

Minutes of Meeting of Urban Development Strategic Policy Committee held on 21st November 2024 via MS Teams & Council Chamber

Presiding: Cllr. Donal Lyons, Galway City Council

Mr. Eoghan Lynch, Senior Planner
Mr Brendan Dunne, Senior Executive Planner
Ms Helen Coleman, Senior Executive Planner
Ms. Patricia Philbin, Director of Services
Ms. Caitriona Morgan, Administrative Officer
Mr. Derrick Hambleton (An Taisce)
Ms. Helena McElmeel (Development/ Construction Network)
Mr. Reg Turner – Chairman of Galway Cycling Campaign
Ms. Cliona Clancy, Administrative Officer, Galway City Council
Ms. Edel Finan, Senior Staff Officer, Galway City Council
Ms. Joanne Georges, Assistant Staff Officer, Galway City Council

Present online: Cllr. Eddie Hoare, Galway City Council
Cllr. Frank Fahy, Galway City Council
Mr. Brian Barrett, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. Peter Staunton, Executive Planner
Ms. Rachel Stewart, Business/Commercial Stewart Developments

Apologies: Cllr. Eibhlín Seoighthe, Galway City Council

Cllr. D. Lyons, Chairperson, welcomed members and officials to the first Urban Development Strategic Policy Committee meeting which was being held virtually via MS Teams and from the Council Chamber.

1. Introduction and function of an SPC:

Introductions were made and a presentation was provided to members on the functions of the SPC.

SPC Members was asked to reflect on what they would like to achieve over the next five years. The following issues were highlighted:

- Working collectively as a group for the betterment of Galway;
- Deliver Actions of the LECP;
- Tackle Dereliction & Vacancy;
- Maintain a focus on a sustainable city and strong community engagement;
- Forward planning should be high on priorities and delivery of infrastructure;
- Centre of city rejuvenation & improved accessibility;
- Heritage buildings brought back into use e.g. Earl House;
- Area Plans to be progressed;
- Policy in relation to Shop fronts enforced;
- Enhanced mobility to include progression of Outer ring road, city bus connects and new light rail;

Mr. D. Hambleton highlighted the dependency on the car at designated shopping premises such as Knockncarra, Headford Rd and Doughiska. He stated that more consideration needed to be given to public transport and mobility options at planning stage.

Ms H. Coleman, Senior Executive Planner stated bus connects should improve matters.

b. Salthill Village and Seafront Framework Plan

Ms H. Coleman, Senior Executive Planner gave a briefing to members on the Salthill Village and Seafront Framework Plan. This 18-month project is being carried out by consultants Allies & Morrison Ltd. It will be a vision document and engagement, and collaboration will

Mr. E. Lynch, Senior Planner stated that this plan is focused on a broader vision and how individual projects can then be knitted in. It's about having discussions now to enable project delivery.

Mr. D. Hambleton (An Taisce) referred to the last Plan for Salthill. He advised that early consultation with the public is vital. He also highlighted the flood risk in this area and the need for linkage of all the plans.

Ms. H. McElmeel stated participation should be embedded in the project and queried if there was a community representative on the steering committee. Ms. H. Coleman stated there is no Steering Group but this could be looked at.

Cllr. D. Lyons, Chair stated he would welcome the plan but outlined that one of the criticisms of Leisureland and Salthill Park was the lack of local engagement. He highlighted the importance of engaging with all parties.

Referring to the Leisureland and Salthill Park project Mr. B. Barrett, Senior Executive Officer clarified that the engagement to date was for an initial scoping process. This is intended as a long-term project over a period of years and will have multiple ways of engagement from all parties.

Mr. E. Lynch, Senior Planner advised it's an open non-statutory process. Strong business group in Salthill, strong voices, must be reflected in vision. Mr. D. Hambleton (An Taisce) referred to GCCN Organisation, they need to be consulted and was advised by Mr. B. Barrett, Senior Executive Officer that it was standard procedure to inform the GCCN of Council consultation processes and the Council will continue to do this.

c. Draft Heritage Plan 2024-2029

Mr Brendan Dunne, Senior Executive Planner outlined that this is the 3rd Heritage plan for the city and gave a brief summary to date. He confirmed there were 13 submissions received during the public consultation period and that a presentation on these would be given at the next SPC meeting. He stated that there are a number of actions listed in the Heritage Plan that the Council can control and use as an anchor for funding.

Mr. D. Hambleton queried if the plan would be adopted in Q1 2025. Mr. E. Lynch, Senior Planner acknowledged the delay in finalising the plan but was hopeful it would have presented to the Heritage Forum members by the next SPC. Once recommended by the Heritage Forum it would be presented to the Urban Development SPC and then for the full Council for adoption.

Cllr. D. Lyons, Chair referred to Post Boxes at Seamount in Salthill (Protected), we need to protect throughout the city. He also made reference to Water Marks; possibility put them as an action in the Heritage Plan.

Both Ms. H. McElmeel (Development/ Construction Network) and Mr. D. Hambleton (An Taisce) referred to the conservation meeting with Michael Scott and stated it was very informative.

6. A.O.B:

Cllr. D. Lyons, Chair proposed the minutes of the previous Strategic Policy Committee held on 16th April 2014 were noted.

Mr. D. Hambleton referenced a request from the previous SPC to issue an invitation to UE to update the SPC members on water infrastructure in the city.

Mr. R. Turner referred to the Red Bull Event at Salthill last weekend and asked if there was a Traffic Management Plan. Ms. P. Philbin, Director of Services outlined the event was exempt from licensing but that there was a Traffic Management Plan in place. Any further queries regarding this even should be directed to Mr. B. Barrett following this meeting.

Ms. R. raised the issue of ghost buses in the city with the lack of punctuality and confidence impacting on usage. Mr. D. Lyons advised this would be referred to the relevant SPC.

Ms. C. Clancy, Administrative Officer advised revised schedule of meetings and presentations to be sent on.

This concluded the meeting. Next meeting scheduled for 20th February 2025


Signed by SPC Chair
20/02/2025