyone has a chance.

**2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Galway City LCDC meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024 were:

**Proposed:** *Ms. Elaine Harvey*

**Seconded:** *Ms. Sinead Morgan*

And agreed by all members.

### **3. Draft Galway City Council Corporate Plan 2024 – 2029**

Ms. Ailish Rohan presented the draft Galway City Council Corporate Plan 2024–2029, which is updated every five years. The draft Plan recently underwent pre-consultation, during which 33 submissions were received. A link to the draft for review and further input will issue and engagement from members is encouraged. The adoption deadline for the plan is 21st December. Ms. Rohan invited questions from attendees.

During the discussion, Ms. E. Harvey asked how the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) fits within the Corporate Plan. Mr. Mahon explained that the LECP is integrated at a high level through its community objectives, and Ms. Rohan added that the Corporate Plan aligns with the Public Sector Duty and incorporates its value statement. In response to Cllr. Ogbu's request for a summary of the 33 submissions, Ms. Rohan noted that while the submissions were anonymous, they represented a diverse mix of perspectives.

### **4. Ballybane Needs Analysis**

Mr. TJ Forde and Mr. Nollaig McGuinness presented some initial findings from the Ballybane Community Needs Analysis, which aims to identify the key needs, challenges, opportunities, strengths and resources of the Ballybane area. The study will include direct consultation with the local community and organizations operating in the area, culminating in an Action Plan with targeted actions to address the findings.

Cllr. Ogbu thanked Mr. McGuinness for his research and emphasized the importance of addressing anti-social behaviour through planned and co-ordinated activities. She requested a poster for circulation and asked if any solutions were offered for issues raised. Mr. McGuinness noted that many suggestions were received. Mr. T. Flaherty highlighted the need for adult involvement with youth work and questioned who would implement the findings. Mr. Forde assured that stakeholders were being engaged to address these issues. Mr. Flaherty also suggested reports should be shared with the LCDC and the needs analysis approach could be replicated in other areas.

Mr. Gaughan inquired about the purpose of the assessment and whether similar analyses had been done before. Mr. Mahon explained that the assessment identifies needs for integration into the LECP, with Galway City Council serving as a lead partner in the plan, where appropriate. He also mentioned that the recruitment of a community development officer for the east side of the city is proposed in 2025. Ms. McDonagh Delaney asked if another in-person consultation would be held, noting the previous one occurred during midterm break. Mr. McGuinness confirmed it would be considered.

A copy of the Needs Analysis report will be provided to LCDC members once complete.

### **5. LECP Implementation Plan 2024-2025 Action Update - Ballinfoile Youth Project**

Ms. Vernice Murray and Ms. Hannah Arosomade from Galway City Partnership provided a presentation on the Ballinfoile Youth Activities project, which was developed to address a gap identified in the Ballinfoile 2018–2029 Needs Analysis. The presentation included a video showcasing the project's impact, which was shared with members of the LCDC.

Cllr. Ogbu commended both for their remarkable efforts in developing the Ballinfoile Youth Activities project. She suggested that the team contact the Volunteer Centre to source additional support, which could help sustain and expand the initiative. In response, Ms.

Murray noted that a student is set to join the project in January to provide further assistance, which was seen as a positive step forward.

Ms. Morgan also praised the work and stressed the importance of collaboration among various agencies in delivering impactful community initiatives. She highlighted the challenges posed by current GRET guidelines, which limit some activities to youth aged 10 and older, leaving younger children outside its scope. Ms. Morgan commended the project's ability to engage children under 10, emphasizing its value in addressing this gap in youth services.

Mr. Flaherty shared his appreciation for the project, observing that it offers children a range of choices beyond traditional options like GAA. He suggested that, once the project gains a stable foundation, it could be considered for expansion into other areas, such as Ballybane, to extend its benefits to more young people. Ms. Sice Brogan concluded by expressing her gratitude to everyone who contributed to the project's success to date. She noted that it would not have been possible without the collective effort of all involved and described it as a privilege to collaborate on such an impactful initiative.

## **6. SICAP 2024 Case Study Video**

Ms. Sice Brogan provided an update on the SICAP Case Study, which had been shared with members prior to the meeting. The case study emphasized the essential role of SICAP English Language Supports in promoting migrant inclusion by equipping participants with the skills and confidence to engage independently with civic society, thereby strengthening their sense of belonging. Following the update, a video related to the SICAP Case Study was presented to the members.

Cllr. Ogbu expressed gratitude to Ms. Sice Brogan and inquired whether other agencies also offer English language classes, particularly for Ukrainian groups with limited proficiency or beginner-level needs. Ms. Brogan responded, noting that Croí na Gaillimhe and UHUG are among the organisations engaging on this effort.

Mr. Mahon added that the preparation of such case studies is an annual requirement and confirmed that the Case Study and accompanying video would be forwarded to Pobal for compliance purposes. He concluded by thanking Ms. Sice Brogan for her work.

## **7. Local Community Safety Partnership**

Mr. Mahon provided an update on the Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) and the upcoming changes under the Policing Act 2024. The new structure will prioritise additional community representatives, with a maximum of 30 members on the committee, including a minimum of seven councillors. Invitations for some members to participate will be issued in due course. An expression of interest to apply for the position of chairperson was advertised in July.

Mr. Mahon clarified that there will be no meetings this year as the Partnership has not yet been formally established. Once formed, a Community Safety Plan will be developed within the first 12 months, allowing issues discussed today to be included. He emphasized that the LCSP will encourage more active community engagement compared to the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) and noted that the LCDC may be asked to nominate a representative to join.

Mr. Flaherty shared his perspective as a former JPC member, stating that while members had a platform, their voices were often unheard. He stressed the importance of having a clear reporting structure and welcomed the opportunity to be involved in the LCSP, highlighting that community safety is a fundamental concern.

Further information on the LCSP will be provided to the LCDC as the partnership is being formed in early 2025.

## **8. LCDC sectoral representation**

At the July meeting, Mr. Mahon suggested the need to identify a replacement for the Business Representative position, as Galway Chamber had not been actively engaging with the LCDC for some time. Members discussed which sector would be most suitable to fill the vacancy. Cllr. Ogbu emphasized the importance of civic engagement and volunteerism, aligning with the group's core objectives.

Following the discussion, Ms. Elaine Harvey proposed, and Mr. Tommy Flaherty seconded, that the Social Enterprise sector should be approached to fill the vacancy. Mr. Mahon requested members to forward any recommendations they might have for potential candidates. The issue will be listed again on the December LCDC meeting agenda for further discussion.

## **8. Any Other Business**

Ms. Katie Fahy provided an update on the SICAP additional funding of €25,000, which has been allocated to two actions: increasing the hours of the Community Worker and preparing the Annual Plan. The drafting of the Annual Plan is scheduled for December 11th. She noted that an email will be sent seeking members to form a subgroup to review the Plan as approval will be required in early January. Ms. Fahy added that three members would be appropriate for the subgroup.

Ms. Fahy also reported on the Community Recognition Fund and stated that Window 2 application was submitted to the DRCD in September and Window 3 will open for submissions on November 11th, specifically for the East side of the city. Mr. Flaherty inquired whether the funding was capped at 50%. In response, Mr. Mahon and Ms. Fahy clarified that the funding can be 100% of the cost of a project, and they would collaborate with groups to maximize its impact.

Ms. McDonagh Delaney stated that AMACH had successfully secured the full €100,000 in funding, describing it as a significant achievement.

Cllr. Ogbu proposed exploring the establishment of a community and migrant support hub as a potential initiative for next year. In response, Ms. Morgan highlighted the ongoing need for a dedicated youth space, noting that Youth Work Ireland Galway had lost their previous building. Mr. Mahon acknowledged the challenges, emphasizing the limited availability of suitable spaces and the volume of similar requests.

Mr. Mahon concluded by informing the committee that the 1-year mid-term review of the LECP's progress will be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

**The date for the next meeting of the LCDC was agreed for Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 3:00pm Council Chamber and online on MS Teams.**

The meeting then concluded.