

**Minutes of Galway City Local Community Development Committee  
Meeting held on 25th of February 2026 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  
Cllr. Josie Forde, Galway City Council  
Ms. Lorraine Lally, Galway City Community Network/PPN  
Mr. Tommy Flaherty, Galway City Community Network/PPN  
Ms. Elaine Harvery, Galway City Community Network/PPN  
Ms. Joanne Laffey, Galway City Community Network/PPN  
Ms. Justine Delaney, Galway City Community Network/ PPN  
Mr. Laurence Gaughan, HSE  
Ms. Linda Sice Brogan, Galway City Partnership  
Mr. Derek Pender, Galway City Council

**Apologies:**

Ms. Caroline McDonagh, Local Enterprise Office Galway  
Mr. Donncha Foley, Civic Engagement / Volunteering  
Mr. Shane Tuohy, Social Enterprise  
Ms. Sinéad Morgan, GRETB

**In Attendance:**

Mr. Dermot Mahon, LCDC Chief Officer, Galway City Council  
Ms. Aisling Colreavy, Galway City Council  
Mr. Liam Kitterick, Galway City Council (presenting)  
Mr. Oliver Lydon, UCDO Galway City Council (presenting)  
Ms. Maggie Crowley, Galway City Council  
Ms. Saoirsa Kilroy, Galway City Council  
Ms. Ciara Coy, GCP (presenting)  
Ms. Marian Maloney, Access for All (presenting)  
Mr. Niall Crowley, TIG (presenting)

**1. Welcome and Introductions:**

Cllr. Helen Ogbu welcomed all and a round of introductions took place and apologies were noted.

## **2. Confirmation of the Minutes of Galway City LCDC meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November 2025**

Mr. Tommy Flaherty informed members that a meeting with Mr. Nollaig McGuinness and Mr. Oliver Lydon took place to discuss the status of the Ballybane Needs Analysis and can confirm that the analysis is still in draft format.

**The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November 2025 were Proposed by Ms. Linda Sice Brogan, Seconded by Mr. Tommy Flaherty and agreed by all.**

## **3. Traveller Interagency Group – presentation from Mr. Niall Crowley**

Mr. Niall Crowley (Independent Chair) presented on the Traveller Interagency Group (TIG), a joint initiative of Galway City and County Councils established to identify the needs of the local Traveller communities and to support public service providers through coordinated collaboration. He outlined the work completed by the TIG to date and highlighted ways in which the LCDC can contribute to the implementation of upcoming plans and strategies.

Members welcomed the update and expressed strong support, noting that the TIG provides a valuable opportunity for agencies to make a meaningful impact. Mr. Crowley also informed members that a new Framework is currently being developed and will be circulated to the LCDC once finalised. The TIG Plan will also be circulated to members for information.

## **4. Access for All – presentation from Ms. Marion Maloney & Ms. Ciara Coy**

Ms. Marian Maloney introduced herself to the members and noted that she has served as Chairperson of Access for All for the past three years. She highlighted that the group has been supported by Galway City Partnership since its establishment.

Ms. Ciara Coy provided an overview of the work carried out by Access for All to date and outlined the positive impact the group has had within local communities. She also detailed the range of organisations that have collaborated with the group on projects relating to accessibility, including supports for events and festivals across the city.

Ms. Coy informed members that, following consultation with Galway City Council, agreement has been reached to recruit a permanent Access Officer within the Council. She outlined the following requests made in relation to the recruitment process:

- The role should be upgraded from a Grade 5 to a Grade 7 position.
- Access for All should be involved in co-designing the job description.
- At least one person with lived experience of disability should sit on the interview panel.

Cllr. Ogbu noted that the Director of Services responsible for the recruitment has confirmed her willingness to engage with Access for All and will provide a recruitment timeline in due course. It was agreed that the LCDC will present the case for the position to be confirmed at Grade 7. All members agreed.

Members raised concerns about the accessibility of the Ballybane Road and Castlepark Road Active Travel Scheme currently under construction. In response, Cllr. Ogbu advised that all issues, observations and comments relating to the scheme should be submitted to Mr. Derek Pender, Director of Services for the Project Development Department. Mr. Pender noted the issues raised and stated that the scheme is not yet finalised and once completed will prioritise accessibility, walking, cycling etc. He noted that the scheme is being constructed in line with relevant standards.

## **5. Draft Local Community Development Committee Annual Report 2025**

Ms. Aisling Colreavy presented the draft Local Community Development Committee Annual Report 2025, which had been circulated to members in advance for review. She outlined the key achievements of 2025, including:

- Adoption and implementation of the LECP Implementation Plan 2026–2027, the second plan under the 2024–2029 LECP framework
- Ongoing delivery of the SICAP programme by Galway City Partnership, supporting poverty reduction, social inclusion, and equality
- Progress across community development initiatives, including the three Urban Community Development Offers, community funding schemes, and the participatory budgeting process
- Development of the Galway Age Friendly Strategy 2026–2031

Ms. Colreavy expressed her appreciation for the commitment and collaboration of LCDC members and partner organisations, and acknowledged the dedication, support, and responsiveness of GCC community staff in meeting community needs

**The Local Community Development Committee Annual Report 2025 was Proposed by Ms. Elaine Harvey, Seconded by Mr. Tommy Flaherty and agreed by all.**

## **6. Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)**

### **i. SICAP Annual Plan 2026**

Ms. Linda Sice Brogan provided an update on the SICAP Annual Plan 2026. The SICAP Annual Plan 2026 was circulated to members prior to the meeting. It was mentioned that Pobal performed a review of the annual plan and highlighted only minor issues that have been addressed by GCP.

**The SICAP Annual Report 2026 was Proposed by Ms. Elaine Harvey, Seconded by Mr. Tommy Flaherty and agreed by all**

## **ii. Annual Performance Review of SICAP 2025**

Ms. Colreavy informed members that staff in the Community Department met to complete the 2025 SICAP Annual Performance Review in line with Pobal guidance. Galway City Partnership's performance was assessed through financial and non-financial reports on IRIS, with KPI targets significantly exceeded. Financial reporting was compliant, with administration percentages within the 25% threshold, Goal splits matching approved allocations, and grants remaining within programme limits. An underspend of €30,095.18 was recorded in the New Arrivals budget, exceeding the allowable 5% carryover; it was agreed to submit a carryover request of €15,286.48 to Pobal, resulting in a total carry forward of €28,674.99.

Ms. Colreavy stated that the 2025 case study was commended for effectively showcasing community led climate action and its alignment with SICAP principles. Engagement and performance by Galway City Partnership throughout 2025 was acknowledged as consistently strong, with targets surpassed and programme requirements met. She stated Pobals review provided positive feedback with no issues preventing LCDC approval of the 2025 Annual Progress Report.

**The SICAP Annual Performance review 2025 was Proposed by Mr. Derek Pender, Seconded by Ms. Helen Ogbu and approved by all**

## **7. European Coalition of Cities Against Racism (ECCAR)**

Mr. Oliver Lydon delivered a presentation on the ECCAR conference that he and Cllr. Ogbu attended in Zurich last October. He provided an overview of ECCAR's purpose and outlined the benefits of renewed engagement. Members expressed positive feedback regarding the re-engagement. Cllr. Ogbu informed members that she gained significant insights from attending the conference and noted that ECCAR may serve as a valuable resource for accessing future funding and guidance for Anti-Racism initiatives. Mr. Lydon referred to the Galway City Inter-Cultural Strategy which will be launched in 2026.

## **8. Local Enhancement Programme – Update**

Mr. Liam Kitterick provided an update on the Local Enhancement Programme 2026. He informed members that the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht (DRCDG) announced the allocation of €141,688 capital only funding for Galway City Council to be administered through the LCDC. He stated that the fund is designed to support small-scale capital works and equipment purchases, particularly for groups operating in disadvantaged areas within the Galway City administrative area. He noted that an information webinar was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of

January 2026 in partnership with the GCCN, and that GCC Urban Community Development Officers have been actively promoting the fund and assisting groups with applications.

Once the application deadline passes, the Community Team will review all submissions for eligibility. An LCDC subcommittee will be required to assess applications and agree proposed funding recommendations. These will be brought to the GCC Grants Committee in early April, followed by final approval at the April LCDC meeting. Approved recommendations will then be submitted to the DRCDG for final sign-off.

Mr. Kitterick noted that the Minister will announce the successful projects in a press release, expected in late May or early June. Following this announcement, Galway City Council will issue formal notifications and grant conditions to all successful groups.

Members requested that a report on the previous year's funding allocations be circulated to the LCDC. Mr. Mahon agreed.

Cllr. Ogbu asked whether unsuccessful applicants receive feedback on how to improve future applications. Mr. Kitterick confirmed that an unsuccessful notification letter is issued, which includes the contact details of the relevant Urban Community Development Officer so applicants can seek guidance on strengthening future submissions.

## **9. AOB**

Mr. Oliver Lydon provided an update on Africa Day, advising that GCC will be running the event unlike previous years. He informed members that consultations were held with the African community groups to involve them in the creative direction of the event. A proposal was submitted to GCC, and the final application is to be submitted to the Department of Foreign Affairs by Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026 with confirmation of funding to follow within the coming weeks.

Mr Kitterick informed members that the Social Inclusion Grant 2026 and the Local Community Festival Grant 2026 are currently open for applications, with a closing date of Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> of March at 12pm.

Ms. Colreavy informed members that the 2024 Local Government Audit Service audit of the Galway City LCDC's implementation of SICAP and the Local Enhancement Programme has been completed. No issues requiring formal notification to the LCDC were identified. The audit confirms that existing internal controls and procedures are effective. Continued maintenance and improvement of these controls is advised to ensure full compliance with programme requirements.

Ms. Colreavy also informed members that the Mayors Awards 2026 is now open for nominations until the 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2026. She stated that GCC invites individuals or groups who are involved in voluntary activity taking place in the city in one of the following categories:

- Arts, Culture, Heritage, and Cúrsaí Gaeilge Awards

- Residents and Local Areas Award
- Community Service and Social Inclusion Award
- Senior Citizen Volunteer of the Year Award
- Environmental Sustainability Award
- Sports Volunteer of the Year Award
- Children and Youth Support Award
- Young Volunteer of the Year Award
- The Galway City Council Volunteer of the Year Award

Nominations can be completed online, with paper applications available in libraries and in reception in City Hall.

Ms. Colreavy also informed that the Local Community Safety Partnership baseline survey is now live, aimed at gathering meaningful input from the public to assist with the development of a Community Safety Plan. The link to the survey can be found on GCC's website and on social media.

**Meeting concluded.**

**Next meeting to be held in Galway City Council Chamber, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 2026 at 3pm in person and online.**