



**Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe**  
**Galway County Council**

**Coiste Polasaí Straitéiseach Gnóthaí Forbairt Eacnamaíochta & Fiontraíochta**  
**Economic Development & Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)**  
**Cruinniú /Meeting**

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018  
**Council Offices, Galway County Council, Galway**

**Members in attendance**

Cllr. Mary Hoade	Galway County Council
Cllr. Seán Ó Tuairisg	Galway County Council
Paul Mannion	Scott Tallon Walker Architects
Dan Dowling	Community Representative

**Present**

Kevin Kelly	Galway County Council
Alan Farrell	Galway County Council
Brian Barrett	Galway County Council
Kieran Coyne	Galway County Council
Lisa Glynn	Galway County Council
Breda Mulrennan	Galway County Council
Elaine Donohue	Galway County Council
Noel Madden	Galway County Council
Valerie Kelly	Galway County Council
Micheál Ó hÉanaigh	Údarás na Gaeltachta
Máire Ní Einniú	Údarás na Gaeltachta
Mike Devane	AEC Chambers Group
Frank Dawson	Action Tuam
Sean Keenan	Galway Chamber

**Apologies**

Cllr. Peter Feeney	Galway County Council
Cllr. Tom Healy	Galway County Council
Cllr. Joe Byrne	Galway County Council
Breda Fox	Galway County Council
Paul Quinn	Trade Union Representative
Michelle Murphy	Business / Commercial Representative

As Cllr. Peter Feeney's apologies were noted, Cllr. Mary Hoade chaired the meeting on the proposal of Cllr. Seán Ó Tuairisg.

### **1. Minutes of the meeting of the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017 and matters arising**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017 were approved on the proposal of Cllr. Seán Ó Tuairisg and seconded by Mr. Paul Mannion.

There were no matters arising.

### **2. Developing a State of the Art Marine Innovation Park at Páirc na Mara**

Cllr. Mary Hoade welcomed Mr. Micheál Ó hÉanaigh and Ms. Máire Ní Einniú from Údarás na Gaeltachta to the meeting and invited them to make their presentation on Developing a State of the Art Marine Innovation Park at Páirc na Mara (presentation attached).

Cllr. Mary Hoade thanked Mr. Micheál Ó hÉanaigh for his presentation and invited questions from the floor.

Cllr. Seán Ó Tuairisg outlined his support for the project, as he feels it will assist in enhancing the area economically. He stated that Údarás na Gaeltachta funding from central government needs to be reviewed. He offered his congratulations to Údarás na Gaeltachta for all their work on Páirc na Mara so far.

Mr. Paul Mannion stated that Páirc na Mara needs to be designed for robustness to withstand the varying weather conditions and for expansion, with a particular focus on the treatment of water intake and waste water output.

Mr. Micheál Ó hÉanaigh responded to state that Údarás na Gaeltachta are investigating water and waste water treatment as well as infrastructure with their engineers at present.

Mr. Kevin Kelly acknowledged the work of Údarás na Gaeltachta on the project. He noted the many positives associated with the project as well as the difficulties that they face. He stated that Galway County Council is open to assisting Údarás na Gaeltachta with this project and wished them well with same.

Cllr. Seán Ó Tuairisg stated that the return to the State from the Páirc na Mara project will outweigh any grant aid received from the government.

Mr. Alan Farrell reiterated that Galway County Council are supportive of the Páirc na Mara project. He stated that our LCDC are cognisant of the levels of deprivation in that area of the county and are willing to offer advice and support as appropriate. He stated that the Ireland West Food Innovation and Incubation Hub - BIA Innovator Project has been successful in securing funding from the Enterprise Ireland, Regional Economic Development Fund (REDF) and would like to see an investigation of possible synergies between the two projects. He advised that the County Council would be willing to provide a letter of support for the Páirc na Mara project subject to planning and environmental matters being in order.

### **3. Development of the Atlantic Economic Corridor**

Cllr. Mary Hoade welcomed Mr. Mike Devane, Chairperson of AEC Chambers Group as well as Mr. Frank Dawson and Mr. Sean Keenan to the meeting and invited them to make their presentation on the Development of the Atlantic Economic Corridor (presentation attached).

Cllr. Mary Hoade thanked Mr. Mike Devane for his presentation. She stated that a presentation by the AEC Chambers Group on the Atlantic Economic Corridor to the full Council would be worthwhile. She then invited questions from the floor.

Mr. Paul Mannion acknowledged the passion for the project shown by the AEC Chambers Group in their presentation and stated that a workshop for community groups might be worth considering.

Cllr. Seán Ó Tuairisg stated that he can see the potential in the Atlantic Economic Corridor and he hoped it would produce results quickly for rural areas. He stated that we should build on what is there already, using the enterprises that are already in the communities but we need to look at infrastructure and facilities for the area.

Mr. Kevin Kelly thanked the AEC Chambers Group for their presentation and commended the Group for the movement of this from an idea to a plan. He stated that he would welcome the appointment of a full-time AEC Co-ordinator. He stated that Galway County Council is open to assisting the AEC Chambers Group with this project and wished them well with same.

Mr. Alan Farrell stated that the Council wanted to maximize the opportunities presented by the AEC and its inclusion under the NPF. He advised that it is important that there is collaboration with other parties, such as Galway City Council, Údarás na Gaeltachta, business groups etc., to ensure we adopt a viable long term strategic approach and tie local and regional plans, citing the completion of the RSES as a very important piece of work that needed to facilitate the maximization of opportunities for the region.

Mr. Frank Dawson thanked the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC for the opportunity to give the presentation. He stated that they need to get State Agencies to acknowledge the Atlantic Economic Corridor and ensure that same is embedded in local area plans. He stated that he looks forward to working in partnership with Galway County Council on this.

#### **4. Ireland West Food Innovation and Incubation Hub – BIA Innovator Project**

Mr Alan Farrell stated that the letter of offer of just under €2.5m was received from Enterprise Ireland under the REDF. He advised that the project had scored well as part of the assessment and that it would change the landscape for food businesses in the West. Mr Alan Farrell advised that while it was great to get this level of funding that there is a significant shortfall and that the partners are currently considering the options. He stated that the documentation for the Part VIII has been completed and the planning process can now move forward.

#### **5. Broadband Update**

Cllr. Mary Hoade welcomed Mr. Noel Madden, Broadband Officer Galway County Council, to the meeting and invited him to make his presentation (presentation attached).

Cllr. Mary Hoade thanked Mr. Noel Madden for his presentation and invited questions from the floor.

Cllr. Seán Ó Tuairisg raised a query asking as there is only one bidder for the national broadband plan, will they automatically be awarded the contract.

Mr. Noel Madden responded to state the Government is in talks with the one remaining bidder but that the awarding of the contract will not be automatic, as they need to ensure that they receive value for money and all requirements in their tender document can be met and delivered upon.

## **6. European Region of Gastronomy (ERG)**

Cllr. Mary Hoade welcomed Ms. Elaine Donohue, ERG Co-ordinator Galway County Council, to the meeting and invited her to make her presentation (presentation attached).

Cllr. Mary Hoade thanked Ms. Elaine Donohue for her presentation and noted that the recent launch of the ERG showcased what County Galway has to offer in this area. She then invited questions from the floor.

Mr. Paul Mannion queried whether we could promote curated food markets. He stated that we need to showcase what is available in the entire county of Galway.

Cllr. Seán Ó Tuairisg stated that the Aran Islands could look at a market to grow more vegetables themselves on the islands.

Mr. Kevin Kelly thanked Ms. Elaine Donohue and the team for what has been achieved in a short period of time on a small budget. He stated that although the designation is only for one year, the work that has begun in this area will be something that has growth potential and could be expanded among in the coming years.

Mr. Alan Farrell acknowledged the work of Ms. Elaine Donohue and the team. He stated that Galway needs to make the best of the opportunity given to them by this designation and the work taking place will be a framework for the future.

## **7. Galway Airport Update**

Mr. Alan Farrell gave an update on Galway Airport and stated that both Councils are progressing with the process to tender the hangars out to be used as an audio-visual studio. He stated that they are currently engaging technical expertise to assist with same and we will move to phase 2 as soon as practicable.

## **8. Town and Village Renewal Update**

Mr. Kieran Coyne gave an update on the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2017. He stated that there are 13 projects in progress and work continues to have same completed by June 2018. He informed the SPC that an initial drawdown application for funds for the projects which met the requirements was submitted on the 15 March 2018. He stated that he has a query in with the

Department to seek clarity on the process for further drawdowns for all projects. He informed the SPC that a call for the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2018 is expected in April.

Mr. Kieran Coyne stated work was continuing to complete works under the REDZ initiative and it is aimed to have same completed by the end of Q2 2018.

Mr. Kieran Coyne informed the SPC that Ms. Lisa Glynn recently joined the Economic, Rural and Community Development Unit of Galway County Council and is working on areas under Town and Village Renewal among others.

#### **9. Schedule of SPC meeting dates for 2018**

Mr. Kieran Coyne proposed the following dates for the remaining SPC meetings in 2018:

- Tuesday, 29 May 2018 at 10am
- Tuesday, 11 September 2018 at 10am
- Tuesday, 4 December 2018 at 10am

Cllr. Mary Hoade requested that a note be sent to all members of the SPC to remind them of the importance of attendance at meetings due to the poor attendance at today's meeting, which she stated was very informative.

#### **10. AOB**

No AOB arising.