**Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council**

**Held on Monday 9th January 2017,**

**at 4.00 p.m., in City Hall, College Road, Galway.**

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**Presiding: Cllr.N. Larkin, Mayor of the City of Galway**

**Present: Councillors: B. Cameron, C. Ó Conchúir, P. Conneely, C. Connolly, , M.J. Crowe, O. Crowe, M. Cubbard, F. Fahy, M. Farrell, P. Flannery P. Keane, M. Lohan, D. Lyons, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis, T. O'Flaherty and J. Walsh.**

**In Attendance: Mr. B. McGrath, Chief Executive**

**Mr. T. Connell, Director of Services**

**Ms. E. McCormack, Head of Finance / Director of Services**

**Ms. E. Ruane, A/Director of Services**

**Ms. P. Philbin, A/Director of Services**

**Mr. D. Mahon, Meetings Administrator**

**Mr. U. Finn, Senior Engineer**

**Ms. L. Mitchell, Senior Executive Officer**

**Mr. J. Molloy, Senior Executive Engineer**

**Mr. G. McMahon, A/ Senior Executive Officer**

**Ms. K. O’Donnell, A/ Administrative Officer**

**Ms. C. Phelan, Senior Planner**

**Ms. S. Loughnane, Executive Engineer**

**Ms. K. Lohan, Clerical Officer**

**‘Meet In Galway’ Presentation**

Mayor Larkin welcomed representatives from ‘Meet in Galway’ Mr. D. O’Connor and Ms. R. Finn to the Meeting and invited them to deliver their presentation. Mr. O’Connor and Ms. Finn provided a detailed presentation on Meet in Galway, its aims, objectives and membership. The presentation outlined the background to the group, membership profile, purpose – including that of establishing a permanent Convention Bureau for Galway to attract oversees conferences to the City and County, success and achievements to date, challenges going forward, commitment required from Galway City Council including financial contribution.

Support from other agencies was outlined including from Fáilte Ireland and Ms. L. Wade from Fáilte Ireland also addressed the Meeting to clarify Councillor queries and requests for clarification.

Mayor Larkin thanked the presenters for the detailed overview provided and invited comment and queries from the Councillors. During the question and answer session that followed Councillors welcomed the concept of the establishment of a Convention Bureau and stated their desire to support Meet In Galway to achieve its aims. The need for funding support from the City Council was referred to and it was noted that the group were intended to submit an application to the Marketing Fund.

Other issues raised and addressed included, level of support from other local authorities and state agencies to date, involvement of IHF and hotels locally, conference facility capacity in the City, links with Galway Tourism Strategy, 2020 Capital of Culture, opportunities to host conferences in locations including Leisureland and Galway racecourse and the overall economic benefits of convention business to the city. Councillors sought further information on the group set-up and structure and noted that funding under the Marketing Fund may be appropriate.

Chief Executive Mr. B. McGrath noted that the establishment of a Convention Bureau for the City is worthy of support and stated that the executive would hold further discussions with Meet in Galway to further develop the concept and explore funding opportunities. Mr. McGrath referred to the Marketing Strategy and Branding Initiative being developed for the City and noted the inter-relationships that could be exploited in this regard.

The deputation then withdrew from the meeting.

It was agreed following discussion that the Special Meeting agreed at the December Meeting to be held on 23rd January 2017, would include Quarterly Reports, Notice of Motions and Item 2(d) Draft Annual Service Plan 2017.

It was also agreed on the proposal of Cllr. D. McDonnell and seconded by Cllr. O. Crowe that an additional Special Meeting be convened for Monday 20th February to consider the Traveller Accommodation Programme. It was agreed in discussion that this Meeting would take place after relevant Area Meetings and Housing SPC. It was further agreed that Item 3 (a) Report from Procedures Committee on the Draft Standing Orders Review be deferred until the February Special Meeting to be held on 23rd February 2017 at 3.00pm. Cllr. B. Cameron advised of his unavailability for the Meeting on the 20th February.

It was agreed to take Items 1 (a), 1(b) and 1 (c) followed by item 4 (a) and 4 (d) on the Agenda.

1. **1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:**

**(a) Minutes of Statutory Budget Meeting of Galway City Council held on Monday 14th November 2016**

**Proposed:** Cllr. B. Cameron **Seconded:** Cllr. F. Fahy

**Matters Arising:** A synopsis of matters arising is outlined below:

Cllr. P. Conneely: Sunday parking provision and recent court decisions relating to parking enforcement, ECOC funding and Galway County Council contribution, legacy shared service funding owing to the County Council

Cllr. O. Crowe: Funding for ECOC 2020 and contribution from Galway County Council, staff-less library proposal and request that County Librarian attend next meeting to provide an outline of the proposal, Bohermore cemetery update, shared services costs and efficiencies including MyPay, Ballinfoile Community Centre update, Galway Harbour Company update.

Cllr. M. Cubbard: Westside CCTV update.

Cllr. B. Cameron: Sports Capital grants and opportunities to submit funding for hurling walls in the City at Area level.

Cllr. T. O’Flaherty: Dog Pound and update on shared services costs, cost of operation of Dog Pound

Cllr. D. Lyons: Grass cutting programme for 2017, Sailin to Silverstrand Coastal Protection scheme update, Blackrock public lighting scheme update.

Cllr. J. Walsh: 2016 and 2017 LIS funding and programme

Detailed replies were issued on matters arising from Mr. B. McGrath Chief Executive, Ms. E. McCormack Head of Finance / Director of Services and Mr. U. Finn Senior Engineer.

Mr. McGrath noted that an invite to attend the next Meeting would issue to the County Librarian if the members so wished to discuss the open library proposal. He also provided comprehensive replies on new cemetery provision for the city and the current situation regarding Galway harbour. Mr. McGrath advised that any Sports Capital funding grant applications prepared would only be on City council owned lands, Shared Service report would be listed on the February agenda and that equipment would be ready for the 2017 grass cutting programme in timely manner. Mr. McGrath also provided updates on Sailin coastal protection works and Blackrock lighting proposal. Mr. U. Finn noted that the majority of 2016 LIS action items would be complete by the end of January 2017 and that the 2017 programme would be prepared in consultation with Councillors by the end of February. Cllr. O. Crowe sought the reference to efficiency gains relating to MyPay amended in the Minutes as it was clarified that no immediate gains were likely.

**(b) Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on Monday 21st November 2016**

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

**Matters Arising:** A synopsis of matters arising is outlined below:

Cllr. P. Conneely: Solas Picture Palas update and Solas Governance issues.

Cllr. D. Lyons: Fáilte Ireland Tourist office Forster St and assurances that services will be maintained.

Cllr. M.J. Crowe: Implementation of one-way traffic systems in the city, Solas Picture Palas update, Ballinfoile Community Centre update.

Cllr. M. Cubbard: Costs incurred engaging contracted plumbing services in west side of the city.

Cllr. N. McNelis: CFRAM report and request for meetings with residents in Salthill to discuss flood prevention measures.

Cllr. B. Cameron: CCTV Bowling Green update, insurance issues for residents at Sea Road.

Cllr. D. McDonnell: 2016 Christmas Market report.

Detailed replies were issued on matters arising from Mr. B. McGrath Chief Executive and Ms. E. Ruane A/ Director of Services. Ms. Ruane noted that Fáilte Ireland advised they were still looking for alternative accommodation in the city and that staff would remain in place in Forster St until at least the end of 2017. In relation to Solas Picture Palas, Ms. Ruane advised that all documents have now been signed and preliminary works are due to begin in February. Ms. Ruane also provided an update on the Community Centres and issues to be resolved. Mr. McGrath noted that detail will be provided on plumbing services and a meeting with residents in Salthill will be convened. A report on the 2016 Christmas Market will be listed on the March 2017 meeting of Council. Mr. McGrath provided further clarification on the expected timelines for works to recommence at the Solas Picture Palas. Mr. McGrath also stated he had no reason to believe any information provided to Councillors on the Picture Palas was deficient.

**(c) Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on Monday 12th December 2016**

**Proposed:** Cllr. B. Cameron **Seconded:** Cllr. D. Lyons

**Matters Arising:** None

2. BUSINESS PRESCRIBED BY STATUTE

**(a) Declaration of Road to be a Public Road - Ros Caoin Spine Road, Roscam, Galway**

The Declaration of Road to be a Public Road - Ros Caoin Spine Road, Roscam, Galway was proposed by Cllr. MJ Crowe and seconded by Cllr. D. McDonnell. Mr. U. Finn Senior Engineer replied to queries raised by Cllr. F. Fahy.

**Declaration of Road to be a Public Road - Ros Caoin Spine Road, Roscam, Galway**

Proposed: Cllr. MJ Crowe Seconded: Cllr. D. McDonnell

In Favour: 14 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 14

**(b) To set a date for the holding of a Special Meeting to discuss Traveller Accommodation Programme**

A Special Meeting was agreed for Monday 20th February 2017 at 3.00 pm on the proposal of Cllr.

D. McDonnell and seconded by Cllr. O. Crowe.

**(c) Draft 2017 – 2019 Capital Programme**

This item was taken after consideration of Items 4 (a) and 4 (d). At 9.15 pm Mayor Larkin proposed a 5 minute break. This was agreed by all present and the Meeting reconvened at 9.30 pm.

Mr. McGrath Chief Executive referred to the Draft Capital Programme 2017 – 2019 issued to Councillors and queries and requests for clarification followed. Mr. McGrath noted that the programme was subject to funding and was an indicative list of projects required in the City.

Issues raised by Councillors included: housing retrofit programme and provision of information to elected representatives, inclusion of phase 3 and 4 Lough Rusheen Park in the Recreation & Amenity programme, requirement for significant increase in housing delivery, fire station feasibility study and location for proposed new fire station for the city, Dublin to Galway Greenway programme and deliverables, Development of recreation facilities at Cluain Mhuire and requirement for priority to be assigned for same, bike scheme and costs to be incurred, housing stock upgrade including windows and door replacement, bus prioritisation, bus stop upgrades and replacement trees at Seamus Quirke Road, Barna Greenway, development of city cemetery, city canal network and hydro-electrification potential, environmental study of Merlin Park bus corridor, city museum funding application, development of Leisureland and feasibility study recommendations, Salmon Weir bridge works, junction improvements at Ballindooley cross, Tuam Road bus corridor, city centre signage and wayfinding, road improvements at Ballymoneen, safety measures for road users and road safety officer requirement for the city.

Detailed replies to questions and requests for clarification were provided by Mr. T. Connell Director of Services, Mr. U. Finn Senior Engineer and Ms. E. Ruane A/ Director of Services.

**The 2017 – 2018 Draft Capital Programme was proposed by Cllr. D. Lyons, seconded by Cllr. C. Ó Conchúir and agreed by all present.**

**(d) Draft Annual Service Delivery Plan 2017**

Deferred to Special Meeting scheduled for Monday 23rd January 2017.

**3. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**(a) Report from Procedures Committee on the Draft Standing Orders Review**

Deferred to Special Meeting scheduled for Monday 20th February 2017.

**4. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF OFFICIALS**

**(a) Bothar na dTreabh (N6) – Corridor Improvements Scheme Phase 7 Kirwan Roundabout**

A detailed presentation was delivered on the proposed options for Bothar na dTreabh (N6) – Corridor Improvements Scheme Phase 7 Kirwan Roundabout by Mr. U. Finn Senior Engineer, Ms. S.

Loughnane Executive Engineer and Mr. D. Delaney consultant with Halcrow Barry. A copy of the

presentation was circulated to all present.

The presentation outlined the scheme location in a city and regional context and referred to local and national policy including the Galway Transport Strategy and recently adopted City Development Plan. It was noted that 5 of the 7 primary junctions on the N6 Corridor have been upgraded to date. The overall need for the scheme was outlined including poor pedestrian and cyclist access at Kirwan roundabout, significant traffic volume and need to increase throughput on the N6 corridor, lack of network integration and inability to manage traffic flows and high number of accidents at the location. Previous improvement works at Briarhill junction were outlined and the benefits of same noted. Traffic data was provided for vehicles using the Kirwan junction and pedestrian crossing numbers noted.

Mr. U. Finn Senior Engineer, Ms. S. Loughnane Executive Engineer and Mr. D. Delaney then outlined in detail the various options under consideration and noted that 14 options were initially considered, subsequently reduced to 6 based on economy, environment and engineering suitability. A meeting with Councillors on the 6th January 2017 was held and a public consultation date is scheduled for January 25rd in Ballinfoile Community Centre.

The options outlined, including the pros and cons of each, included:

Option 1 5 arm signalised junction

Option 2A Link road to Liosban & Sandy Rd left in left out only

Option 2B Link road parallel to N6 & Sandy Road left in left out only

Option 2D Link road through Nox Hotel to N6 & Sandy Road left in and left out only

Option 3A Divert Coolagh Rd to N6 Headford Rd opposite Dunnes Stores

Option 3B Divert Coolagh Road to N84 Headford Road.

It was noted that estimated construction costs were likely to be in the region of €1.2m (subject to tender) depending on the option that is selected as the preferred route. Mr. Finn then outlined the next steps in the process including non-statutory consultation scheduled to be held on 25th January 2017, selection of emerging preferred route, presentation of emerging preferred route to April Meeting of Council, preliminary design and planning process including Part VIII and finally design, tender and construction in 2018.

A detailed discussion then took place with contributions, queries and requests for clarification received by Cllrs. D. Lyons, D. McDonnell, MJ Crowe, C. Connolly, M. Lohan, T. O’Flaherty, F. Fahy, B. Cameron, M. Cubbard, P. Keane, P. Flannery, M. Farrell, P. Conneely, J. Walsh, N. McNelis and Mayor N. Larkin. Issues raised included a general agreement on the requirement to address the issues at junction, requirement for close consideration of all options and importance of public consultation in the process, traffic count and data accuracy, requirement to consider implementation of one-way systems in the city and links with this proposal, possible requirement for land use rezoning depending on the option selected, requirement to consider Coolagh access very carefully, overall management of options to avoid damage to the environment and in particular Terryland forest park.

A number of Councillors expressed the desire to avoid additional traffic lights on the N6 Bothar na dTreabh if possible and to consider tunnel options. Cllr. F. Fahy stated his opposition to the removal of the roundabout and dismissed the options presented. All other Councillors present stated their view that the issue should be addressed and the options presented considered. It was noted that a signalised junction would provide equal access for all and provide safer junctions for pedestrians to negotiate. A number of Councillors stated satisfaction with existing signalised junctions in place and stated that the traffic counts at these areas proved they were working. Some concern was expressed on the 5 arm junction option and its overall impact on traffic flow.

Mr. U. Finn Senior Engineer, Ms. S. Loughnane Executive Engineer and Mr. D. Delaney provided detailed replies to the queries and requests for clarification raised by Councillors.

At 7.30 pm an extension of time was proposed by Cllr. D. Lyons and seconded by Cllr. D. McDonnell to complete the Agenda. This was agreed by all present.

A Motion proposed by Cllr. D. Lyons and seconded by Cllr T. O’Flaherty that “I propose a filter lane could be included in Option 3B leading from Headford Road (outbound) to Coolagh Road” was then discussed and broad agreement reached that the Motion could be supported. (The Motion was considered under Item 5 Notice of Motions).

Mr. Finn stated that all comments and contributions would be taken on board in the next stage and in advance of selecting a preferred route. A request for the total cost to engage consultants was received and Mr. Finn stated that this information would be provided. Cllr. D. McDonnell requested that comments from Cllr. F. Fahy towards Cllr. B. Cameron be withdrawn and that respect was required in the Chamber.

Councillors welcomed the report and approved of the consultation process to follow. Mr. Finn also noted that the Council would engage with affected landowners. Chief Executive Mr. McGrath noted the importance of the upcoming consultation event and encouraged all who wished to have a say to attend. He noted that the junction was a critical infrastructure connection in the city and that the current position was no longer sustainable due to capacity levels at the roundabout especially at peak times. Mr. Finn also noted in reply to query from Cllr. MJ Crowe that the City Centre Transport Plan would consider one-way options and consultants are to be appointed to bring forward proposals in this regard. It was agreed that Cllr. Crowe’s Motion would remain on the Agenda.

**(b) Chief Executive’s Reports for October, November and December 2016**

Chief Executive’s Reports for October, November and December 2016 were noted by the meeting.

**(c) Chief Executive’s Report for January 2017**

Mr. McGrath referred to the January 2017 Chief Executive’s Report and Councillors raised a number of queries for clarification including the composition of the Local Government Expert Advisory Group recently established and the perceived imbalance between those who are in favour of the recommended amalgamation and others. A number of Councillors referred to previous Motion agreed by Galway City Council stating no agreement with the recommended amalgamation and noted that Galway County Council had reached a similar position. A broad discussion took place on the credibility of the advisory group and its purpose. Mr. McGrath stated that he would represent the interests of Galway City Council to the best of his ability. The opportunity to explore greater shared service opportunities was noted.

The need to promote the Marketing Fund was noted together with recent IBAL survey results. The Christmas Market 2016 and loss of taxi space at Eyre Square was discussed and noted. Compliments were offered for the success of the 2016 Park & Ride Scheme and litter picking crews in the city. Speed limits in estates and noted and compliments offered for recent civic reception offered to Connacht Rugby and for the establishment of the 2020 Youth Orchestra. The need to promote Christmas Tree recycling was noted. Councillors noted success of the winter homeless initiative / cold weather response and agreed with the report where it stated that emergency accommodation was available in the city for all who chose to avail of it. Visible homelessness was discussed and it was agreed that organisations were providing a valuable service in the city. Councillors noted success of the Christmas Market and Sports Fund grants.

Mr. McGrath provided clarifications on issues raised by the Councillors and noted that he was requested to sit on the Expert Advisory Group by the Minister and will represent Galway to the best of his ability. He noted that the IBAL sites that scored lowest were not local authority controlled. A review of 2016 Park & Ride would also be undertaken.

The January Chief Executive’s Report was agreed.

**(d) Procurement Update**

Ms. K. O’Donnell Procurement Officer delivered a detailed presentation on the procurement function in Galway City Council and copies were circulated to those present. Ms. O’Donnell provided an overview of the procurement function in Galway City Council and its co-ordinating role across ass divisions, the Corporate Procurement Plan 2016 – 2018 and its aims an objectives, detail on total procurement spend in 2015 and number of suppliers by category, use of national frameworks and the role of the Office of Government Procurement, categories of framework and contracts at national level, details on when it is appropriate to tender and the advertising thresholds were outlined, extension of contacts and emergency procurement provisions were also noted. Ms. O’Donnell noted the 2015 Local Government Auditors report and referred to issues outlined in the report. Ms. O’ Donnell noted that the procurement unit has recently introduced a number of measures for monitoring compliance through the purchasing system and she outlined how the unit will monitor overall procurement compliance to ensure value for money and efficiency in all city council expenditure.

The Director of Service for each area then referred to individual issues noted in the Auditors Report and provided an overview and observation on the issues noted by the Auditor. Mayor Larkin thanked Ms. O’Donnell for the presentation and invited comment and queries from the Councillors. Comments, queries and requests for clarification were received from Cllrs. M. Cubbard, C. Ó Conchúir, M. Lohan, P. Conneely, F. Fahy, D. Lyons, N. McNelis, T. O’Flaherty and P. Keane. Issues noted included appointment of contractors after previous appointment where poor service delivered, justification for exceeding tender sums in housing, costs incurred on maintenance and upkeep of halting sites, rational for increased in Mayoral driver service, inclusion of social clauses in procurement and tendering, costs incurred on P. O’Conaire statue, costs incurred on legal services and option of in-house service, number of local suppliers engaged in delivering services, contract for horse removal, machinery yard and plant hire costs and tender practices.

Replies on each of the queries raised were provided by Mr. T. Connell Director of Services, Mr. D. Mahon Senior Executive Officer, Mr. U. Finn Senior Engineer and Mr. B. McGrath Chief Executive. Mr. McGrath also referred to the national framework now in place for legal services and a discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of the frameworks took place. It was agreed to look at the control of horses policy in order to examine ways to better manage costs arising. In relation to poor contract performance, Mr. U. Finn stated that in roads contracts past performance can be used as a criteria in awarding contracts but the criteria for same must be very clear. He noted that price / quality is the key criteria.

**5. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

The following Notices of Motion were considered at the Meeting.

Notice of Motion under Standing Order 22:

Proposed by: Cllr. B. Cameron

Seconded by: Cllrs, N. McNelis, M. Cubbard, D. Lyons, M. Farrell, C. Ó Conchúir, P. Flannery, T. O’Flaherty, P. Connelly, D. McDonnell, F. Fahy, N. Larkin and Cllr. J. Walsh.

**“Given the re-introduction of the Capital Sports Programme by central Government we call on the executive to engage with a GAA club from each Ward of the city to formalise an application to provide a hurling wall in each Ward of the city”**

In Favour: 11 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 11

It was agreed following discussion that applications would be restricted to lands owned by the City Council only.

Notice of Motion:

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons

Seconded by: Cllr T. O’Flaherty

**“I propose a filter lane could be included in Option 3B leading from Headford Road (outbound) to Coolagh Road”**

In Favour: 11 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 11

Notice of Motion:

Proposed by: Cllr. B. Cameron (in the absence of Cllr. M. Lohan who initially submitted the Motion)

Seconded by: Cllr M. Farrell

**“In light of the P.Q of December 6th 2016 and Minister Eoghan Murphy stating that social clauses are permissible in local authority contracts of procurement, this council will now examine progressing the policy”**

In Favour: 11 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 11

**6. QUESTIONS**

Q11/16 Notice given by: Cllr. M. Farrell

Date Received: 23rd November, 2016

I wish to request information, in tabular form, of the costs incurred by Galway City Council over the past 10 years (2005-2015) through the recovery and disposal of illegally dumped waste material in Galway City and the total amount/weight of waste recovered in this manner each year for 2005-2015

Reply issued.

Q12/16 Notice given by: Cllr. N. McNelis

Date Received: 5th December, 2016

Can an update be given on Galway Airport future plans. What are the costs to date for security of site. What income rents generated to date since ownership by City and County councils. Has there been any maintenance of runway in this time that would keep the standard of strip available for possible future landings of private aircraft, separate to flying school.

Reply issued.

**7. ITEMS FOR COUNCILLORS' INFORMATION**

Noted. Cllr. D. Lyons noted correspondence received in relation to Notice of Motion passed at the December Meeting and Mr. D. Mahon advised that the Motion was referred to two Departments for reply.

**8. CONFERENCES**

Attendance at conferences were proposed by Cllr. D. McDonnell and seconded by Cllr. P. Conneely and agreed by all present.

The following Councillor was nominated to attend this event:

Cllr. Mark Lohan

Title: Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness

Date: 10th to 12th February, 2016

Venue: Carlingford, Co. Louth.

**9. VOTES OF SYMPATHY/CONGRATULATIONS**

A discussion took place on the procedure for notify votes of sympathy / congratulations following recent vote of Sympathy noted in the December Minutes on the death of Fidel Castro and it was stated by Mayor Larkin and agreed by all present that in future, all votes of sympathy submitted at the Meeting would be read out and agreed and not noted in the Minutes without agreement. Cllr. M. Farrell stated she was advised that the procedure for submitting votes of sympathy was followed. A number of members noted that they wished to be disassociated with the vote of sympathy issued on the death of Fidel Castro.

Mayor Larkin then read out the names of those for whom votes of sympathy and congratulations were proposed:

Mr. Padraic Killilea (R.I.P.)

Mrs. Bridget Fox (R.I.P.)

Ms. Gene McGrath (R.I.P.)

Mr. Seamus Concannon (R.I.P.)

Mr. Sean McManamon (R.I.P.)

Mr. Jack Fitzpatrick (R.I.P.)

**10. OTHER BUSINESS SET FORTH IN THE NOTICE CONVENING THE MEETING**

None.

**11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

1. The Meeting ended at 10.45 pm