

**Minutes of Galway City Local Community Development Committee
Meeting held on 22nd April 2026 at 3pm**

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

Present:

Cllr. Eibhlín Seoighthe, Galway City Council (Chaired in the absence of the Chair)
Cllr. Josie Forde, Galway City Council
Ms. Lorraine Lally, Galway City Community Network/PPN
Mr. Tommy Flaherty, Galway City Community Network/PPN
Mr. Donncha Foley, Civic Engagement / Volunteering
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:

Cllr. Helen Ogbu, Galway City Council
Ms. Caroline McDonagh, Local Enterprise Office Galway
Ms. Elaine Harvery, Galway City Community Network/PPN
Mr. Shane Tuohy, Social Enterprise
Ms. Sinéad Morgan, GRET B

In Attendance:

Mr. Dermot Mahon, LCD C Chief Officer, Galway City Council
Mr. Liam Kitterick, Galway City Council
Ms. Natalie Coen, UCDO, Galway City Council
Ms. Maggie Crowley, Galway City Council

1. Welcome

It was agreed in the absence of Cllr Ogbu that Cllr Eibhlín Seoighthe would chair the meeting. Cllr Seoighthe welcomed all and apologies were noted.

2. Confirmation of the Minutes of Galway City LCD C meeting held on the 25th of February 2026.

Mr. Tommy Flaherty advised that the Ballybane Needs Analysis has been presented at a stakeholder meeting and is now at final draft stage.

Mr. Dermot Mahon provided an update on the Access Officer role. He advised that the post has been advertised since the last meeting. The principal focus of the role will be on access and inclusion, with additional responsibilities in supporting the Age Friendly programme. It is expected that a further update on the position will be available at the July meeting of the LCDC. This update was noted during the confirmation of the previous minutes.

**The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on the 25th of February 2026 were:
Proposed by Ms. Linda Sice Brogan, seconded by Mr. Tommy Flaherty and agreed by all.**

3. Men's Health Week 2026 Update: Presentation from Mr Laurence Gaughan, HSE

Mr. Laurence Gaughan, HSE, provided an update on Men's Health Week 2026, outlining the planned programme of activities and engagement initiatives aimed at promoting men's health and wellbeing. Mr. Dermot Mahon advised that Galway City Council is happy to support the promotion of the event. Members welcomed the update and noted the importance of continued collaboration in supporting health promotion initiatives. The update was noted by the Committee.

4. Local Enhancement Programme Grants 2026 and Healthy Ireland Grants 2026

Local Enhancement Programme Grants 2026 - Mr. Liam Kitterick presented a report on the Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) Grants 2026, under which €146,293.30 in capital funding is available, with a maximum grant of €8,000 per application. It was noted that 96 applications were received, with funding recommended for 79 community and voluntary groups. Several grant schemes were open concurrently, and any grants not suitable for LEP were directed, where possible, towards more appropriate funding streams. Subject to LCDC and Grants Committee approval, the recommendations will be submitted to the DRCDG for final sanction prior to notification of applicants.

Mr. Dermot Mahon highlighted the confidentiality requirements of the LEP Funding Agreement, noting that there must be no public release of successful applicants, as any breach may result in loss of funding. It was further noted that application outcomes will only be released following the Minister's press release in the coming weeks.

Proposed by Cllr. Eibhlín Seoighthe, seconded by Mr. Donncha Foley and agreed by all.

Healthy Galway City Grant 2026 - Mr. Dermot Mahon presented a summary report on the Healthy Galway City Grant 2026 a Healthy Ireland funded programme administered by the Galway City LCDC to support community-based health and wellbeing initiatives. It was noted that a total budget of €40,000 was available, with grants ranging from €1,000 to €5,000; 59 applications were received, of which 23 were recommended for funding, 33 were unsuccessful and 3 were deemed ineligible. The final report will be presented to the Grants Committee on 24th April and successful applicants to be notified mid-May.

Proposed by Cllr. Josie Forde, seconded by Ms. Lorraine Lally and agreed by all.

5. Draft Community & Voluntary Groups Financial Assistance Scheme 2026

Ms. Natalie Coen, Urban Community Development Officer, presented a report outlining a proposed pilot Community and Voluntary Groups Financial Assistance Scheme for 2026. The scheme has a budget of €20,000, with a maximum grant of €500 per group. It will provide retrospective support to volunteer-led community groups only, to assist with essential running costs. Applications are proposed to open in June 2026, with recommendations scheduled to be brought to the July 2026 meeting of the LCDC. The scheme will be widely advertised, and online information sessions will be delivered in mid-May.

Members raised practical considerations regarding bank account requirements, application processes and shared rental/expenses arrangements. It was confirmed that supports in relation to establishing bank accounts/accessing funds, and alternative application options would be available where required. Proof of eligible expenditure will be required.

Members noted agreement with the scheme outline and criteria and it was agreed the scheme would proceed as proposed with additional guidance provided to groups without a bank account, where appropriate.

6. SICAP 2026 Case Study Guide and Proposed Theme

Ms. Linda Sice Brogan presented a report outlining the proposed SICAP Goal 2 Case Study 2026, which focuses on SICAP supports delivered to International Protection Applicants in Galway City. The case study highlights a collaborative wellbeing and resilience initiative delivered under SICAP Core Area of Work 3 to support individuals living in congregated settings.

Mr. Dermot Mahon advised that the preparation of a case study is a core requirement of the SICAP contract and noted that, subject to the Committee's approval, the case study will be presented to the LCDC in November.

Proposed by Cllr. Josie Forde, seconded by Mr. Donncha Foley and agreed by all.
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7. LECP Implementation Plan 2024–2025 – Final Report

A report was presented outlining progress under the Galway City LECP Implementation Plan 2024–2025, representing the first two-year implementation cycle of the LECP 2024–2029. The report detailed progress across the five high-level goals, with particular reference to High-Level Goal 3: An Equal and Inclusive City and High-Level Goal 5: A City that Promotes Health and Wellbeing, which are most relevant to the statutory remit of the LCDC.

The report also informed the review and preparation of the next Implementation Plan for 2026–2027. Members were invited to submit any suggestions or proposed additions to the report in the coming two weeks

8. AOB

It was noted that this year's Mayors Awards will take place on Wednesday, 29th April in Galmont Hotel.

Meeting concluded.

Next meeting to be held in Galway City Council Chamber, on the **15th July 2026** at 3pm in person and online.