

**Minutes of Galway City Local Community Development Committee  
Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 3.00pm  
in the Council Chamber City Hall and MS Teams**

***Present:***

Cllr. Helen Ogbu (Chairperson), Galway City Council  
Cllr. Josie Forde, Galway City Council  
Mr. Derek Pender, Galway City Council  
Ms. Linda Sice Brogan, Galway City Partnership  
Ms. Lorraine Lally, Galway City Community Network / PPN  
Ms. Elaine Harvey, Trade Union  
Ms. Charlotte May, Galway City Community Network / PPN  
Ms. Sinead Morgan, Galway & Roscommon ETB  
Ms. Regina Higgins, Department of Social Protection

***Apologies:***

Mr. Laurence Gaughan, Health Service Executive West  
Ms. Caroline McDonagh, Local Enterprise Office  
Ms. Fiona McDonagh-Delaney, Galway City Community Network / PPN

***In attendance:***

Mr. Dermot Mahon, LCDC Chief Officer, Galway City Council  
Ms. Katie Fahy, Galway City Council  
Mr. Liam Kitterick, Galway City Council  
Ms. Aisling Colreavy, Galway City Council  
Ms. Chelsea McConn Joyce, Galway City Council  
Ms. Saoirsa Kilroy, Galway City Council  
Ms. Imelda Gormally, Galway City Partnership  
Ms. Mary McHugh, Galway City Partnership

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. D. Mahon, LCDC Chief Officer welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed members as a new Chairperson will be elected at the meeting, he would chair the meeting for the first two items. A round of introductions was made in which new LCDC members Mr. Derek Pender, Director of Services and newly elected Councillors, Cllr. Helen Ogbu and Cllr. Josie Forde were welcomed to the LCDC. Ms. Katie Fahy, Administrative Officer, Galway City Council was also welcomed as support officer to the LCDC. Mr. Mahon acknowledged the work of former Chair Cllr Martina O'Connor who was a member of the LCDC for the past 5 years in the roles of Vice Chair and Chair.

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

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

**Proposed:** Ms. Lorraine Lally

**Seconded:** Ms. Elaine Harvey

And agreed by all members.

### **3. Nomination and election of LCDC Chair and Vice Chair**

Mr. D Mahon advised that former Cllr. Martina O'Connor was the LCDC interim Chairperson from December 2023 up to the Local Elections in June 2024. The positions of Chair and Vice Chair are now vacant, and the roles run for a 3-year term. Mr. Mahon noted that the LCDC consists of a maximum of 15 members and there are currently 2 vacancies. There are 4 absent and 9 attending the meeting. Notice was circulated in advance of the meeting seeking nominations and Mr. Mahon noted that 2 nominations were received for the role of Chairperson: Ms. Lorraine Lally and Cllr. Helen Ogbu and one nomination was received for the role of Vice Chairperson: Cllr. Josie Forde.

It was proposed that a secret ballot take place with members requested to indicate their preference on a paper slip. Mr. Mahon contacted Cllr. Josie Forde and Ms. Regina Higgins via phone as they were attending online. The nominations for Chairperson were proposed and seconded;

- Cllr. Helen Ogbu proposed by Ms. Elaine Harvey and seconded by Cllr. Josie Forde.
- Ms. Lorraine Lally proposed by Ms. Charlotte May and seconded by Ms. Linda Sice Brogan.

Ms. K. Fahy and Mr. D. Mahon proceeded to count the ballots which resulted in 6 votes for Cllr. Helen Ogbu, 2 votes for Ms. Lorraine Lally and 1 abstention. Mr. Mahon noted that as Cllr. Helen Ogbu had received the majority of votes she was now selected as Chairperson of the Galway City LCDC for a 3 year term.

The nomination for the role of Vice Chairperson (Cllr. Josie Forde) was proposed by Ms. Sinead Morgan and seconded by Ms. Linda Sice Brogan. As there were no other nominations, Cllr. Forde was selected as Vice Chairperson. Cllr. H Ogbu, Chairperson thanked everyone for their support and expressed the will to do our best for the community. Cllr. J Forde also thanked everyone.

### **4. LCDC sectoral representation – proposal**

Mr. D Mahon informed members that the LCDC is awaiting one further nomination from the PPN and a sectoral representative to be nominated to the Committee to replace the Business / Employers pillar who have not engaged with the LCDC for some time following the resignation of previous member from the Galway Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Mahon noted the current composition of the LCDC membership and proposed replacing the Business / Employer pillar with 'Community and Voluntary' interest (specifically Civic Engagement and Volunteering) and Mr. Donncha Foley from Galway Volunteer Centre was proposed.

Following a short discussion on the appropriateness of the proposal it was agreed to revisit the matter at the September meeting to allow members consider the proposal and any alternatives. Cllr. H Ogbu requested that a note issue to members outlining the current membership and options available for the selection of a new representative. The requirement to consider gender balance was also noted. Ms. L. Lally also informed members that the GCCN will nominate a member to fulfil the vacancy in September.

## **5. SICAP 2024**

### **a. Approval of SICAP Mid-Year Review for 2024 – Mid-Year Progress Report**

Mr. L. Kitterick advised members that the purpose of the mid-year review is to allow the LCDC assess the progress of the delivery of the programme through GCP against what was set out in the SICAP annual plan and budget for 2024. The mid-year review is required to be formally approved by the LCDC by 26th July as per guidance received from Pobal. GCP had to complete their submission by 18th June.

Galway City Council reviewed information submitted and returned a completed checklist to Pobal. The review related to financial checks and performance checks up to the 31st of May 2024. Pobal then carried out their high-level review and provided the LCDC with feedback which was circulated to members on Monday. Pobal are satisfied with the information and documentation provided by GCP as part of the mid-year review and have advised there are no issues to highlight and nothing to prevent approval of the Mid Review.

At this midpoint of the of the year the KPI 1 achievement is at 86% equating to 51 groups supported and KPI 2 achievement is at 49% equating to 237 individuals supported through SICAP. The Progress on targets is at or exceeds expected levels for the mid-year review and are on track for achievement by end of year. The SICAP budget allocation for 2024 was €997,080. This is made up of Lot Budget €772,258 and New Arrivals Funding of €224,822. There was an extra allocation of New Arrivals funding from the DRCD of €81,000 in May making the total budget €1,078,080 for 2024. Some of the main financial checks are as follows.

- Admin Costs for the five-month period under review should not be greater than 12.5% of the overall annual budget. From the financial information submitted by GCP the Admin Costs up to the end of May are 7.38%
- The costs reported against each of the two goals should be between 40-60% of the total action cost. From documents submitted by GCP, for Goal 1 the percentage cost is 40.48% and for goal 2 it is 58.09%.

Approval of the SICAP Mid-Year Review for 2024 was:

Proposed: Ms. Sinead Morgan

Seconded: Cllr. Helen Ogbu

### **b. SICAP 2024 Case Study Guide and proposed theme**

Ms. Linda Sice Brogan briefed members on the proposed SICAP 2024 case study theme. She noted that it was proposed to focus on English language provision. She advised that there are currently 20 classroom-based in operation with 138 people receiving tuition. Ms. Sice Brogan proposed that the case study would focus on integration, international protection applicants and confidence building through the English language. The key feature is to support people from other countries. Cllr. Helen Ogbu advised to link the English Language support with volunteering and Ms. Sice Brogan agreed the idea and will discuss with the Galway Volunteer Centre.

It was agreed by LCDC members that the case study would be as proposed.

### **c. SICAP Pork Programme**

Ms. Imelda Gormally and Ms. Mary McHugh from Galway City Partnership were welcomed to the meeting. Ms. Gormally gave a presentation on the SICAP work programme which was circulated in advance on the meeting. She detailed various programmes including new parent and toddler group in Westside; support groups such as GCCN, Ballybane Taskforce, Westside Arts Festival; Eastside Arts Festival which is held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October and a range of supports to new arrivals which include International Women's Day

Ms. L Lally raised concern that United Women's Group lost access to their kitchen and whether the issue was resolved. Ms. Gormally responded that she will have to check and revert.

It was noted by members that a community kitchen is a major gap in the community. Ms. L Lally suggested a partnership with ATU, and graduates could help as these kitchens lie empty in the summer. Ms L Sice Brogan advised they could not access facilities due to the cost. Ms. Sinead Morgan advised members there are plans to provide facilities on the Tuam Rd ETB campus which will involve engagement with the community. Cllr. H Ogbu that the committee are notified when engagement is happening noting that the proposal is a long-term plan.

Ms. Mary McHugh, Galway City Partnership detailed SICAP Goal 2 actions in a week of work noting that 238 people attended English classes aged between 17 – 82 comprising 19 different nationalities; initiatives promoted including a new programme for nail care and design course; financial assistance grant which was used for Social Care GTI course and piloting wellness.

Members raised several issues and queries, and Ms. McHugh provided responses noting significant waiting lists for some supports including English language classes. Ms S Morgan advised to link in with GRETB to make sure we can capture the shortfall.

Cllr. H Ogbu asked how needs are identified, and do you collaborate with the Loal Authority Integration Team? Ms. McHugh responded that action plans are conducted with each individual and they respond to what people need, often in partnership with other state and voluntary agencies.

### **6. LECP Implementation Plan 2024 – 2025 Action Update (Objective 5.1) Healthy Galway City**

Ms. Aisling Colreavy, Healthy Galway City Coordinator gave an update on the report which was circulated in advance of the meeting. Queries were raised by Ms. L Lally regarding CPR complying with Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHEC), and informed that Request Emergency Dispatch (RED) card has been developed by PHECC to help responders prepare prior to calling an ambulance and is available for free. Ms. L Lally also has a query on the monitoring of the Period Dignity Project. Queries raised were answered and addressed by Ms. A Colreavy.

Ms. K Fahy informed members recently there was a launch of an event called 'Ceol an tSamhraidh' in Aperee Nursing Home. The programme involves performers in five of the nursing homes across the city playing music for the residents in the nursing homes. It is a very positive initiative and has received great feedback. Ms. L Sice Brogan responded that Galway City Partnership are happy to work with the Council on initiatives like this going forward.

Cllr. H Ogbu advised that the beach wheelchairs need to be promoted and asked if they were free. Ms. A Colreavy responded that they are free to use and that with the Local Sports Partnership, GCC can look into promotion and share with the committee. Ms. E Harvey suggested signs on the beach and prom.

## **7. Any Other Business**

Mr. D Mahon noted that the Child Poverty Pilot application is currently being assessed and there should be a response from the Department shortly.

He also advised members that 22 applications were submitted from community groups under the Community Recognition Fund for the first application window in May. 11 projects have been submitted to the Department for funding and once approved the list will be provided to the LCDC.

Ms. Elaine Harvey requested that the Vacant Homes Officer in Galway City Council attend the next meeting to outline their work to the LCDC.

Ms. Charlotte May requested if the LCDC terms of reference could be circulated as she is a new member to the committee. Ms. K Fahy agreed to circulate same.

Cllr. Helen Ogbu thanked everyone for attendance and participation.

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

The meeting then concluded.