

**Minutes of Special Meeting of Galway City Council
held on Monday 4th July, 2022, at 10.00 a.m. in the Hardiman Hotel,
Eyre Square, Galway and online via zoom platform.**

**Consideration of the Draft Development Plan 2023-2029 and the Chief
Executive's Report on the Draft Development Plan Consultation Process
Meeting No. 1.**

Presiding:	Cllr. C. Higgins, Mayor of the City of Galway
Present:	Councillors: A. Cheevers; C. Connolly; J. Connolly; M.J. Crowe; O. Hanley; E. Hoare; P. Keane; D. McDonnell; N. McNelis; N. Murphy & T. O'Flaherty
Present Virtually:	Councillors: M. Cubbard; F. Fahy; N. Larkin; D. Lyons & M. O'Connor
Apologies:	Cllr. I. Byrne
In Attendance:	Ms. R. McNally, Director of Services Mr. B. Barrett, A/Director of Services Ms. C. Phelan, Senior Planner Ms. H. Coleman, Senior Executive Planner Ms. M. Harrington, Executive Planner Ms. K. Moloney, A/Executive Planner Ms. M. Kilgarriff, Assistant Staff Officer Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator Ms. S. King, Assistant Staff Officer
In Attendance Virtually:	Mr. B. McGrath, Chief Executive Mr. P. Philbin, Director of Services Mr. P. Greene, Director of Services Ms. S. Connolly, Senior Engineer Ms. N. Keane, Senior Staff Officer Ms. S. Watson, Senior Staff Officer Ms. T. Donohue, Senior Staff Officer

Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator commenced the meeting with a statement of intention to conduct the business of the Meeting in line with Standing Orders followed by a moment of silent reflection.

A detailed presentation was then made with regards to Councillor's statutory obligations concerning;

- Ethics Framework
 - o Ethical Framework for the Local Government Service
 - o Code of Conduct for Councillors advising chapters on Conflict of Personal and Public Interest and Planning
- Disclosure at Meetings
- Disclosure in Advance of Meetings
- Planning Legislation

Councillors were advised that this presentation would be made to them at the commencement of each meeting.

The Meetings Administrator read the Code of Conduct and Regulation of Lobbying information into the record of the Meeting: Extract from Code of Conduct for Councillors under the Local Government Act 2001: Key decisions on planning matters such as the making of development plans are vested in the elected council as representatives of the local community acting in the interests of the common good and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. The planning system is a very open one allowing for input by all parties. It is all the more important therefore that consideration of planning matter by Councillors is carried out in a transparent fashion; follows due process; and is based on what is relevant while ignoring that which is irrelevant within the requirements of the statutory planning framework. The same applies as regards input by individual Councillors in relation to planning applications, decisions on which vest in the executive. Extra care must therefore be observed in dealing with planning matters and in this context the provisions of this Code particularly as regards conflict of personal and public interest are very relevant.

Extract from Regulation of Lobbying; Guidelines on lobbying in relation to development and zoning of land from the Standards in Public Office Commission: When communicating with public officials or representatives regarding the zoning or development of land, individuals and groups who may not ordinarily regard themselves as carrying on lobbying activities, may find that the Act also applies to them. These guidelines deal specifically with lobbying in relation to zoning and development. When drawing up development plans or local area plans, local authorities engage in a formal consultation process. This means that the public may make a submission to the local authority setting out their views on the proposed plan. Making views known to a local authority as part of a formal public consultation process is not lobbying. Communication, however with a Designated Public Official outside the formal public consultation process about a development plan or local area plan or a proposal to zone or re-zone particular lands may be lobbying. For example contacting a local TD or County Councillor about a development plan or a proposal to zone or re-zone particular lands outside the formal public consultation process or a proposal to zone or re-zone particular lands outside the formal public consultation process.

Councillors were advised that they are individually responsible for being compliant and that it is an offence if you fail to comply with some sections of the Ethical Framework. The definition of a 'connected person' under Part 15 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as revised was advised to Council.

Mayor C. Higgins welcomed all and outlined proceedings in relation to the Consideration of the Draft Development Plan 2023-2029 and the Chief Executive's Report on the Draft Development Plan Consultation Process, in accordance with Section 12 (6) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended).

Councillors discussed the tentative schedule of meeting dates and the indicative chapter sequence for consideration.

Cllr. P. Keane proposed that the meeting scheduled for Friday 8th July conclude at 5pm instead of 7pm. This was seconded by Cllr. E. Hoare. Following discussion on the matter, the Motion was withdrawn.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons

Seconded by: Cllr. F. Fahy

To continue with the agenda as laid out.

The following amendment was proposed and was considered first.

Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator proceed to take a Roll Call Vote as follows:

Proposed by: Cllr. N. Murphy **Seconded by:** Cllr. C. Connolly

To consider Chapters 4: Sustainable Mobility and Transportation and Chapter 7: Community and Culture on Friday 8th July and consider Chapter 5: Natural Heritage, Recreation and Amenity on Wednesday 6th July.

In favour: Cllr. C. Connolly, Cllr. N. Murphy, Cllr. M. O' Connor

Against: Cllr. A. Cheevers, Cllr. J. Connolly, M.J. Crowe, M. Cubbard, Cllr. F. Fahy, Cllr. O. Hanley, Cllr. C. Higgins, Cllr. E. Hoare, Cllr. P. Keane, Cllr. N. Larkin, Cllr. D. Lyons, Cllr. D. McDonnell, Cllr. N. McNelis & Cllr. T. O'Flaherty

In Favour: 3 Against: 14 Abstain: 0 Present: 17

The Amendment Motion failed.

As the amendment failed, the original Motion was then considered. The Meetings Administrator requested Councillors to indicate if they are 'In Favour' regarding the original motion by raising their hand.

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

To continue with the agenda, as agreed.

This was agreed by Councillors present with no member not in agreement.

Ms. H. Coleman, Senior Executive Planner gave a short presentation outlining the process and the context for the meetings.

Councillors were invited to submit any proposed Motions in advance of meetings, where possible, so that consideration and a response could be provided to same.

The Meetings Administrator advised that in each case where an Amendment is proposed, the Amendment is considered in the first instance and if carried no vote is taken on the Chief Executive's Recommendation. Where the Amendment is defeated, the first Motion proposed becomes the substantive Motion and that is then considered.

This was noted by Council.

Chapter 2: Climate Action

Mayor C. Higgins referred to Chapter 2 Climate Action and invited queries. None were raised. She referred Councillors to the Chief Executive's six Recommendations.

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

To accept Chief Executive's recommendation as follows:

Delete text with ~~striketrough~~ and insert text in italics:

Amend Draft Plan to ensure consistency with targets set out in the Climate Action Plan 2021.

- Amend Section 2.2 Climate Change International and European Context, National Context and Legislation para. 1.

It follows through on Ireland's increasingly ambitious commitments in the area of climate action, which were included for in the Programme for Government and the 2019 Climate Action Plan. **annual Climate Action Plan.**

- Amend Section 2.2 Climate Change International and European Context, National Context and Legislation para. 3

~~The Climate Action Plan prepared in 2019 under legislation is now required to be updated annually. The plan is required to set a roadmap of sector specific actions to comply with the carbon budget programme and sectoral emission ceilings and other actions necessary to support government policy on climate change. It currently includes for over 180 actions across a range of sectors including electricity, enterprise, built environment, transport, agriculture, forestry and land use, and waste and the circular economy. The plan also acknowledges the need for a just transition and the need to build climate resilience in all communities.~~

The Climate Action Plan (CAP), first prepared in 2019 sets out a roadmap to deliver a 51% reduction in Ireland's overall greenhouse gas emissions from 2021 to 2030, and to achieving net-zero emissions no later than 2050. Under legislation the Climate Action Plan is required to be updated annually to accommodate new and emerging technologies, changing scientific consensus and evolving government climate action policy. The CAP must also comply with the carbon budget programme and sectoral emission ceilings and other actions necessary to support government policy on climate change. The CAP also acknowledges the need for a just transition and the need to build climate resilience in all communities.

- Amend Section 2.2 Climate Change International and European Context, National Context and Legislation para. 11

~~The transition to a Circular Economy is an action under the Climate Action Plan 2019 that will form part of Ireland's transition to a climate resilient economy.~~

- Amend Section 2.2 Climate Change International and European Context, Local Context – Galway City, para. 10

~~It is anticipated with this prescribed timeline that the City Council will commence preparation of the Local Climate Action Plan before the end of 2022.~~

- Amend Policy 2.2.1

~~The Climate Action Plan (2019) and any updated plan;~~

The annual Climate Action Plan

- Amend Policy 3.1.24

~~Ensure delivery of housing contributes to meeting the objectives for emission targets in line with national legislation and imminent National Climate Action Plan.~~

This was agreed and approved by Council.

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

To accept Chief Executive's recommendation as follows:

Addition of Policy 2.2.17 Climate Action: Support the Third level sector to become centres for Climate Mitigation and Learning

This was agreed and approved by Council.

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

To accept Chief Executive's recommendation as follows:

Amend Policy 2.2.5 Climate Action [OPR]

Prepare and make a five year Local Authority Climate Action Plan in accordance with the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Amendment Act 2021 and future supporting guidelines. ~~and consequently~~ *Review the development plan to ensure alignment consistency with the Local Authority Climate Action Plan and future climate action policy and guidance and if required bring forward a variation of the plan.*

This was agreed and approved by Council.

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

To accept Chief Executive's recommendation as follows:

Amend text in Section 2.3 Planning & Sustainability – Achieving Sustainable Planning Outcomes, Renewable Energy (Mitigation) paragraph. 2 to delete ~~striketrough~~ text and add text in italics

Potential also exists for ~~examining~~ *to examine low carbon district heating, waste heating recovery and utilisation* opportunities within the city particularly in newly designated areas such as Ardaun and in some of the regeneration sites.

This was agreed and approved by Council.

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

To accept Chief Executive's recommendation as follows:

Amend Policy 2.3.4 Climate Action to add text in italics

Promote small scale, on-site energy development, where energy generated is primarily required to meet the needs of households, communities and businesses to reduce their carbon emissions.

Examples could include micro wind/solar energy generation, *low carbon* district heating, *waste heating recovery and utilisation*, geothermal and air to water energy technologies.

This was agreed and approved by Council.

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

To accept Chief Executive's recommendation as follows:

Amend Section 11.30 Climate - Scheme Sustainability Statements in paragraph 2 and insert text in italics.

All planning applications involving developments of 25 or more homes or over 500sqm of gross retail, commercial/office development in urban areas; or enterprise and employment developments over 1,000m² gross *and other projects, as deemed appropriate* should be accompanied by a Scheme Sustainability Statement

This was agreed and approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. E. Hoare **Seconded by:** Cllr. D. McDonnell

To accept the text of Chapter 2 – Climate Action and to accept the Chief Executive’s Response in relation to submissions:

2.1 - Context - Submissions: GLWC-C2-59 John Brennan; GLWC-C2-80 Conor Dowd; GLWC-C2-148 Galway City Community Network; GLWC-C2-228 Galway Environmental Network; GLWC-C2-227 Brendan Mulligan; ; GLWC-C2-228 Galway Environmental Network; GLWC-C2-230 Dept. Housing, Local Government and Heritage; GLWC-C2-230 Dept. Housing, Local Government and Heritage; GLWC-C2-179 Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications

2.2 - Climate Change International and European Context - Submissions: GLWC-C2-11 Rethink Consumption; GLWC-C2-80 Conor Dowd; GLWC-C2-228 Galway Environmental Network; GLWC-C2-156 Lidl Ireland GMBH; GLWC-C2-148 Galway City Community Network; GLWC-C2-132 NUI Galway

2.3 - Planning & Sustainability - Achieving Sustainable Planning Outcomes - Submissions: GLWC-C2-11 Rethink Consumption; GLWC-C2-148 Galway City Community Network; GLWC-C2-228 Galway Environmental Network; GLWC-C2-230 Dept. Housing, Local Government and Heritage; GLWC-C2-11 Rethink Consumption; GLWC-C2-199 Shauna Spillane; GLWC-C2-228 Galway Environmental Network; GLWC-C2-211 SSE plc; GLWC-C2-118 Ibec; GLWC-C2-179 Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications

2.4 - Integrating Climate Action into the City Development Plan - Submissions: GLWC-C2-199 Shauna Spillane; GLWC-C2-228 Galway Environmental Network; GLWC-C2-189 Galway National Park City initiative

This was agreed and approved by Council.

Following discussion, Ms. H. Coleman and Ms. C. Phelan clarified that Climate Action Plan guidelines have not been published yet. The Chief Executive advised that they are expected in January 2023.

It was proposed by Cllr. T. O’Flaherty and seconded by Cllr. D. McDonnell to take a break at 11.15am for 15 minutes. The meeting resumed at 11.30am.

Chapter 9: Environment & Infrastructure

Mayor C. Higgins referred to Chapter 9: Environment & Infrastructure and invited queries.

Councillors raised queries to which Ms. H. Coleman, Senior Executive Planner; C. Phelan, Senior Planner and the Chief Executive responded to.

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

To accept Chief Executive’s recommendation as follows:

Delete text with ~~striketrough~~ and insert text in *italics*.

Amend Policy 9.1 Flood Risk No.3 – insert text in italics and delete text with ~~striketrough~~ as follows:

(3) Ensure the recommendations of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029 are taken into consideration in the assessment of developments in identified areas of flood risk. ~~And~~ Require site specific Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and associated design and construction measures ***appropriate to the scale and nature of the development and the risks arising, in all areas of identified flood risk where appropriate including on sites where ~~a~~ only a small proportion of the site is at risk of flooding and adopt a sequential approach in accordance with the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009).***

This was approved by Council. It was noted that Cllr. M.J. Crowe advised he was against same.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. McDonnell **Seconded by:** Cllr. T. O’Flaherty

To accept Chief Executive’s recommendation as follows:

Delete text with ~~striketrough~~ and insert text in *italics*.

Amend Policy 9.3 Water Services – insert additional policy points in italics as follows:

(8) Support the development and implementation of Drinking Water Safety Plans by Irish Water, which seek to protect human health by identifying, assessing and managing risks to water quality and quantity; taking a holistic approach from source to tap.

(9) Support the promotion of effective management of trade discharges to sewers by Irish Water in order to maximise the capacity of existing sewer networks and minimise detrimental impacts on sewage treatment works.

This was agreed and approved by Council.

Councillors raised queries regarding the proposed amendment to amend text in Section 9.9 Light Pollution, to which Ms. H. Coleman, Senior Executive Planner and C. Phelan, Senior Planner responded to.

Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator proceed to take a Roll Call Vote as follows:

Proposed by: Cllr. C. Connolly **Seconded by:** Cllr. N. Murphy

To accept Chief Executive’s recommendation to amend text in Section 9.9 Light Pollution, second paragraph – insert text in italics as follows:

In assessment of development proposals the Council will have regard to the Guidance Note GN01/21 The Reduction of Obtrusive Light – Institute of Light Professionals (2021); *EUROBATS Series No. 8 publication, Guidelines for consideration of bats in lighting projects (2018) and Dark Sky Ireland Lighting Recommendations (2019) in relevant areas.*

In favour: Cllr. C. Connolly, Cllr. O. Hanley, Cllr. N. Murphy & Cllr. M. O’ Connor

Against: Cllr. A. Cheevers, Cllr. J. Connolly, Cllr. M.J. Crowe, Cllr. M. Cubbard, Cllr. C. Higgins, Cllr. E. Hoare, Cllr. P. Keane, Cllr. N. Larkin, Cllr. D. Lyons, Cllr. D. McDonnell, Cllr. N. McNelis & Cllr. T. O’Flaherty.

In Favour: 4 **Against:** 12 **Abstain:** 0 **Present:** 16

The Motion failed and the Chief Executive’s Recommendation was rejected.

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

To accept Chief Executive’s recommendation to amend Section 9.13 Energy and Associated Infrastructure – Renewable Energy to include text outlined in italics as follows:

The RSES identifies the huge potential for off-shore wind energy as a considerable resource to be explored and the need for adequate provision of land based infrastructure and services. In particular, the Port of Galway is ideally placed to support the offshore renewable energy sector. This would complement their current role in supporting special project related imports including infrastructure for windfarms in the region. *The Council will also facilitate the development of emerging energy technologies such as green hydrogen and the development of a green hydrogen hub at Galway Port, subject to compliance with relevant planning considerations.*

This was agreed and approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. C. Connolly **Seconded by:** Cllr. D. McDonnell

To accept Chief Executive’s recommendation to amend Policy 9.10 Energy and Associated infrastructure to include an additional policy point – text inserted in italics as follows:

(4) Promote the use of efficient energy storage systems and infrastructure that support energy efficiency and reusable energy system optimisation, subject to compliance with proper planning and environmental considerations.

This was agreed and approved by Council.

Councillors discussed proposed amendment to the Chief Executive’s Recommendation and the ambitious targets proposed.

Cllr. C. Connolly proposed to remove the words ‘through electrification’ and this was seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons, who subsequently withdrew his seconding of same.

Proposed by: Cllr. N. McNelis **Seconded by:** Cllr. O. Hanley

Cllr. N. Murphy proposed the inclusion for the word ‘production’ after ‘This will reduce greenhouse gas emissions generated by electricity ...’ and it was agreed by Cllrs. McNelis and Hanley to include same.

To amend the Chief Executive’s recommendation to amend Section 9.13 Energy and Associated Infrastructure- Renewable Energy to include text in italics and delete text with ~~strikethrough~~ as follows:

Ireland is committed to generating ~~70%~~ ***80%*** of its electricity requirements from renewable energy by 2030 ***(Climate Action Plan 2021). This will reduce greenhouse gas emissions generated by electricity production and facilitate the reduction of emissions in other sectors such as transport and heating through electrification.*** In order to meet the increased demand for renewable electricity the government through the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS) is committed to increasing capacity across a number of sectors by 2030 including offshore wind and renewable energy, onshore wind and solar.

This was agreed and approved by Council.

Mayor C. Higgins referred Councillors to a recommended amendment referenced in this Section that applies to other draft plan chapters.

Proposed by: Cllr. C. Connolly **Seconded by:** Cllr. O. Hanley

To accept the Chief Executive’s Recommendation to amend Section 11.9 Commercial and Industry 11.9.1 General – insert text in italics as follows:

Infrastructural requirements with respect to water will require evidence to be provided by the developer of consultation with Irish Water prior to applying for planning permission to ensure that adequate water services will be available to service the development and that existing water services will not be negatively impacted.

This was agreed and approved by Council.

Individual Councillors discussed the proposed amendment suggesting that it would make the planning process more efficient and querying if it was mandatory for evidence of water services available for all planning applications. Ms. C. Phelan responded to queries raised advising it was not a planning application validation issue.

Mayor C. Higgins referred Councillors to a motion submitted by Cllr. E. Hoare for consideration:

Proposed by: Cllr. E. Hoare **Seconded by:** Cllr. O. Hanley

To remove the word ‘significant’ from Policy 9.3 (4) Water Services in the Draft City Development Plan 2023 – 2029.

Encourage all significant water users to use best practices in water conservation and continue to promote water conservation measures in the design of all new development in the city, such as rainwater harvesting and re-use of grey water, in liaison with Irish Water.

This was agreed and approved by Council.

It was agreed by Council to defer the consideration of the remaining Chief Executive’s recommendations in relation to Chapter 9: Environment and Infrastructure regarding the Office of the Planning Regulator’s submissions to a later meeting.

Proposed by: Cllr. C. Higgins **Seconded by:** Cllr. M.J. Crowe

To accept the text of Chapter 9 – Environment & Infrastructure and to accept the Chief Executive’s Response in relation to submissions:

9.2 - Flood Risk Assessment - Submissions: GLWC-C2-42 OPW; GLWC-C2-42 OPW; GLWC-C2-230 Dept. Housing, Local Government and Heritage; GLWC-C2-230 Dept. Housing, Local Government and Heritage; GLWC-C2-27 Grainne Faller.

9.3 - Water Quality - Submissions: GLWC-C2-27 Grainne Faller; GLWC-C2-209 Lenny Antonelli; GLWC-C2-106 Michelle Carey; GLWC-C2-189 Galway National Park City initiative; GLWC-C2-187 Brendan Smith.

9.4 - Water Services - Submissions: GLWC-C2-102 Irish Water; GLWC-C2-190 An Taisce - Galway Planning Committee; GLWC-C2-227 Brendan Mulligan; GLWC-C2-148 Galway City Community Network; GLWC-C2-227 Brendan Mulligan; GLWC-C2-80 Conor Dowd; GLWC-C2-127 Roselyn Carroll; GLWC-C2-118 Ibec; GLWC-C2-152 Gabriel McGoldrick; GLWC-C2-162 HSE; GLWC-C2-27 Grainne Faller

9.5 - Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) - Submissions: GLWC-C2-42 OPW

9.7 - Air Quality - Submissions: GLWC-C2-27 Grainne Faller; GLWC-C2-209 Lenny Antonelli; GLWC-C2-187 Brendan Smith; GLWC-C2-127 Roselyn Carroll; GLWC-C2-189 Galway National Park City initiative
GLWC-C2-187 Brendan Smith; GLWC-C2-148 Galway City Community Network; GLWC-C2-106 Michelle Carey; GLWC-C2-182 Reform, Central Policy and Communications Division - Dept. of Transport

9.8 – Noise - Submissions: GLWC-C2-148 Galway City Community Network; GLWC-C2-150 Angela Casey; GLWC-C2-127 Roselyn Carroll

9.9 - Light Pollution - Submissions: GLWC-C2-230 Dept. Housing, Local Government and Heritage; GLWC-C2-229 Friends of Merlin Woods

9.10 - Waste Management - Submissions: GLWC-C2-27 Grainne Faller; GLWC-C2-171 Roselyn Carroll; GLWC-C2-150 Angela Casey; GLWC-C2-179 Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications; GLWC-C2-118 Ibec

9.11 – Telecommunications - Submission: GLWC-C2-118 Ibec;

9.12 - A Smart City - Submission: GLWC-C2-118 Ibec

9.13 - Energy and Associated Infrastructure - Submissions: GLWC-C2-38 Transport Infrastructure Ireland; GLWC-C2-123 Owen Hanley; GLWC-C2-211 SSE plc; GLWC-C2-119 Electricity Supply Board; GLWC-C2-179 Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications; GLWC-C2-187 Brendan Smith; GLWC-C2-188 Siobhan Fitzgerald

This was agreed and approved by Council.

It was proposed by Cllr. D. McDonnell and seconded by Cllr. A. Cheevers that a one hour break be taken for lunch at 1pm for this meeting and future meetings, and not one hour and 30 minutes as was previously agreed. This was agreed by Council. The meeting resumed at 14.03pm.

Chapter 6: Economy, Enterprise and Retail

Mayor C. Higgins referred to Chapter 6: Economy, Enterprise and Retail and invited queries. None were raised.

Proposed by: Cllr. M.J. Crowe **Seconded by:** Cllr. N. McNelis

Cllr. O. Hanley proposed to include the wording 'and indoor', this was seconded by Cllr. A. Cheevers. Cllrs. Crowe and McNelis agreed to include this wording.

To amend the Chief Executive's Recommendation as follows to include the text in italics:

Amend last paragraph in Section 6.3.10 Creative Economy and Gastronomy Sectors and insert text in italics:

The Plan through policies and objectives support the development of this sector and encourage further development of the expanding food and beverage sector onto regeneration sites and accommodation of *new outdoor and indoor* markets and dining *and enhancement of existing* markets through improvements and facilitating investment in the public realm.

This was agreed and approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. N. McNelis **Seconded by:** Cllr. C. Connolly

To accept the Chief Executive's Recommendation as follows:

Amend Policy 6.5 Enterprise and Innovation to include new policy 3 (b) and insert text in italics *3(b) Support for the provision of social enterprise incubation infrastructure required for growing and strengthening social enterprise.*

This was agreed and approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. N. McNelis **Seconded by:** Cllr. T. O'Flaherty

To accept the Chief Executive's Recommendation as follows:

Amend Section 6.1 Context seventh paragraph and insert text in italics

Overall it is not possible to predict how the new and evolving hybrid work models and increased digitisation will impact on commuting patterns or demand for workspaces. This reflects the complexity of such changes which range from complete or partial remote working, off site digital hub arrangements, digital nomad work and other flexible preferences. *The National Remote Working Strategy acknowledges that remote working is expected to continue with a majority of employees*

wishing to adopt a hybrid model. This will provide for increased flexibility for work arrangements and facilitates for a reduction in commuting distances and times. The Strategy supports the development of remote working hub infrastructure. Remote working hubs will offer the potential to access quality office facilities and technology, meeting spaces. As the landscape of work changes so will the implications on spatial planning. This plan needs to support the evolving arrangements and use the monitoring structure over the period of the plan to gauge the need for flexibility to respond to these shifting trends and capitalise on potential opportunities for delivering both economic and sustainable benefits.

This was agreed and approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons **Seconded by:** Cllr. N. McNelis

To accept the Chief Executive's Recommendation as follows:

Amend first paragraph of Section 6.3(8) Tourism Sector to delete ~~struckthrough~~ and add text in italics Galway City and County accounted for 59% of the tourist visits in 2019 for the North-West region and benefits greatly both economically and from the added vitality it brings. Prior to the year impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic Galway City and County **welcomed 2.7m tourist trips in 2019 (1.7m overseas and 1 million domestic trips) according to Fáilte Ireland's Survey of Overseas Travellers and the CSO's published figures on domestic travel.** hosted up to 1.7m international tourists and 1 million domestic tourists per year as recorded by Tourism Ireland.

This was agreed and approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. McDonnell **Seconded by:** Cllr. E. Hoare

To accept the Chief Executive's Recommendation as follows:

Amend fifth paragraph in Section 6.3.8 Tourism Sector and insert text in italics Funding under the **Destination Town Scheme, Platforms for Growth and Shared Water Facilities Scheme** funding streams will further explore the potential of these areas as blueways that can support facilities for tourist activities.

This was agreed and approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. N. McNelis **Seconded by:** Cllr. D. Lyons

To accept the Chief Executive's Recommendation as follows:

Amend Policy 6.8 Tourism Sector and insert text in italics for new policy 6.8 (7) **Support the preparation and implementation of the forthcoming Regional Tourism Strategies and the continued collaboration with Fáilte Ireland and tourism stakeholders to ensure successful implementation and delivery of these tourism plans.**

This was agreed and approved by Council.

Ms. C. Phelan, Senior Planner responded to queries raised on the Recommendation below.

Proposed by: Cllr. N. McNelis **Seconded by:** Cllr. D. McDonnell

To accept the Chief Executive's Recommendation as follows:

Amend Policy 6.8(8) Tourism Sector and insert text in italics for new policy 6.8(8)

Support the promotion of Business Tourism to actively develop Galway as an events location with the appropriate infrastructure to attract international conferences, sporting, cultural and commercial events.

This was agreed and approved by Council.

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

To accept the Chief Executive's Recommendation as follows:

Amend Policy 6.8 Tourism Sector and insert text in italics for new policy 6.8(9)

(9) Encourage and support investment in digital technology in the tourism sector, with a particular focus on sectors such as visitor attractions and activities with low digital presence and/or integration.

This was agreed and approved by Council.

Ms. C. Phelan, Senior Planner and Mr. B. Barrett, A/Director of Services responded to queries regarding the Chief Executive's Recommendation below and the definition of outdoor living.

Cllr. N. McNelis proposed to accept the Chief Executive's Recommendation regarding the amendment of Policy 6.12(4) Retail Hierarchy. This was seconded by Cllr. E. Hoare.

Amend Policy 6.12(4) Retail Hierarchy and insert text in italics

Support the development of a vibrant, inclusive, ***evening and*** night-time culture and economy through sustainable measures and promote the need for associated transport supports, measures to secure a safe environment, and for diversity in entertainment and creative offerings. ***This may include extended opening hours, proposals for outdoor dining and event space, and proposals for the greater utilisation of existing heritage assets.***

Cllr. O. Hanley proposed an amendment. In line with Standing Orders the amendment is considered first. Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator proceeded to take a Roll Call Vote:

Proposed by: Cllr. O. Hanley **Seconded by:** Cllr. C. Connolly

To remove 'evening' from the above text to focus on the night-time sector

In favour: Cllr. C. Connolly & Cllr. O. Hanley

Against: Cllr. A. Cheevers, Cllr. J. Connolly, Cllr. M.J. Crowe, Cllr. M. Cubbard, Cllr. F. Fahy, Cllr. C. Higgins, Cllr. E. Hoare, Cllr. P. Keane, Cllr. D. Lyons, Cllr. D. McDonnell, Cllr. N. McNelis, Cllr. N. Murphy & Cllr. T. O'Flaherty

In Favour: 2 Against: 13 Abstain: 0 Present: 15

The Amendment Motion was defeated.

The original motion was withdrawn and Cllr. E. Hoare proposed an Amendment to the Chief Executive's Recommendation to include the text word 'outdoor living' instead of 'outdoor dining'. Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator proceeded to take a Roll Call Vote:

Proposed by: Cllr. E. Hoare **Seconded by:** Cllr. N. McNelis

To amend the Chief Executive's Recommendation wording from outdoor dining to outdoor living

Amend Policy 6.12(4) Retail Hierarchy and insert text in italics

Support the development of a vibrant, inclusive, *evening and* night-time culture and economy through sustainable measures and promote the need for associated transport supports, measures to secure a safe environment, and for diversity in entertainment and creative offerings. ***This may include extended opening hours, proposals for outdoor dining living and event space, and proposals for the greater utilisation of existing heritage assets.***

In favour: Cllr. A. Cheevers, Cllr. J. Connolly, Cllr. M.J. Crowe, Cllr. Mike Cubbard, Cllr. F. Fahy, Cllr. O. Hanley, Cllr. C. Higgins, Cllr. E. Hoare, Cllr. P. Keane, Cllr. D. Lyons, Cllr. D. McDonnell, Cllr. N. McNelis, Cllr. N. Murphy, Cllr. M. O'Connor & Cllr. T. O' Flaherty

Against: Cllr. C. Connolly

In Favour: 15 Against: 1 Abstain: 0 Present: 16

This was approved by Council.

Mayor C. Higgins referred to Chief Executive's recommendation in relation to Chapter 8: Built Heritage, Placemaking and Urban Design in relation to Outdoor dining.

Cllr. D. McDonnell proposed to amend the Chief Executive's recommendation to include the amended text 'outdoor dining and living.'

Proposed by: Cllr. D. McDonnell **Seconded by:** Cllr. E. Hoare

To amend the Chief Executive's Recommendation to amend Policy 8.8(6) Public Realm

Promote the important role that public space plays in providing for informal social interaction and maximise opportunities for outdoor gathering places, play areas, outdoor dining and living and outdoor public seating, where appropriate and in accordance with the Public Realm Strategy and accompanying manuals.

In favour: Cllr. A. Cheevers, Cllr. J. Connolly, Cllr. M.J. Crowe, Cllr. M. Cubbard, Cllr. F. Fahy, Cllr. O. Hanley, Cllr. C. Higgins, Cllr. E. Hoare, Cllr. P. Keane, Cllr. D. Lyons, Cllr. D. McDonnell, Cllr. N. McNelis, Cllr. N. Murphy, Cllr. M. O'Connor & Cllr. T. O' Flaherty

Against: Cllr. C. Connolly

In Favour: 15 Against: 1 Abstain: 0 Present: 16

This was approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons **Seconded by:** Cllr. N. McNelis

To accept the Chief Executive's Recommendation as follows:

Amend Policy 6.9(4) Marine Sector and Renewable Energy and insert text in italics

Support the sustainable re-development and extension of the Port of Galway and the diversification and expansion of activities subject to environmental, visual, economic viability and transportation considerations ***in line with the National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) 2021, and any successor thereof, or any emerging national ports strategies.***

This was agreed and approved by Council.

It was agreed by Council to defer the consideration of the remaining Chief Executive's Recommendations in relation to Chapter 6: Economy, Enterprise and Retail regarding the Office of the Planning Regulator's and Northern and Western Regional Assembly submissions to a later meeting.

Proposed by: Cllr. C. Higgins **Seconded by:** Cllr. M.J. Crowe

To accept the text of Chapter 6: Economy, Enterprise and Retail and to accept the Chief Executive's Response in relation to submissions.

6.1 - Part 1: Economy and Enterprise Context - Submissions: GLWC-C2-118 Ibec; GLWC-C2-147 Galway City Community Network.

6.2 - Economic Activity - Submission: GLWC-C2-118 Ibec

6.3 - Employment Sectors & Clusters - Submissions: GLWC-C2-6 Galway Market Committee; GLWC-C2-148 Galway City Community Network; GLWC-C2-148 Galway City Community Network; GLWC-C2-132 NUI Galway; GLWC-C2-144 Innovation Technology AtlanTec Gateway (itag); GLWC-C2-211 SSE plc; GLWC-C2-118 Ibec; GLWC-C2-230 Dept. Housing, Local Government and Heritage; GLWC-C2-76 Fáilte Ireland; GLWC-C2-118 Ibec; GLWC-C2-96 Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine - Environmental Co-ordination Unit | Climate Change & Bioenergy Policy Division; GLWC-C2-179 Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications;

6.4 - Part 2: Retail Strategy Context - Submissions: GLWC-C2-69 Galway County Council; GLWC-C2-201 Galway City Alcohol Forum; GLWC-C2-148 Galway City Community Network; GLWC-C2-156 Lidl Ireland GMBH;

6.6 - Retail Warehousing/Bulky Goods – Submission: GLWC-C2-38 Transport Infrastructure Ireland;

6.7 - Need and Location of Future Retail Floorspace - Submissions: GLWC-C2-156 Lidl Ireland GMBH; GLWC-C2-148 Galway City Community Network

6.10 - Night-Time Economy: GLWC-C2-23 Chris McCormack; GLWC-C2-188 Siobhan Fitzgerald
GLWC-C2-118 Ibec; GLWC-C2-201 Galway City Alcohol Forum; GLWC-C2-150 Angela Casey

This was agreed and approved by Council.

Chapter 8 Built Heritage, Placemaking and Urban Design: CE Recommendations

Mayor C. Higgins referred to Chapter 8 Built Heritage, Placemaking and Urban Design and invited queries.

A discussion took place in relation to Submission No. GLWC-C2-244. Cllr. D. McDonnell requested that the property at St. Mary's be removed from the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) to facilitate upgrade works. This was seconded by Cllr. P. Keane.

Ms. C. Phelan, Senior Planner advised that no Section 57 application for a declaration or a formal planning application has been received in relation to this property and that no additions or deletions are proposed for the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) in the current Development Plan cycle. It is recommended to leave the property on the RPS and to engage with the owners to assess the scope of works required.

Cllr. McDonnell agreed to come back to the submission at a later date so as to allow the Executive to consider a response to same.

Mayor C. Higgins referred Councillor to the following Chief Executive's Recommendations:

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons

Seconded by: Cllr. F. Fahy

To accept the Chief Executive's Recommendation as follows:

Amend Policy 8.4 Archaeology- insert text in italics as follows:

(1) Protect, **preserve** and promote the archaeological heritage of the city including ***underwater archaeology in rivers, lakes, intertidal and subtidal environments.***

(5) Require the surveying, recording or excavation of archaeological heritage ***to include standing historic buildings and underwater archaeological heritage*** during the development process, where appropriate.

(7) Ensure that any development proposal with potential to impact on archaeological heritage, ***including the ~~the~~ setting and amenity of sites and monuments,*** includes for an archaeological assessment. This includes within terrestrial, riverine, inter-tidal and sub-tidal environments.

This was agreed and approved by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons

Seconded by: Cllr. C. Connolly

To accept the Chief Executive's Recommendation as follows:

Amend text in Section 8.7 Galway City Walls in 2nd paragraph - text inserted in italics and text removed by ~~strikeout~~ as follows:

The National Monuments Acts (1930-2004) legislation gives statutory protection to the city walls. All town defences are considered National Monuments by reason of the historical, architectural and archaeological interest attaching to them. It requires that all works which impact on the fabric of the city defences, or any ground disturbance in proximity to the defences in Local Authority or the Minister's ownership or guardianship, or that have been the subject of a preservation order, are subject to a requirement for Ministerial Consent.

This was agreed and approved by Council.

Mayor C. Higgins referred to a Motion submitted by Cllr. O. Hanley for consideration.

Cllr. O. Hanley spoke on the Motion to amend wording 'adverse' to a positive.

Proposed by: Cllr. O. Hanley

Seconded by: Cllr. N. McNelis

Amend policy 8.7.9 – P.214

Proposals for buildings which are taller than the prevailing benchmark heights will only be considered where ~~they do not have an adverse~~ **they have a positive** impact on the context of historic buildings,

ACA's, residential amenity **and do not** impinge upon strategic views, in accordance with the Urban Density and Building Height Study for the city.

In favour: Cllr. O. Hanley & Cllr. N. McNelis

Against: Cllr. A. Cheevers, Cllr. C. Connolly, Cllr. J. Connolly, Cllr. M.J. Crowe, Cllr. F. Fahy, Cllr. C. Higgins, Cllr. E. Hoare, Cllr. P. Keane, Cllr. N. Larkin, Cllr. D. Lyons, Cllr. D. McDonnell, Cllr. N. Murphy, Cllr. M. O'Connor & Cllr. T. O' Flaherty

In Favour: 2 **Against:** 14 **Abstain:** 0 **Present:** 16

The Motion was defeated.

Cllr. D. McDonnell proposed that the existing wording in the draft City Development Plan be retained.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. McDonnell **Seconded by:** Cllr. C. Connolly

To accept the wording in the draft City Development Plan.

Policy 8.7.9: Proposals for buildings which are taller than the prevailing benchmark heights will only be considered where they do not have an adverse impact on the context of historic buildings, ACA's, residential amenity or impinge upon strategic views, in accordance with the Urban Density and Building Height Study for the city.

This was agreed and approved by Council.

Mayor C. Higgins thanked all for attending and advised that consideration of the Chief Executive's Report will resume on Wednesday 6th July at 15.00pm in the Hardiman Hotel.

The meeting concluded at 17.30p.m.