

<b>Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held in the Galmont Hotel and virtually on zoom platform on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 at 3.00 pm.</b>	
<b>Presiding</b>	Cllr. M. Cubbard, Deputy Mayor of the City of Galway Cllr. C. Higgins, Mayor of the City of Galway
<b>Present</b>	Councillors: I. Byrne, A. Cheevers; J. Connolly, M.J. Crowe, E. Hoare, D. Lyons, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis, N. Murphy & T. O’Flaherty
<b>Present (virtually)</b>	Councillors: C. Connolly F. Fahy, O. Hanley, N. Larkin & M. O’Connor
<b>Apologies</b>	Cllr. P. Keane
<b>Present</b>	Mr. B. McGrath, Chief Executive Ms. H. Kilroy, Head of Finance/Director of Services Mr. P. Greene, Director of Services Mr. U. Finn, Senior Engineer Mr. B. Barrett, A/Director of Services Mr. D. Greally, Executive Engineer Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator Ms. S. King, Assistant Staff Officer Ms. A. Ní Chúláin, Clerical Officer
<b>Present (virtually)</b>	Mr. D. Mahon, Senior Executive Officer Mr. M. Lally, Senior Transport Project Engineer Ms. L. Hynes, Management Accountant Mr. L. Blake, Senior Executive Planner Ms. L. Fanning, Senior Engineer Ms. S. Connolly, Senior Engineer Mr. P. Staunton, Executive Planner Mr. K. McGlynn, Executive Engineer Ms. M. Duddy, Staff Officer Ms. A. Ní Dhochartaigh, Staff Officer Ms. G. Reilly, A/Assistant Staff Officer

Note: The Minutes of the Meeting and Agenda Items are recorded in the order of their consideration.

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.

Deputy Mayor M. Cubbard welcomed all to the meeting and offered his sympathies on behalf of Galway City Council to Cllr. C. Connolly on the passing of her brother Desmond Connolly, R.I.P, and to Cllr. N. Murphy on the passing of his father, Pat F. Murphy, R.I.P.

Deputy Mayor Cubbard also expressed sympathies on behalf of the City Council to the family of Patricia Burke Brogan, R.I.P who was awarded Freedom of the City of Galway in May, 2022.

As a mark of respect, this was followed by a minute's silence.

It was proposed by Cllr. D. Lyons that the meeting conclude at 7pm. This was seconded by Cllr. E. Hoare and was agreed.

## **1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

### **1(a) Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

Deputy Mayor M. Cubbard invited matters of accuracy and matters arising. Under matters arising the following was raised:

- Cllr. M. Cubbard requested an update on the removal of double yellow road line markings in the Claddagh area;

Mr. P. Greene, Director of Services responded to same.

Proposed By: **Cllr. D. Lyons**

Seconded By: **Cllr. N. McNelis**

**1(a) Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on 11<sup>th</sup> of July 2022**

**The minutes were agreed and adopted.**

### **1(b) Special Meetings of Galway City Council to consider the Draft Development Plan 2023-2029**

It was advised that due to the volume and number of meetings that the draft minutes will be issued to Councillors for consideration at the October Ordinary Meeting. This was noted by Council.

## **2. BUSINESS PRESCRIBED BY STATUTE**

### **2(a) Consideration of rate of Local Property Tax under Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012 (as amended)**

Ms. H. Kilroy, Head of Finance, gave an overview of the consideration of rate of Local Property Tax based on the Report circulated to Council on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2022.

Councillors discussed the matter in detail and Ms. H. Kilroy & Mr. B. McGrath, Chief Executive responded to queries and clarifications raised.

Cllr. A. Cheevers proposed that no local adjustment factor be applied for 2023 to the rate of Local Property Tax. This was seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons.

Cllr. N. Murphy proposed an amendment to increase the Local Property Tax by 15%. This was seconded by Cllr. M. O'Connor.

Cllr. A. Cheevers requested a Roll Call Vote which was supported by Cllr. D. Lyons.

In line with Standing, the amendment is considered first. Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator proceeded to take a Roll Call Vote as follows:

<b>Proposed By: Cllr. N. Murphy</b>	<b>Seconded By: Cllr. M. O'Connor</b>
<b>2(a) Consideration of rate of Local Property Tax under Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012 (as amended)</b>	
<b>To increase the Local Property Tax by 15%</b>	
<b>In Favour:</b> N. Murphy & M. O'Connor	
<b>Against:</b> I. Byrne, A. Cheevers, J. Connolly, M. J. Crowe, M. Cubbard, F. Fahy, O. Hanley, E. Hoare, N. Larkin, D. Lyons, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis, & T. O'Flaherty	
<b>In Favour: 2   Against: 13   Abstain: 0   Present: 15</b>	
The motion failed.	

As the Amendment Motion failed, the original Motion was then considered. Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator proceeded to take a Roll Call Vote as follows:

<b>Proposed By: Cllr. N. McNelis</b>	<b>Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons</b>
<b>2(a) Consideration of rate of Local Property Tax under Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012 (as amended)</b>	
<b>No local adjustment factor be applied for 2023 to the rate of Local Property Tax</b>	
<b>In Favour:</b> : I. Byrne, A. Cheevers, J. Connolly, M. J. Crowe, M. Cubbard, F. Fahy, O. Hanley, E. Hoare, N. Larkin, D. Lyons, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis, & T. O'Flaherty	
<b>Against:</b> N. Murphy & M. O'Connor	
<b>In Favour: 13   Against: 2   Abstain: 0   Present: 15</b>	
The motion was carried.	

**2(b) Part 8 Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) - Cantilevered Pedestrian Walkway, signalised pedestrian crossing and footpath widening at R 336 (Wolfe Tone Bridge) and associated works. (Planning Reference LA2/2022)**

Mr. U. Finn, Senior Engineer, and Mr. D. Greally, Executive Engineer gave a detailed presentation to Councillors about the proposed Cantilevered Walkway along the Wolfe Tone Bridge which included:

- The main objectives of creating the new walkway;
- Documentation completed for Planning;
- Ecology & Environment Assessment;
- Archaeology/Protected structure;
- City Development Plan (CDP) & Galway Transport Strategy (GTS);
- Funding;
- Program to deliver Project;

Councillors discussed the matter in detail and Mr. U. Finn and Mr. D. Greally responded to queries and clarifications sought.

Proposed By: **Cllr. M. J. Crowe**

Seconded By: **Cllr. E. Hoare**

**2(b) Part 8 Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) - Cantilevered Pedestrian Walkway, signalised pedestrian crossing and footpath widening at R 336 (Wolfe Tone Bridge) and associated works. (Planning Reference LA2/2022)**

**This was agreed and approved by Council.**

**2(c) Raising of Loan in relation to the Local Authority Home Loan Scheme**

Mr. B. Barrett, A/Director of Services gave an overview to Councillors of Raising a Loan in relation to the Local Authority Home Loan Scheme. The Councillors discussed and Mr. B. Barrett & Mr. D. Mahon responded to all queries.

Proposed By: **Cllr. D. Lyons**

Seconded By: **Cllr. N. McNelis**

**2(c) Raising of Loan in relation to the Local Authority Home Loan Scheme**

To increase loan approval from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, through the Housing Finance Agency from €4,100,000 to €5,500,000 for the purpose of granting house purchase and improvement loans in Galway city – per Report circulated 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2022.

**This was agreed and approved by Council.**

It was agreed by Council that a 20 minute break be taken at 4.40pm. The meeting resumed at 5pm.

## **2(d) Review of Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy**

Mr. B. Barrett, A/Director of Services, gave a detailed overview of the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy. Councillors discussed this in details and Mr. B. Barrett & Mr. B. McGrath, Chief Executive, responded to queries and clarifications sought.

Cllr. C. Connolly advised that she did not agree with the Strategy.

Proposed By: **Cllr. D. Lyons**                      Seconded By: **Cllr. E. Hoare**

**2(d) Review of Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy**

**This was adopted and approved by Council.**

Mayor C. Higgins arrived at 6pm and presided over the meeting from this point onwards.

## **2(e) To fix a date for the Annual Budget Meeting 2023**

Councillors discussed the matter and agreed that the Annual Budget Meeting will take place on Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> of November, 2022 and that the Ordinary Council Meeting will take place on Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> of November, 2022.

Proposed By: **Cllr. D. Lyons**                      Seconded By: **Cllr. M. O'Connor**

**2(e) To fix a date for the Annual Budget Meeting 2023 – Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> of November, 2022.**

**This was agreed and approved by Council.**

## **2(f)(i) Audit Committee – Annual Report of the Audit Committee for 2021**

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

**2(f)(i) Audit Committee – Annual Report of the Audit Committee for 2021**

**This was agreed and approved by Council.**

## **2(f)(ii) Audit Committee – Audit Committee Current Work Programme**

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

**2(f)(ii) Audit Committee – Audit Committee Current Work Programme**

**This was noted by the Council.**

## **2(g) To agree attendance of representatives from Galway Harbour Company at the October Ordinary Meeting to present their financial statements for financial year 2021**

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

**2(g) To agree attendance of representatives from Galway Harbour Company at the October Ordinary Meeting to present their financial statements for financial year 2021**

**This was agreed by the Council.**

**2(h) To agree attendance of representatives from the National Transport Authority at the October Ordinary Meeting in relation to the proposed Park and Ride Strategy**

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

**2(h) To agree attendance of representatives from the National Transport Authority at the October Ordinary Meeting in relation to the proposed Park and Ride Strategy**

**This was agreed by the Council.**

### **3. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**3(a) Note from Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on the 9th September 2022**

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

**3(a) Note from Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on the 9th September 2022**

**This was noted by the Council.**

### **4. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF OFFICIALS**

**4(a) Chief Executive's Report**  
**(i) July 2022**  
**(ii) September 2022**

Councillors discussed the Chief Executive's Report in detail and raised queries and concerns. Mr. B. Barrett, A/Director of Services responds to queries raised.

Proposed By: **Cllr. M. Cubbard**      Seconded By: **Cllr. J. Connolly**

**4(a) Chief Executive's Report**  
**(i) July 2022**  
**(ii) September 2022**

**The Chief Executive's Reports were noted.**

Mayor. C. Higgins referred Councillors to a Motion submitted by Cllr. N. McNelis.

Proposed By: **Cllr. N. McNelis**      Seconded By: **Cllr. N. Murphy**

**"That this Council writes to the Minister for Finance and Minister with responsibility for media:**

**A recent change to the EU VAT directive means that the Government now has the power to remove VAT on newspapers, currently set at 9%.**

**Galway City Council supports the efforts of Local Ireland and NewsBrands, the representative organisations of local and national newspapers, to have**

**this rate cut to 0% in Budget 2023, to allow news publishers to continue to invest in fact-checked, trusted journalism.**

**This reduction would bring Ireland in line with many other European countries whose governments support good quality journalism”**

**The Motion was approved by Council.**

**4(b) Quarterly Reports – April to June, 2022 - Reports circulated July, 2022**  
- Not Considered.

- i. Economic, Community & Cultural Development**
- ii. Environment & Climate Change**
- iii. Housing**
- iv. Recreation & Amenity**
- v. Transport & Infrastructure**

**4(c) Proposed Galway City Council Cycling Enhancement Projects – Verbal Update on the Doughiska Road South and Ballyloughane Road Cycling Enhancement Projects**  
Not Considered.

**4(d) Report on Speed Limit Bye-Laws Review**  
Not Considered.

**4(e) Update on Staff Recruitment**  
Not Considered.

**4(f) Galway’s Designation as European Capital of Culture 2020 (Material Issued)**  
Not Considered.

**5. NOTICES OF MOTION - Not considered**

**NOM 8/2022**

**Submitted by Cllr. A. Cheevers on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

I am calling on Galway City Council to have full consultation with Galway City Council public representatives in relation to the Master Plan for the Galway Airport Site.

I believe that as it’s is jointly owned with the county council the city council need to have full consultation in this process and it should not be solely for County Council.

**NOM 9/2022**

**Submitted by Cllr. E. Hoare on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

That Galway City Council reviews the policy currently in place for the provision of public street lighting. At present, street lighting is not erected on roads where no footpaths are developed.

A lot of local roads in Galway are without footpaths. The added burden of no public lighting makes these roads even more dangerous for all road users.

**NOM 10/2022****Submitted by Cllr. E. Hoare on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

That Galway City Council will consider waiving the renewal fee for residential parking permits in the City Centre for 2022 in light of reduced parking availability following the reintroduction of Outdoor Living for 2022. Central Government has waived the fee for outdoor street furniture licences in 2022 for commercial premises that qualify.

**NOM 18/2021** submitted under SO 34 at Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021**Notice given by:** Cllr. A. Cheevers **Seconded by:** Cllr. N. McNelis**Date Received:** 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021 (Amended wording 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022)

That Galway City Council to permanently pedestrianise cross street and that would be from the Dáil Bar to Supermacs and to work with businesses to ensure the safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

Reply issued on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Request to leave on the Agenda.

The Motion was deferred at a Special meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and a report is to be brought to Council on the matter.

**NOM 11/2022****Submitted by Cllr. D. Lyons on the 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

I request Galway City Council to enter immediate discussions with relevant land owners on the Upper Ballymoneen Road so as to acquire sufficient lands by negotiation or by Compulsory Purchase Order so that a bus turning bay can be installed which will permit a bus service operation on the Upper Ballymoneen Road serving the following estates; Slí Burca, Leitir Burca, Leas na Mara, Drisín, Maoilín, Slí Gheal, Fana Buí, Radharc na Farrage, Magh Burca, Ard Cre and a number of other estates now in construction and further developments due to take place on Ballymoneen Road in the future.

**NOM 12/2022****Submitted by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty on the 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2022****Seconded by:** Cllr. D. McDonnell on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2022

We propose that Galway City Council reject the proposals set out in the Ballyloughane Road /Renmore Avenue Active Travel Scheme in its present format; that the Council Executive have further discussions with the two national schools, Gaelscoil Dara and Scoil Chaitríona, together with representatives of local residents, sporting organisations and other stakeholders to bring forward an Active Travel Scheme which accommodates the needs of and ensures the agreement of all interested parties.

**NOM 13/2022****Submitted by Cllr. N. McNelis on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

That Galway City Council will call on the Ministers for Justice; Education; and Children, Disability, Equality & Integration to immediately implement an Operation Encompass-style programme between An Garda Síochána and schools.

Operation Encompass is a police-led, school-based early intervention safeguarding scheme which supports children and young people who experience



Domestic Abuse. Operation Encompass was created to ensure that by the start of the next school day, a child's school will be informed that there has been a police-attended incident of domestic abuse at the home of the child. The child is then supported immediately upon arrival at school.

In 2020, Women's Aid (Ireland) reported that there were 30,841 disclosures of abuse including 5,948 were against children. We need to support these children now. [www.operationencompass.org](http://www.operationencompass.org)

**NOM 14/2022**

**Submitted by Cllr. N. Murphy on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

That Galway City Council will write to the Advertising Standards Authority for Ireland to complain that the short term letting platform Airbnb is carrying advertisements for properties within the Galway Rent Pressure Zone which are in breach of planning regulations.

**NOM 15/2022**

**Submitted by Cllr. N. Murphy on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

"That Councillors should receive and debate the report on 'Webcasting of Council Meetings' issued to councillors in September 2021, or an updated version of that report if appropriate."

**A Response issued on 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 2022.**

**NOM 16/2022**

**Submitted by Terry O'Flaherty on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2022**

We propose that item 4(a) Consideration of reports of Officials for the proposed Galway City Council Active Travel project for the Ballyloughane Road and Renmore Avenue that this item will not be discussed until full consultation has taken place with all of all the stakeholders that will be greatly affected by this scheme if it goes ahead.

Signed, by;

Cllrs Terry O'Flaherty, Alan Cheevers, Noel Larkin, Michael Crowe, Declan McDonnell.

**6. QUESTIONS – Not considered**

**Q7/2022**

**Submitted by Cllr. J. Connolly on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

According to the annual report, a total of 100 litter fines were issued in 2021 that generated a total income of €9,280, can we get a breakdown of the locations where the offence occurred? Can we also ascertain how many attempts the council have made to prosecute for the offence of illegal dumping in 2019, 2020 and 2021?

**Q8/2022**

**Submitted by Cllr. M. Cubbard on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

Can the council provide a list of all masterplans/projects that have been approved by council for the Recreation & Amenity department and give the following information on each:

- Adoption Date,
- Estimated budget,
- Funding available as of 19/06/22,
- Timeline for completion

**Q9/2022**

**Submitted by Cllr. O. Hanley on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

To ask the Council, in reference to the Garraí Beag Social Housing Project in Ballybane and the notice of termination that was served on Glenman Corporation on Tuesday, 21 June 2022, how far delayed is the project currently, what was the reasoning for enacting clause 12 of the building contract, have any legal processes been initiated by either party, and when can Councillors and the public expect a full explanation from the Council on this decision? Regarding completion of the 58 social houses can the Council seek a new contractor to complete the works, will this increase the cost to finish the project given the change in the markets since the original contract, and when could the Council begin to tender for same to ensure urgent delivery of the project?

**Q10/2022**

**Submitted by Cllr. N. Murphy on the 14<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

In April 2021 the council executive reported, via an answer to a question from Cllr. Hanley that the council was seeking 15 active travel staff to add to the existing 8. It was also reported that the hiring process can take over a year. We were also informed more recently that some positions may not be filled until specific skill sets are required for the task.

Can the elected member receive an update on this. Specifically can we be informed if staff turnover has impacted these numbers. Of the positions that remain to be filled, how many fall into the category of roles where hiring is still deferred until a specialist skill is required.

**Q11/2022**

**Submitted by Cllr. N. McNelis on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept 2022**

Could you please outline the plan for Galway City Council in tackling the high rising costs of energy for heating and electricity for buildings such as City Hall and offices, Leisureland, Galway City Museum, Town Hall Theatre and Blackbox. What are current costs of energy to City at moment?

Are the costs for street lighting fixed or are they flexible for increases in prices?

What is the contingency plan for tenants of Galway City Council who may face difficulty in paying rent due to costs of energy and heating. Have supports been put in place to assist these tenants in education on how to reduce waste?

Many businesses in City face financial hardship due to rising costs of energy, have any supports been offered by Government to assist these rising costs?

**Response issued 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2022**

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

None

## **8. ITEMS FOR COUNCILLORS' INFORMATION**

### **9. CONFERENCES**

**Councillors' Conferences was proposed by Cllr. D. McDonnell and seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and approved by Council.**

#### **Approved Training Retrospective**

**1) Title:** ALLG Elected Member Training Programme Module 4 "Local Authority Audit Committees & Oversight Role of Elected Members"

**Dates:** 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2022

**Venue:** Allingham Arms Hotel, Bundoran

**2) Title:** ALLG Autumn Seminar

**Dates:** 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> September

**Venue:** Knightsbrook Hotel Spa & Golf Resort, Trim Co. Meath

**3) Title:** Celtic Conferences : A Practical Guide to Budget 2023

**Dates:** 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2022

**Venue:** The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth

**4) Title:** Celtic Conferences : Irish State Retirement Pensions & Benefits

**Dates:** 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> October 2022

**Venue:** O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork

**5) Title:** Celtic Conferences : Innovation in Solar Energy Technology

**Dates:** 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> October 2022

**Venue:** O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork

**6) Title:** Celtic Conferences : The Role of Local Authorities in addressing the needs of Older People

**Dates:** 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> November 2022

**Venue:** The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth

## **10. VOTES OF SYMPATHY / CONGRATULATIONS**

Desmond Connolly, R.I.P

Pat F. Murphy, R.I.P.

Patricia Burke Brogan, R.I.P

**Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations were proposed by Cllr D. McDonnell and seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and agreed by Council.**

## **11. OTHER BUSINESS SET FORTH IN THE NOTICE CONVENING THE MEETING**

None

**12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None

The meeting concluded at 7p.m.