



Minutes of Galway City Local Community Development Committee Meeting held on 10th of September 2025 at 3pm

(In Person in Council Chamber and Virtually on MS Teams)

Present:

Cllr. Helen Ogbu, Galway City Council, Chair
Cllr. Eibhlín Seoighthe, Galway City Council
Ms. Lorraine Lally, Galway City Community Network/PPN
Mr. Tommy Flaherty, Galway City Community Network/PPN
Ms. Linda Sice Brogan, Galway City Partnership
Ms. Sinead Morgan, Galway & Roscommon ETB
Mr. Donncha Foley, Civic Engagement / Volunteering Rep
Mr. Derek Pender, Galway City Council
Mr. Laurence Gaughan, HSE
Ms. Elaine Harvey, Galway Council of Trade Unions
Ms. Caroline McDonagh, Local Enterprise Office
Ms. Joanne Laffey, Galway City Community Network/PPN

Apologies:

Cllr. Josie Forde, Galway City Council
Ms. Fiona McDonagh-Delaney, Galway City Community Network/PPN
Mr. Shane Tuohy, Social Enterprise Representative

In Attendance:

Mr. Dermot Mahon, LCDC Chief Officer, Galway City Council
Ms. Aisling Colreavy, Galway City Council
Ms. Sabina O' Connell, Galway City Council
Ms. Nataile Coen, Galway City Council (for item 6)
Ms. Deirdre Keaney-Cunningham, Galway City Council (for item 6)
Mr. Oliver Lydon, Galway City Council (for item 6)
Ms. Faozia Moqbel, Galway City Partnership (for Item 3)

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Cllr. Helen Ogbu welcomed all and a round of introductions took place. A record of all apologies was also noted.

2. Confirmation of the Minutes of Galway City LCDC meeting held on the 16th of July 2025

Mr. Tommy Flaherty inquired about the current status of the Ballybane needs analysis and whether any updates had been received since the previous meeting. In response,

Mr. Dermot Mahon indicated that he had not yet received any feedback and assured that he would follow up accordingly.

The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on the 16th of July 2025 were agreed by all members.

Proposed by: Mr. Donnacha Foley

Seconded by: Mr. Tommy Flaherty

3. Intercultural Strategy update

Ms. Faozia Moqbel provided an update on the Intercultural Strategy, which is being led by Galway City Partnership along with other stakeholders in Galway City. The presentation included statistics, noting an increase in reported hate crimes in the city. It also outlined the strategic objectives and deliverables across seven thematic areas. The Strategy is expected to be launched in October.

A discussion took place highlighting the rising incidences of hate crimes in Galway City and queried how to report such incidents. Ms. Moqbel informed that clinics will be held at IPAS centres throughout the city, aimed at educating residents on the procedures for reporting hate crimes and discrimination.

Ms. Lorainne Lally raised a query regarding engagement with public transport authorities, specifically Bus Éireann and Irish Rail, as a significant proportion of hate crimes in Galway City are occurring on public transport. Ms. Moqbel will clarify and forward this query to Ms. Tara Dawson, GCP.

Mr. Dermot Mahon informed members that Mr. Oliver Lydon has been appointed as the Urban Community Development Officer for City East. Mr. Lydon will be responsible for addressing intercultural issues and will deliver a presentation on these topics to the LCDC at a future meeting.

Cllr. Ogbu thanked Ms. Moqbel for her presentation and requested that it be circulated to all members and any feedback be submitted to Ms. Dawson via email.

4. Galway City & County Age Friendly Strategy 2025 – 2030

Ms. Aisling Colreavy provided an updated on the status of the Age Friendly Strategy, a draft of which was issued in advance of the meeting. She informed that a briefing was held with the elected members on the 5th of September, with positive feedback. She announced that the Strategy will be launched in mid-October.

Mr. Laurence Gaughan inquired whether the theme of loneliness was addressed in the Strategy research and whether structures such as an Older Person's Council or an Age Friendly Alliance are in place. In response, Ms. Colreavy explained that loneliness is considered under the broader theme of social inclusion, but she will forward the relevant feedback to HUB Planning.

Ms. Loraine Lally requested clarification regarding whether research had been conducted involving representatives from long-term residential care. In response, Ms. Colreavy noted that targeted workshops had been held with individuals in long-term residential care settings.

A discussion took place regarding the current fleet of public buses operating within Galway City. It was proposed that a review be undertaken to assess how these vehicles might be made more adaptable and accessible to better serve the needs of all passengers, including older adults and individuals with mobility challenges. Additionally, the Committee considered the potential benefits of permitting pets onboard public transport. This initiative was suggested in recognition of the role companion animals play in alleviating loneliness, particularly among elderly passengers. Mr. Pender acknowledged the point raised and noted that public transport falls under the remit of the National Transport Authority (NTA). He advised that if the Local Community Development Committee wishes to formally communicate its concerns, he would be happy to forward a letter on their behalf to the NTA.

Cllr. Helen Ogbu proposed that in addition to the printed version, the Strategy document should be made available in an audio format. This would ensure accessibility for individuals who are visually impaired and ensure broader engagement with the Strategy. All agreed.

5. SICAP 2025 Case Study – Climate Action and Just Transition

Ms. Linda Sice Brogan from Galway City Partnership presented the 2025 SICAP Case Study titled “Our Community, Our Climate,” which focused on the theme of climate action and just transition. She informed members that the case study was developed in video format to highlight the inspiring sustainability and climate action work being carried out by community groups across Galway City.

The video was shared with all members during the meeting and received positive feedback. Members praised its engaging approach and the strong representation of local efforts from many community organisations across the city.

Mr. Mahon noted that the case study report is an annual requirement of the SICAP programme contract with Galway City partnership.

6. Urban & Community Development Officers – objectives and goals

The newly appointed Urban & Community Development Officers (UCDOs) provided an overview of their respective roles within Galway City Council. The officers introduced themselves as follows:

- Ms. Natalie Coen – City Centre
- Ms. Deirdre Keaney Cunningham – City West
- Mr. Oliver Lydon – City East

The Officers explained that their role is to act as a bridge between the Council and the community. They aim to build meaningful relationships, strengthen community capacity, and develop a deeper understanding of local needs and challenges. Through ongoing engagement with the community on the ground, they will work to identify service gaps and support development across their respective wards. Mr. Mahon clarified to members that the UCDOs will not be duplicating existing community workers efforts throughout the city and will instead focus on their assigned thematic

areas. Members welcomed the UCDO's and wished them well in their work with the community over the coming years.

7. AOB

Mr. Donncha Foley informed members that the Climate Festival takes place from the 10th to the 14th of September, with a climate action fair in Father Burke Park from 11pm-4pm on Saturday 13th.

Mr. Mahon advised the members that the list of nominated Local Safety Partnership Committee members had been submitted to the Minister on Monday 8th September, and has since received formal approval. Ms. Kelly Slattery is to hold the induction meeting in early October, with the first official meeting to be scheduled for the end of October.

Ms. Colreavy informed members that the National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards will take place on 23rd October at the Galmont Hotel. She announced that the 'Positive Ageing Week' initiative has been shortlisted in the Health and Wellbeing category.

Meeting Concluded.

Next meeting is to be held on the 5th of November 2025 at 3pm in the Galway City Council Chamber and online on MS Teams.