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

**Held on Monday 12th December, 2016,**

**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, M.J. 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.**

**Apologies: Cllr. C. Connolly**

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

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

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

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

**Ms. C. Phelan, A/Director of Services**

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

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

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

**Mr. J. Tansey, Senior Engineer**

**Ms. H. Coleman, Senior Executive Planner**

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

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

**Ms. H. Martyn, Administrative Officer**

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

1. Mayor Larkin welcomed Councillors to the Meeting and sought their agreement on Items to be considered at the December Meeting. Mayor Larkin informed the Meeting of his intention to conclude the Meeting at 7.30 pm. Following discussion it was agreed to take agenda Items 1 (c) and 1 (d) and to defer 1 (a) and 1 (b) to the January 2017 Meeting. It was also agreed to take Item 4 (a), 4 (b), 4 (c) and 4 (i).

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Lyons and seconded by Cllr. P. Conneely it was resolved to consider Item 2 (c) (2017 – 2019 Capital Programme) at the January 2017 Ordinary Meeting fixed for Monday 9th January 2017. This was agreed by all present.

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Lyons it was agreed to defer Item 4 (d) Quarterly Report and Item 5 Notices of Motion to a Special Meeting of Galway City Council scheduled for Monday 23rd January 2017. It was agreed to defer Items 4 (e), 4 (f), 4 (g), 4 (h) and 4 (j) until the Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council on the 9th January 2017.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Ó Conchúir, seconded by Cllr. M. Farrell, the Council agreed to extend a vote of sympathy to the family of Mr. Liam Gavin, Director of Services, Galway County Council RIP. On the proposal of Cllr. T. O’Flaherty, seconded by Cllr. D. McDonnell, the Council extended a vote of sympathy to Mr. G. McMahon A/ Senior Executive Officer on the recent passing of his uncle Mr. Anthony (Tony) Corcoran.

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

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

Deferred.

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

Deferred.

**(c) Minutes of Special Meeting of Galway City Council held on Tuesday 29th November 2016**

**Proposed:** Cllr. D. Lyons **Seconded:** Cllr. T. O’Flaherty

**Matters of Accuracy:** None

**Matters Arising:** None

The Minutes were adopted.

**(d) Minutes of Special Meeting of Galway City Council held on Thursday 1st December 2016**

**Proposed:** Cllr. M. Farrell **Seconded:** Cllr. D. Lyons

**Matters of Accuracy:**

Cllr. P. Flannery referred to remarks he made at the Meeting noted on Page 7 and wished to withdraw the remarks stating it was not his intention to cast any aspersion on other elected members.

Cllr. D. McDonnell referred to last paragraph on Page 4 under Material Alteration No. 11 and stated that the matter under discussion at the time was a planning issue. He contended that incorrect zoning information was provided to Members and that he would be proposing a variation to the City Development Plan in 2017.

**Matters Arising:**

Cllr. P. Conneely referred to Page 2 under Material Alteration No. 07 and stated that legal advice received by the Council was not received in writing but was rather a telephone transcript, a copy of which he had only received that day. He queried whether the Councillors or the Chief Executive would bring the variation to address the matter in 2017. Chief Executive Mr. McGrath referred to previous commitment given that the executive would initiate and bring forward the variation in 2017.

The Minutes were adopted.

2.BUSINESS PRESCRIBED BY STATUTE

**(a) Capital Assistance Scheme – Raising of a loan under Section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992 for the acquisition of housing units at 150 Tur Uisce, Doughiska, Galway, 90 Cluain Riocaird, Headford Road, Galway and 19 Sliabh Rioga, Rahoon, Galway**

Mr. T. Connell Director of Services referred to the Reports issued and noted the requirement onCouncillors to approve the raising of a loan under S. 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992 for the acquisition of housing units at: 150 Tur Uisce, Doughiska Galway, 90 Cluain Riocaird, Headford Road, Galway and 19 Sliabh Rioga, Rahoon, Galway. Mr. Connell referred to costs arising for same and noted that the unit at 19 Sliabh Rioga, Rahoon was a replacement for a unit previously approved for acquisition but subsequently not acquired by the voluntary housing body.

**Proposed:** **Cllr. D. Lyons Seconded: Cllr. D. McDonnell**

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

It was agreed to raise a loan for the acquisitions as set out.

**(b) S.183 Local Government Act 2001 – Granting of temporary leasehold on lands at Galway Airport at Carnmore, Co. Galway to Galway Flying Club**

Mayor Larkin referred to the Report and S.183 Notice issued to Councillors. A number of Councillors sought an update on the status of the Airport and the feasibility study undertaken in 2015 to determine future uses and viability of the overall site and facility. Councillors referred to the opportunity to develop airport facilities on site and stated that demand may exist for same. Cllr. N. McNelis referred to his Question submitted and on the Agenda seeking an update on the Airport and costs arising etc. Contributions were also received on the issue from Cllrs. P. Conneely, D. Lyons, M. Lohan, T. O’Flaherty, P. Keane, D. McDonnell and F. Fahy.

Members offered compliments to the Galway Flying Club and noted the excellence of the Club based at the Airport site. There was also a discussion on the merits of considering a S.183 given that Councillors had resolved to defer consideration of S.183’s generally, pending the approval of a policy on the disposal of lands. Chief Executive Mr. McGrath, in reply to requests for clarification, noted that this was a temporary licence and did not constitute a disposal of freehold interest in lands. Approval of the Notice would facilitate the Flying Club to extend its use of the facility for a further 12 month period, with a break clause. Councillors agreed that maintaining some form of aviation activity at the site was desirable but that the long-term feasibility needed to be considered in full. Cllr. D. McDonnell stated that his understanding of the adopted Motion relating to S.183 proposals would prevent all S.183’s from consideration, pending the adoption of a policy relating to sale of open space lands.

Mr. McGrath stated that the Motion was intended to cover freehold disposal of lands in open spaces and should not deter consideration of the notice before Council at this meeting. Mr. McGrath provided an update on issues under consideration for the long-term viability of the Airport and the site and noted that communication equipment on site was owned by a third party and no longer fit for purpose for higher use aviation activity. Mr. McGrath advised that he would revert on the issues raised by Cllr. McNelis in his Question (Q12/16) at the next earliest opportunity.

Following discussion, the S. 183 Notice was proposed by Cllr. F. Fahy and seconded by Cllr. P. Keane and approved unanimously by all 14 Councillors present.

**Proposed:** Cllr. F. Fahy **Seconded:** Cllr. P. Keane

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

The S.183 Notice was approved

**(c) 2017 – 2019 Capital Programme**

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Lyons and seconded by Cllr. P. Conneely it was resolved to consider Item 2 (c) (2017 – 2019 Capital Programme) at the January 2017 Ordinary Meeting fixed for Monday 9th January 2017. This was agreed by all present.

**3. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

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

Deferred to the January 2017 Council Meeting.

**4. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF OFFICIALS**

**(a) Galway Transportation Strategy (GTS)**

A comprehensive presentation was delivered by Mr. D. McDaid from ARUP Consulting and Mr. J. Molloy Senior Executive Engineer Galway City Council on the current status of the Galway Transportation Strategy (GTS).

The presentation and report provided Councillors with a summary of the GTS, its short, medium and long-term overall objectives. The report noted that the GTS was initially presented to Councillors in April 2016. Mr. McDaid noted the progress since that date and outlined the extensive level of consultation undertaken with the public and key stakeholders as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment process. It was noted that a Natura Impact Statement, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment had been completed for each of the measures proposed and that the recently adopted Galway City Development Plan 2017 – 2023 had incorporated the overall objectives of the GTS. The GTS contains a number of appendices including the SEA Statement and SEA Environmental Report in Appendix I, Natura Impact Statement in Appendix J and Strategic Flood Rick Assessment in Appendix K.

Mr. J. Molloy SEE provided a comprehensive overview of the short-term implementation plan and noted progress on a number of significant proposals and studies as part of overall delivery of the GTS. Mr. Molloy noted eight key elements of the short-term plan to delivered between 2017 and 2020 and each of these was set out for members in summary. The objectives of the Medium-term implementation plan were also outlined.

Mayor Larkin thanked both Mr. McDaid and Mr. Molloy for the detailed presentation and copies of the presentation were circulated to Councillors.

Comments, queries and requests for clarification on the presentation were received from Cllrs. F. Fahy, P. Conneely, C. Ó Conchúir, M. Farrell, M.J Crowe, D. Lyons, N. McNelis, D. McDonnell, T. O’Flaherty, M. Lohan, J. Walsh and M. Cubbard. A wide ranging discussion took place on the detail of the GTS and on issues relating to traffic management and mobility generally across the city. Queries included development proposals for additional infrastructure and services. A number of contributions noted the requirement to introduce one way systems on a pilot basis in the city to alleviate traffic jams at key junctions. Councillors noted a positive emphasis on public transport but stated that the needs of the private car driver must also be met and facilitated. The issue of schools transport was also discussed at length. The proposal to address safety concerns at the Salmon Weir bridge were outlined.

Mr. Molloy and Mr. U. Finn Senior Engineer replied to all queries raised and noted the process required to secure funding for key projects. It was noted that all the significant deliverables under the GTS would be brought back before the Councillors by way of Part VIII approval. Mr. McGrath Chief Executive in reply to queries on schools transport noted that it was not in the remit for Galway City Council to provide schools transport in the city. Mr. Finn noted that specific deliverables for 2017 would be included in the 2017 Annual Service Plan and work programme which would be presented to the Councillors at the January Meeting. He noted that the GTS represents a high level over-arching framework to guide implementation of solutions over the coming years.

A Motion was proposed by Cllr. MJ Crowe and seconded by Cllr. P. Keane “That this Council introduce one-way systems throughout Galway city as a means of solving the traffic gridlock and that such projects are introduced immediately on a pilot basis with a view to full implementation in March 2017”. Following discussion and clarification it was agreed by Cllr. MJ Crowe that the Motion be deferred for consideration at the January Meeting.

Chief Executive Mr. McGrath requested that Councillors consider a broad endorsement for the GTS at this stage and that the myriad of projects to be delivered would be outlined and discussed in further detail in 2017. Mr. McGrath noted that up to 22 projects would be listed for delivery in the 2017 work programme and presented at the January Meeting.

Clarifications sought on queries raised were provided by relevant staff. Mr. Finn also stated that he was available to meet with any Councillor to discuss the proposals for inclusion in the work programme. At the conclusion on the discussion Mayor Larkin sought a proposer to endorse the GTS.

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Lyons and seconded by Cllr. J. Walsh all 16 Councillors present resolved that:

**“This Council endorses the Galway Transport Strategy as the key integrated transport management plan to facilitate the economic growth and physical development of Galway City and Environs”.**

**(b) Galway City Ring Road (GCRR)**

Ms. E. McCarthy ARUP Consulting / GCRR Project Team delivered a comprehensive presentation on the status of the GGRR project and a copy of same was circulated to Councillors. Ms. McCarthy noted the progress since the emerging preferred route was determined and the design process underway since. It was noted that the proposed route comprises 16 km with four significant structures at River Corrib Bridge, Menlough Viaduct, Lackagh Tunnel and Galway Racecourse Tunnel at design stage. Ms, McCarthy advised Councillors that geotechnical investigations and Environmental Impact Assessments were completed / underway and land acquisitions drawings being prepared. Ms. McCarthy noted the main changes to the route since members were last notified, including inclusion of solid median barrier, 2.5m hard shoulder and urban motorway status for the four lane section of the route and protected road status for the two lane section of the route. The significant reduction in tunnel lengths to 240 m for Lackagh and 203 m for Racecourse were advised together with consequent significant reduction in costs anticipated from the shorter tunnel distances now required. Ms. McCarthy spoke at length on the technical aspect of the overall proposal and delivered a comprehensive overview of the current status of the project.

The potential impact of the river Corrib bridge crossing on views and vistas was noted together with an outline of the mitigation measures planned to deal with visual issues and sound proofing. Ms. McCarthy outlined the anticipated costs of the project at c. €590 m and advised of the costs to be included in this sum. The next steps in the process were outlined including peer review, stage 2 road safety audit, finalisation of design, further variation to the new City Development Plan due to design variations and minor impact on a small part of the protected route corridor, land acquisition mapping, EIS and finally, application to An Bord Pleanála (ABP).

Ms. McCarthy advised Councillors that she and staff from the project team would be available to discuss any issue related to the project with elected representatives or affected land owners at any stage and that nothing was yet finalised up until the scheme is finally published and submitted to ABP.

Comments, queries and requests for clarification on the presentation were received from Cllrs. F. Fahy, D. Lyons, T. O’Flaherty, P. Flannery, M. Cubbard, M. Lohan, P. Keane, C. Ó Conchúir, N. Larkinand M.J Crowe. Councillors noted the significance of the project for the City and County Galway and offered support for its completion. They also thanked Ms. McCarthy and her staff for their assistance over the past 18 months. Ms. McCarthy provided detailed replies to each of the queries raised. She noted the importance of the GTS and GCRR in providing a *holistic* solution to the critical infrastructural requirements of the City and complimented the members for their endorsement of the GTS which she stated was required in order to work in tandem with the GCRR.

The requirement for a variation of City Development Plan was outlined. In further replies, Ms. McCarthy stated that 41 homes would potentially be demolished to accommodate the project and outlined the engagement with affected land and home owners. She encouraged all affected parties to make a submission to ABP as part of the statutory consultation process and that those affected will be afforded an opportunity to have any issues addressed as part of any oral hearing to be conducted. Affected land and home owners would be notified by registered post once the submission was lodged and invited to formally participate in the process.

Ms. McCarthy stated that the submission would most likely be lodged in Quarter 2, 2017 with an Oral Hearing likely by the end of 2017. A decision by ABP might take up to 6 months and that decision might be expected by mid-2018. Subject to no legal or judicial challenges brought forward work might commence in 2021 and the road might then open in 2024. Full EIS and Natura Impact Statements will also be required. Mr. McGrath offered thanks to Ms. McCarthy and the project team in both City and County Councils and thanked the Councillors for their endorsement of the GTS and the work done to date on the City Development Plan.

He stated that the project was critical for the future economic and social development of the City and that many of the building blocks to ensure delivery of the road project are now either in place or are being put in place.

Mayor Larkin thanked Ms. McCarthy and the Project team members in attendance for the presentation and work to date.

**(c) Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP)**

Mayor Larkin referred to report issued to Councillors and invited comment on same. During a wide ranging discussion comments, queries and requests for clarification were sought from Cllrs. B. Cameron, D. Lyons, P. Flannery, M. Cubbard, P. Conneely, M. Farrell, N. McNelis, P. Keane, T. O’Flaherty, F. Fahy, MJ. Crowe and C. Ó Conchúir. Councillors stated dissatisfaction with the report issued dated 7th December as lacking in detail and not containing specifics on sites or maps.

Councillors noted the importance of delivering on the objectives set out in the TAP but criticised the level and extent of consultation to date and the notice now provided that temporary facilities are being proposed for lands at Ballymoneen Road and in Westside. Councillors acknowledged the issues now presenting at Cul Trá Halting Site and sought clarification on the status of the lease and interactions between the Council and the land owner.

A Motion was proposed by Cllr. P. Flannery and seconded by Cllr. T. O’Flaherty that “This Item 4 (c) be deferred to early January 2017 where a full and dedicated GCC Meeting be held to discuss same”.

Councillors stated the need to receive specific site information for the proposed temporary facilities. Cllr. N. McNelis referred to a meeting that day of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee and noted that while the proposals had been raised at the meeting more detailed consultation was required. It was noted by a number of members that the Chief Executive had powers under the legislation to act and requested his views on whether these powers would be invoked. It was noted that the TAP adopted by City Council included provision for hard stand facilities. Councillors discussed the suitability of halting sites as an accommodation option and discussed the merits of incorporating and integrating traveller specific accommodation into overall social housing provision generally. Queries on the fire safety issues identified at existing halting sites in the City and mitigation works undertaken to date were sought.

Mr. T. Connell replied to the queries raised and referred to the report dated 7th December and previous reports issued to Council. He advised Councillors that implementation of the TAP was a priority and needed to be advanced. He stated that the site capacity issue at Cul Trá could no longer be allowed to continue due to health and safety concerns noting that the site was grossly overcrowded to the extent that health and safety concerns necessitated the development of temporary facilities on other sites at Ballymoneen Road and in Westside. He also stated that it is proposed to advance plans for the development of lands owned by the Council in Oranmore as part of Phase 2 of TAP. He noted that the details and particulars of the plans would be brought to each Area Committee in January 2017, following in-house detailed assessment of the proposals.

Mr. Connell emphasised the urgent nature of the requirement to accommodate families from Cul Trá and to advance the objectives of the TAP together with addressing the temporary halting site at Carrowbrowne which no longer has the benefit of planning permission. In reply to queries, Mr. Connell outlined the consultation process undertaken to date and referred to previous reports issued noting the urgency of addressing with the health and safety concerns as a matter of priority. He stated that specific locations would be determined in early 2017.

At 7.30 pm an extension of time was proposed by Cllr. D. Lyons to deal with Item 4 (c) and 4 (i) only. This was agreed by all.

During the debate a number of Councillors expressed reservations about the proposals and stated that the areas named in the report would not be approved. A number of Councillors expressed views that they were not being treated with respect and suggested they are not being provided with the full information, noting the requirement for a full and open debate on the issue to ensure transparency. Cllr. MJ Crowe as Chair of LTACC, acknowledged the difficult issues that needed to be dealt with and advised that the elected members must also accept some responsibility for lack of action to date. A number of Councillors stated that they did and / or could not attend various meetings arranged at area level over the course of the year to discuss the issues.

Mr. Connell again referred to the significant issues presenting that had to be addressed and the requirement for temporary facilities as an emergency response. He stated that 3 sites on the Ballymoneen Road and one site at Westside would be considered by way of detailed assessment in the coming weeks and that consultation would take place with elected representatives and residents committees.

Chief Executive Mr. McGrath noting the Motion proposed for a Special Meeting, stated that the issues to be determined were very difficult and emotive. He suggested that all parties work together at area level, LTACC, Housing SPC and Council level and in consultation with relevant stakeholders including the Galway Traveller Movement. He advised Councillors that the Council was running out of options and a decision was urgently required. He advised Councillors that while emergency powers were available to him, he would only use same as a last resort, stating his preference that the matters be addressed in consultation and partnership with the elected representatives and stakeholders. Mr. McGrath stated that a date for a Special Meeting to further discuss the issues might be agreed at the January Meeting on the 9th January 2017.

Motion proposed by Cllr. P. Flannery and seconded by Cllr. T. O’Flaherty that:

**“This Item 4 (c) be deferred to early January 2017 where a full and dedicated GCC Meeting be held to discuss same”.**

In Favour: 15 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 15

The Motion was carried.

**(d) Quarterly Reports for Quarter Ending 30th September 2016**

(i) Transportation

(ii) Housing

(iii) Community, Culture & Economic Development

(iv) Environment

(v) Recreation & Amenity

Deferred.

**(e) Report on Shared Services**

Deferred.

**(f) Chief Executive’s Report for October 2016**

Deferred.

**(g) Chief Executive’s Report for November 2016**

Deferred.

**(h) Chief Executive’s Report for December 2016**

Deferred.

**(i) L.E Aishling Report**

Chief Executive Mr. McGrath referred to report issued to Councillors dated 18th November 2016 and to letter received from the Minister’s office dated 12th December 2016 advising that if the Council now wishes to proceed, it should contact the Department to purchase the vessel. Mr. McGrath referred to the Motion adopted in July 2016 and the process undertaken thereafter to engage an appropriate expert to undertake an assessment of the viability of using the ship as a museum in the city based on the recommendation of the Department. Mr. McGrath stated that as the report of the 18th November 2016, had not yet been considered by Council, no submission has been made to the Department. It was noted that the correspondence now received stated that the Department now intended to initiate the sale of ship and the Council could consider its acquisition in that context.

Cllr. P. Flannery referred to his Motion from July 2016 stating his view that the proposal had been met with obfuscation and claimed the report circulated was not a proper feasibility study. Cllr. Flannery stated that the Chief Executive had requested the wrong person to do the job and that that person didn’t have the necessary expertise to undertake the necessary feasibility study. Chief Executive Mr. McGrath outlined to members the costs that would be incurred in locating the ship in Galway together with ongoing maintenance etc and stated that no provision in the 2017 budget was made for same. Cllr. Flannery disputed the Chief Executive’s assertions and stated his belief that the venture would be viable and provide a valuable tourist asset for the city which would return a considerable income over time.

Mr. McGrath referred Cllr. Flannery to the statement made by the Minister, during a debate in Seanad Eireann and the request to engage a suitable expert Mariner to undertake the review and assess the cost implications. He also noted that the Galway Harbour Board had advised that it could not accommodate the vessel for at least six years until the expansion of facilities at the harbour. A number of Councillors queried the costs to be incurred and considered them to be excessive and noted they were not budgeted for.

Following further discussion, Cllr. Flannery proposed that the Council write back to the Minister requesting that the ship be donated to the city or seek an arrangement whereby costs could me met over a number of years and the boat retained in Cork until facilities become available in Galway. A number of Councillors expressed some concerns about the overall viability of the proposition considering the Department had now indicated their intention to dispose of the vessel but supported the motion to write to the Department seeking its donation to the city.

Mr. McGrath stated that a letter would issue to the Department the following day to request the donation of the LE Aisling to the City.

Cllr. P. Conneely sought an update on the twinning proposal for the LE William Butler Yeats as previously agreed. Mr. McGrath advised that no notification had been received to date in relation to a date for the formal twinning ceremony.

Cllr. P. Conneely queried the status of the Naomh Eanna and proposed a Motion, seconded by Cllr. B. Cameron that “Galway City Council investigate the return of the Naomh Eanna to Galway”. Mr. McGrath advised that a number of discussions had taken place with the promoters of the concept but issues relating to ownership of the vessel, berthage, financial viability, among other considerations required to be resolved.

**(j) Procurement Update**

Deferred to January, 2017 City Council Meeting.

**5. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

The following Motions were submitted to the Mayor but not considered. It was agreed that Motions would be included for consideration at the Special Meeting on the 23rd January 2017.

Motion Proposed by: Cllr. B. Cameron and seconded by Cllrs, M. Cubbard, D. Lyons, C. Ó Conchúir, M. Lohan, T. O’ Flaherty, M. Farrell, P. Keane and N. Larkin.

**“That this Council calls on the Government to refund all those who paid Irish Water, with immediate effect”**

An Amendment to the Motion was proposed by Cllr. P. Conneely and seconded by Cllr. J. Walsh

**“That Galway City Council await the outcome of the Expert Report on Water”.**

Motion proposed: Cllr. P. Flanneryand seconded by Cllrs. D. Lyons, J. Walsh, D. McDonnell, M. Cubbard, P. Conneely, B. Cameron, N. Larkin, T. O’Flaherty and N. McNelis. (NoM 24 /16)

“That the Galway City Council executive write to Dr.Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland and request the he formally invite His Holiness Pope Francis to visit Galway during his proposed visit to Ireland in 2018 and celebrate mass in a similar fashion to his predecessor John Paul 2nd in 1979”.

The following Motions were not considered and deferred.

NOM 03/16 Notice given by: Cllr. N. McNelis

Date Received: 30th March, 2016

“For the benefit of retailers in the city centre and for shoppers and visitors all pedestrian areas of the city centre are vehicle free from an earlier start of 9.00 am during the months of June, July and August”.

NOM 09/16 Notice given by: Cllr. C. Connolly

Date Received: 11th April, 2016

“That GCC requests that the Government provide adequate funding to provide special housing units for victims of domestic violence”.

NOM 12/16 Notice given by: Cllr. C. Connolly

Date Received: 3rd May, 2016.

“That Galway City Council Transportation SPC calls on the Government to introduce a free school transport service for all children attending city schools.

NOM 16/16 Notice given by: Cllr. C. Ó Conchúir

Date Received: 24th August, 2016.

“That this Council ask Sean Kyne T.D. and the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to intervene in the ongoing dispute at Ros a Mhil Harbour between local fisherman and the harbour authorities”.

NOM 17/16 Notice given by: Cllr. D. Lyons

Date Received: 5th September 2016.

“Galway City Council calls on the Minister of Health to amend the Public Health (Tobacco) Act 2002 and introduce additional legislation/regulations which would regulate the use of e-cigarettes similar to those which already apply to tobacco related activity”

NOM 18/16 Notice given by: Cllr. D. Lyons

Date Received: 5th September 2016.

“Galway City Council calls on the Industrial Development Authority and other state agencies to bring forward plans for the development of the industrial zoned lands on the west of Galway City.”

NOM 23/16 Notice given by: Cllr. B. Cameron

Date Received: 3rd October, 2016

“I call on the Chief Executive to earmark and designate the 1.4 acre site in the Westside as a Cultural and Artistic hub to cater for a mix of organisations specialising with Children and youth”.

NOM 24/16 Notice given by: Cllr. P. Flannery

Date Received: 2nd November, 2016

“That the Galway City Council executive write to Dr Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland and request the he formally invite His Holiness Pope Francis to visit Galway during his proposed visit to Ireland in 2018 and celebrate mass in a similar fashion to his predecessor John Paul 2nd in 1979”.

NOM 25/16 Notice given by: Cllr. O. Crowe

Date Received: 8th November, 2016

“That Galway city council calls on the current government to reverse their decision for staffless libraries with immediate effect”

NOM 26/16 Notice given by: Cllr. N. McNelis

Date Received: 5th December, 2016

“That Galway City Council introduce weight restrictions on vehicles that enter pedestrian areas of the city centre”.

NOM 27/16 Notice given by: Cllr. N. McNelis

Date Received: 5th December, 2016

“That an audit of housing for the elderly owned by Galway City Council take place, with regard to best practice in EU to heating and weather glazed windows”.

**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

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.

**7. ITEMS FOR COUNCILLORS' INFORMATION**

None.

**8. CONFERENCES**

Conferences were proposed by Cllr. D. Lyons and seconded by Cllr. F. Fahy and approved.

(a) Title: 2 Day Microsoft Excel Intermediate Training for Councillors

Date: 17th and 18th December, 2016

Venue: Clonakilty, Co. Cork

(b) Title: The Finance Act 2016

Date: 13th to 15th January, 2017

Venue: Carlingford, Co. Louth.

**9. VOTES OF SYMPATHY/CONGRATULATIONS**

**Sympathy**

President Fidel Castro of Cuba (R.I.P.)

Chara Conense – FC (Players and Journalists)(R.I.P.)

Mrs. Sally Gallagher (R.I.P.)

**Congratulations**

Gabriel Dossen and Olympic Boxing Club

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

None.

**11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Arrangements for civic events over the Christmas period were noted and the Chief Executive advised that further details were contained in the December Chief Executive’s Report

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**The Meeting ended at 8.40 pm**