

Miontuairiscí Chruinniú Choiste Polásaí Straitéiseacha Pobail, An Ghaeilge, An Ghaeltacht, Turasóireachta & Comhtháthú a tionóladh Dé Céadaoin 3 Nollaig trí Microsoft Teams @ 2:30pm.

Minutes of Meeting of the Community, Irish Language, Gaeltacht, Tourism & Integration Strategic Policy Committee held on Wednesday 3rd December @ 2:30pm via Microsoft Teams

Members in Attendance online:

Cllr Evelyn Parsons	Galway County Council
Cllr Seamus Walsh	Galway County Council
Cllr Alan Harney	Galway County Council
Cllr Michael Regan	Galway County Council (nominated chair for this meeting as Michael Leainde had some technical difficulties joining meeting)
Cllr Noel Thomas	Galway County Council
Cllr Máirtín Lee	Galway County Council
Cllr Michael Leainde	Galway County Council
Chika Onyia	Social Inclusion Representative
Colleen Baxter	Business/Commercial Representative
Paul Carey	Development/Construction Representative
Paul Dillon	Community/Voluntary Representative

Staff in Attendance:

Michael Owens, Director of Service, Kieran Coyne Administrative Officer, Sharon O'Grady Administrative Officer, Diane Gallagher A/SO, Breege Lynn Administrative Officer, Jean Brann Senior Executive Officer, Máirtín O'Donnchadha Oifigeagh Forbartha Gaeilge.

Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

1. Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the SPC held on the 15th September were proposed by Cllr. Seamus Walsh and seconded by Paul Carey.

There were no matters arising.

2. Galway County Council Strategic Policy Committee Standing Orders

Michael Owens gave the members a brief overview of the new SPC Standing Orders.

3. UNESCO Cities of Film International Meeting Galway 2026

Sharon O'Grady introduced Alan Duggan of Ardan to speak to the members about UNESCO.

Mr. Duggan gave the members an overview of the work carried out under UNESCO and thanked the council for their continued support.

The chair opened the floor to any questions/observations for Alan.

Colleen Baxter queried if Ardan have engaged with the Galway Convention Bureau.

Mr. Duggan advised that they have engaged with the Galway Convention Bureau and will continue to work with them in promoting Galway.

Paul Dillon queried if film tax credits available in Ireland will be part of the communications issued under UNESCO to promote the film industry here.

Mr. Duggan advised that the tax credits are a part of the promotion.

Michael Owens thanked Mr. Duggan for his presentation and thanked Sharon O'Grady and all who have worked on the UNESCO project to date. Mr. Owens also thanked the members for approving the continued UNESCO funding under the budget for 2026.

This concluded the presentation on UNESCO.

4. Draft Customer Action Plan 2025 – 2029

Michael Owens introduced Breege Lynn to give the members an overview of the Draft Customer Action Plan 2025-2029.

Breege Lynn introduced herself and thanked the members for giving her the opportunity to present at the meeting. Ms. Lynn proceeded to give the members an overview of the Draft Customer Action Plan 2025-2029.

The chair opened the floor to any questions/observations from the members.

Cllr Michael Leainde queried if the goal of having 30% Irish language speaking staff by 2023 is feasible.

Breege Lynn advised that there is still some ambiguity around the % of Irish speaking staff by 2023 and whether that figure includes existing staff or not.

Cllr Michael Regan queried the customer complaints tracker and who is responsible for following up on complaints.

Ms. Lynn advised that it is an online tracking system and that complaints are reported to the appropriate unit to respond directly to each complaint.

Cllr Evelyn Parsons thanked Ms. Lynn for her presentation and queried whether the goal in relation to Irish speaking relates only to staff or if it includes Irish services.

Ms. Lynn advised that to her knowledge the plan only relates to the Irish language proficiency but that there will be changes down the line in relation to Irish services provided.

Michael Owens thanked Ms. Lynn for her presentation and the extensive work carried out by all in getting the plan to this stage.

5. Draft Civic Honours Protocol

Michael Owens introduced Jean Brann to give the members a brief overview of the Draft Civic Honours Protocol.

Jean Brann introduced herself to the members and gave a brief overview of the Draft Civic Honours Protocol

There were no queries in relation to the Draft Civic Honours Protocol

The Draft Civic Honours Protocol was proposed by Cllr Seamus Walsh and seconded by Cllr. Michael Leainde.

6. Draft SPC Work Programme 2026

Michael Owens outlined to the members the items currently listed in the Draft SPC Work Programme for 2026

There were no queries in relation to the Draft Work Programme 2026.

7. Schedule of Meetings 2026

Michael Owens asked the members if they have any preferences for meeting days/times for the meetings in 2026. It is anticipated to hold an SPC in each quarter 2026 and to hold at least one meeting in person if possible.

Members advised of their preferences.

Michael Owens to consider dates/times and revert to the members with possible dates in 2026.

8. Agenda Items for Next SPC Meeting

Michael Owens asked the members if there are any items they would like to see on a meeting agenda in 2026.

Cllr Evelyn Parsons stated that she would like the Councils place naming committee to make a presentation to the SPC if possible.

Michael Owens advised that he would be happy to co-ordinate a presentation from the place naming committee in 2026.

9. Any Other Business

Michael Owens informed the members about a short film gifted to Cathaoirleach David Collins by Gaelscoil Riada in Athenry. The film is called "Mise Éire".

Link for the short film to be emailed to the members.

The meeting concluded with no further questions raised.