

**Minutes of Galway City Local Community Development Committee
Meeting held on 28th February 2024 at 3.00pm
(Held in the Council Chamber and virtually on MS Teams)**

Present:

Cllr. Martina O'Connor (Chairperson), Galway City Council
Cllr. Alan Curran, Galway City Council
Mr. Laurence Gaughan, Health Service Executive West
Ms. Linda Sice Brogan, Galway City Partnership
Ms. Fiona McDonagh-Delaney, Galway City Community Network / PPN
Ms. Joanne Laffey, Galway City Community Network/ PPN
Mr. Brian Barrett, Galway City Council

Apologies:

Ms. Patricia Philbin, Interim Chief Executive, Galway City Council
Ms. Regina Higgins, Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection
Ms. Lorraine Lally, Galway City Community Network / PPN
Ms. Sinead Morgan, Galway & Roscommon ETB
Ms. Elaine Harvey, Trade Union
Ms. Valerie Kelly, Local Enterprise Office

In attendance:

Mr. Dermot Mahon, LCDC Chief Officer, Galway City Council
Ms. Caitriona Morgan, Galway City Council
Ms. Theresa Donohue, Galway City Council
Mr. Paul Fallon, Galway City Council
Mr. Liam Kitterick, Galway City Council
Mr. TJ Hughes, Galway City Council
Ms. Chelsea McConn Joyce, Galway City Council

1. Welcome and Introductions

Cllr Martina O'Connor, Chairperson, introduced and welcomed all members to the first meeting in 2024. It was noted and acknowledged that the committee were to proceed without the quorum. Cllr O'Connor gave a warm welcome to new member Mr. Laurence Gaughan who has replaced Ms. Adrienne Lynam from the HSE, in which she thanked Ms. Lynam for her contribution and wished her well in the future. Apologies received were noted.

2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Galway City LCDC meeting held on 13th December 2023

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th December 2023 were:

Proposed: *Ms. Linda Sice Brogan*

Seconded: *Cllr. Alan Curran*

And agreed by all members.

3. Draft Local Community Development Committee Annual Report 2023

Mr. D Mahon gave an update on the Draft Local Community Development Committee Annual Report 2023 which was circulated in advance of the meeting. The report details the activities that took place throughout 2023. If agreed by all members the report will be put forward for noting at the March council meeting and then to the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) for their records.

Proposed: *Cllr. Martina O'Connor*

Seconded: *Cllr. Alan Curan*

And agreed by all members.

4. Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) **a. SICAP Annual Plan 2024**

Mr. L Kitterick provided an update to the committee stating we are still awaiting to receive guidance and a checklist from Pobal in relation to the approval of the 2024 SICAP Annual Plan. Once received there will be a timeframe in which a LCDC subcommittee will have to convene to review and assess documentation uploaded by GCP and complete a checklist to return to Pobal for their high-level review.

The core of the Annual Plan has already been approved as part of the new SICAP programme procurement process that took place last year. The SICAP budget was nationally revised after the tenders were submitted and now the Annual Plans are now to include the new ringfenced New Arrivals Funding.

The key checks that will need to be completed as part of the Annual Plan 2024 review will be on the New Arrivals actions and the allocation of the additional budget.

Mr. L Kitterick reminded members of the KPIs, Local Target Priority Groups and the Budget for SICAP for 2024 are as follows:

KPI 1 – Local Community Groups supported – 59.

KPI2 – Individuals supported – 483.

Local Priority Target Groups:

- LPTG 1 People living in communities impacted by disadvantage.
- LPTG 2 International Protection Applicants
- LPTG 3 People living in jobless households or households where the primary income source is low-paid and/or precarious.

Budget for 2024 is €997,080 which is made up of Lot Budget €772,258 and New Arrivals Funding of €224,822.

Annual Performance Review of SICAP 2023

Mr. B Barrett advised the committee on the Annual Performance Review of SICAP 2023 stating Galway City LCDC SICAP Subgroup, consisting of Sinead Morgan, Cllr Martina O Connor and himself met on the 26th January to review the 2023 SICAP Annual Performance Review in line with the timelines and guidance received from Pobal.

The key dates for this process are as follows:

1. LDC uploads their Fin & Mon report on IRIS by Tuesday 16th January 2024.
2. LCDC reviews the report and provide feedback to Pobal by Wednesday 31st January 2024.
3. Pobal provide feedback to the LCDCs by Friday 2nd February 2024.
4. Annual Progress Report to be formally approved by Thursday 29th February 2024.

The LCDC SICAP Subgroup reviewed the performance of Galway City Partnership's delivery of SICAP for the 2023 year by assessing financial and non-financial information through various reports uploaded onto the IRIS system.

All required reports and documentation were uploaded onto the IRIS system by Galway City Partnership on time.

The KPI targets were exceeded for 2023 as follows: KPI 1 target (Local Community Groups) of 42 was exceeded with 51 achieved and KPI 2 (Individuals) target of 442 was exceeded with 540 achieved.

Galway City LCDC SICAP Subgroup noted that once again the quality of engagement with Galway City Partnership was excellent and suggested that under any new programme a very good and excellent option is referenced on all checklists provided. Given the level of collaboration that Galway City Partnership has carried out to support target groups in the wider community, the capacity to deliver on the 3 horizontal themes is hugely evident.

Pobal have carried out their high-level review with positive feedback and no major issues were raised that would prevent the LCDC Approval of the Annual Progress Report 2023.

Overall, in line with the above it is the recommendation of the LCDC SICAP Subgroup that sufficient progress has been made and are satisfied with the performance of Galway City Partnership in delivering SICAP during 2023, requesting formal approval from the LCDC.

Proposed: *Ms. Fiona McDonagh Delaney*

Seconded: *Cllr. Alan Curran*

And agreed by all members.

5. Local Enhancement Programme 2024 – Grants Approval of LCDC Subcommittee recommendations.

Cllr. Martina O'Connor provided an update on the Local Enhancement Programme Grants approval. Galway City LCDC allocated €134,322.62 capital funding from the DRCD under the Local Enhancement Programme 2024. Funding made up as follows:

- €111,935.52 capital funding for the Local Enhancement Programme (LEP)
- €22,387.10 capital funding ring-fenced for Women's Groups.

80 applications (69 under LEP & 11 under Women Groups funding) were received in total under both funding strands with total funding requested in the amount of €553,963.74. This is broken down further into LEP funding request of €481,180.36 and ringfenced Women's Group funding request of €72,7833.38.

The LCDC Grants Sub-Committee comprising of Ms. Lorraine Lally, Ms. Elaine Harvey and Cllr. M. O'Connor met on the 21st February 2024 to consider a report on the proposed allocation of funding to applicants under the funding streams.

Overall, it is proposed that 67 groups will receive funding mainly for the purchase of equipment, ICT equipment & small-scale premises improvements with the largest grant recommended being €10,000.

The recommendations are broken down as follows:

- 11 groups to receive funding under the Women's Groups Fund.
- 56 groups to receive funding under the Local Enhancement Programme with 29 of these groups to receive grants of €1,000 or less.

The successful groups have until November to draw down the allocated funding from Galway City Council.

The full list of the recommendations made by the LCDC Sub- Committee are outlined in the report that was circulated on Monday.

If any member was involved in submitting an application or had a conflict of interest in a group, they were asked to declare and abstain from the discussion. No conflict was declared.

Mr. L Kitterick noted if grants were approved today, they will be submitted to the DRCD who will have to do a press release to announce the successful groups & projects. He advised that he would be unable to inform groups of their allocation until such a time that the DRCD have completed a Press Release.

Mr. D Mahon advised members that the fund was oversubscribed, with unsuccessful groups being referred to Climate Action Fund and Sports Partnership funding. The DRCD has recommended that LCDCs ring-fence 30% funding to provide small capital grants of €1,000 or less. Approximately 50% of successful groups that applied are receiving funding for which they looked for, the remainder are getting a proportion of what was requested.

Proposed: *Ms. Linda Sice Brogan*

Seconded: *Cllr. Alan Curran*

And agreed by all members.

6. Local Authority Integration Team

Mr. Paul Fallon introduced himself as the new Integration Support Coordinator with Galway City Council. He presented a presentation which was circulated to members in advance of the meeting. He stated the team consists of Keith Downey - Integration Support Worker, James Connaughton – Integration Support Worker, and Jean Kennedy – Admin Support Worker. He explained that information clinics will be hosted by the team in centres throughout Galway City every week – 14 direct provision centres and 20 BOTP centres. He proceeded through the slides and noted he will give an update regarding progress in a couple months. A discussion then took place with queries raised and answered.

7. Any Other Business

Mr. B Barrett noted that from Monday March 4th 2024 to Friday March 8th 2024, Galway City will play host to the Mount Lucas Retrofitting Rig, a fully equipped mobile NZEB (Nearly Zero Energy Buildings) training unit that allows training on energy upgrades and retrofitting be delivered in communities across Ireland. The rig, which was developed by

the Laois Offaly Education and Training Board and the National Construction Training Campus at Mount Lucas, will be based in Westside, Galway City as part of the EU Net Zero Cities Pilot Cities Programme. Over the course of the week, a range of formal and informal training will be delivered from the mobile rig, including NZEB Fundamental Awareness Training and the Retrofit for Schools Programme. Go down and visit it if you can.

Ms. Caitriona Morgan advised members the Galway City Council Arts Office invites applications to the Creative Practitioner Bursary to develop new work or to nurture creative and professional practices. Open to Galway City-based creative practitioners from all creative disciplines. The closing date is Monday, 11 March 2024, at 4.00 pm.

For further information and to submit your application, visit <https://www.galwaycity.ie/arts-office-information>

Ms. T Donohue informed members that the Mayors Awards 2024 nomination deadline has been extended to 1st March. Also, on the 8th March it is International Women's Day. An event for information and Wellbeing will be held in the Maldron Hotel, Sandy Road between 9:30am – 12:00pm

The date for the next meeting of the LCDC was agreed for Wednesday 24th April 2024 at 5:00pm online.

The meeting then concluded.