

## COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

**Minutes of Housing, Culture and Recreation SPC Meeting held on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018 in Room G01, Aras an Chontae, at 2.00p.m.**

**I Láthair:-**

Cllr. S. Walsh, Chairperson

Cllr. T. McHugh

**Baill:**

Cllr. D. Killilea

Cllr. M. Fahy

Cllr. P. Hynes

Ms. H. McElmeel

Mr. A. Farrell, A/ Director of Services, Economic, Rural & Community Development and Corporate Services

**Oifigigh:**

Ms. Celine Delaney, Administrative Officer, Housing

Ms. H. Riordan, A/ Assistant Staff Officer, Housing

Ms. Sharon O'Grady, Temporary Arts Officer, Community & Enterprise  
Ms. Catherine Gallagher, County & City Librarian,  
Corporate Services

**Leithscéal:**

Michael Owens, A/Director of Services, Housing

Cllr. Eileen Mannion

Ms. Emiear Dolan, A/Co. Secretary

Mr. John Kearns, Executive Engineer

Mr. Padraic Maher

Ms. Jeann Brann, Senior Executive Officer

Mr. Declan McKeon

## **1. Minutes of Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. McHugh.

## **2. Presentation by Arts Officer and City & County Librarian on the Galway County Council Draft Creative Ireland Strategy 2018-2022.**

Ms. Catherine Gallagher introduced the committee to the 5 year Galway County Council Draft Creative Ireland Strategy 2018-2022. She provided a background to the strategy and informed the committee of various events that had taken place in 2017 as part of the Creative Ireland programme in County Galway. Next, Ms. Sharon O'Grady outlined the draft strategy, the consultation process undertaken to formulate it and detailed its 8 strategic priorities and key objectives. She outlined the implementation process and the role that the internal Creative Ireland team.

Cllr. Killilea thanked Ms. O'Grady & Ms. Gallagher for their presentation and acknowledged the work that it entailed. He explained that he had attended an event in Tuam last year organised through this initiative and informed that it had generated a great interest in the community. He made enquiries on behalf of a local group regarding funding via this strategy. Ms. O'Grady responded to his enquiry. Cllr. Killilea suggested that the event in Tuam would be a great flagship event to launch the strategy as they were expecting 4,500 people to attend.

Ms. McElmeel stated she had concerns as to the tangibility of the strategy and her hopes that it would incorporate the professional wellbeing of the artists. Mr. Farrell replied that the guidance in relation to the development of the strategy was quite prescriptive and that there were other services available to artist and other creatives in society that could be availed off. He said that the consultative event was attended by many artists and that their comments had been taken on board where possible saying that it is not envisaged that the Creative Ireland Strategy be a mechanism solely for providing grants, but as a catalyst and structure to bring together stakeholder in the area, co-ordinating their expertise. He said that the Council would be developing an Arts Strategy as well which would be brought before the SPC. Cllr. McHugh stated that he would like to the implementation of the strategy reach the smaller country towns and villages due to their declining and older populations.

Cllr. Killilea finished by complementing the presentation and stated that he would support it, this was seconded by Cllr. Hynes.

The Strategy was agreed by all of the committee.

### **3. Housing Capital Programme 2017 - 2021**

Cllr. Killilea proposed to defer this item until the next meeting when Mr. Owens would be present. This was seconded by Cllr. McHugh.

### **4. SPC Work Programme and Schedule of Meetings for 2018.**

It was proposed that the remaining meetings for 2018 be held in June, September and November. Dates to be confirmed at the next meeting, which was scheduled for Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 11am.

Mr. Farrell stated that he would draft a Work Programme with respect to the Economic, Rural & Community Development and Corporate Services Directorate for the next meeting. He said that it will include the Arts Strategy, Galway 2020 and how culture and creativity can assist with our towns. It was decided that the Work Programme including details for the Housing Department would be finalised at the next meeting. It was clarified that Michael Owens, A/Director of Service was the primary Director for the Coordination of the SPC.

### **5. Any Other Business**

Cllr. Hynes made an enquiry in relation to the CLÁR Scheme. Mr. Farrell stated that the CLÁR scheme is coordinated by Economic, Rural and Community Development Unit but implemented with input from other units, primarily the Roads Section. Cllr. Hynes informed Mr. Farrell that some community groups and individuals completed their application forms incorrectly last year and requested that advice be provided to the public and elected members on completing applications. Mr. Farrell suggested that a point of contact in the Council could be provided to assist in this area.

Cllr. Fahy enquired as to Galway County Council's policy on rough sleepers and referred to a case he was aware of without providing personal details. He asked how the case might be dealt with and Ms. Delaney responded that she would liaise with Cllr Fahy after the meeting and that she would guide him in relation to the options/services available.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

