Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Community Cultural Development and Gaeltacht Affairs Strategic Policy Committee

2pm on 30th April 2025, Hybrid Meeting

Attendees – Elected Representatives: Cllrs Ronan Moore (Chairperson) David Gilroy, Yvonne Everard and Yemi Adenuga.

Attendees – Sectoral Representatives: Ms. Suin O'Connor, Ms. Ursula Ní Shionnain and Ms. Lisa Rowntree

Apologies: Cllr Emer Toibín, Ms. Paula McCabe

Officials Present: Barry Lynch, Director of Services, Brian Hora, Senior Executive Officer Community, Maedhbh Rogan, County Librarian, Gerardette Bailey, Arts Officer, Valeria McHugh AO Community and Gemma Ryan, Community Safety Partnership Coordinator

1. To adopt minutes of the meeting held on 22/01/2025.

   The minutes were adopted on the proposal of Cllr Adenuga, seconded by Ms. Lisa Rowntree.

2. To approve Arts Grants & Bursaries 2025

   Brian Hora advised members of the SPC that recommendations made under agenda Items 2, 4 and 5 are embargoed until they are approved by the elected members at the May full council meeting. He also advised that any member of the committee must declare if they have a conflict of interest and excuse themselves from that agenda item.

   Cllr Ronan Moore requested all member of the committee be mindful of this and to respect the confidentiality of the reports.

   Ms. Suin O'Connor declared a conflict of interest as an applicant under the Arts Grants & Bursaries 2025 and excused herself from the meeting for this item.

   Gerardette Bailey presented the report on the Arts Grants & Bursaries 2025 which was circulated to the Committee. The Report outlined the grant categories and grant funding sources. She advised there were 121 applications received of which 71 were assessed as eligible and the total proposed grant allocation was €59,280. The Report detailed the individual allocations under each category.

   Ms. Bailey responded to questions from Cllr Adenuga and Cllr Moore on unsuccessful applications, application process and assistance that may be provided to potential applicants for future schemes.

   On the proposal of Cllr Adenuga seconded by Ms Lisa Rowntree it was recommended the Arts Grants & Bursaries 2025 be submitted as presented to full Council for approval.

3. Libraries Update and report on the newly opened Bettystown library

   Maedhbh Rogan gave a report from Library Services focusing on the new library in Bettystown. The report detailed services and facilities available in the library and details on membership and activities since opening.

   The Committee welcomed the report and Ms. Rogan responded to a question from Cllr Adenuga on advertising the availability of meeting rooms.

4. To approve Community Grant Scheme 2025

   Brian Hora presented the report on the Community Grant Scheme 2025 which was circulated to the Committee. The Report outlined the grant categories and funding available. He advised there were a total of 558 applications of which 16 were considered ineligible and the reasons were noted in the report. He advised the total proposed grant allocation was €323,696. The Report detailed the individual allocations under each category.

   On the proposal of Cllr Gilroy, seconded by Cllr Adenuga it was recommended the Community Grant Scheme 2025 be submitted as presented to full Council for approval.

5. To approve Regional Festivals & Participative Events funding from Failte Ireland 2025

   Brian Hora presented the report on the Regional Festivals & Participative Events funding from Failte Ireland 2025 which was circulated to the Committee. The Report outlined the grant criteria and funding available. He advised there were a total of 9 applications of which 1 were considered ineligible as it did not meet the criteria for the scheme. He advised the total proposed grant allocation was €11,000. The Report detailed the individual allocations under each category.
   On the proposal of Cllr Gilroy, seconded by Ms. Suin O'Connor it was recommended the Regional Festivals & Participative Events funding from Failte Ireland 2025 be submitted as presented to full Council for approval.

6. To approve Residents Association Handbook
   Brian Hora introduced the item and advised suggested amendments received from the members of the committee on the draft Handbook circulated previously were incorporated in the final document. The members of the Committee welcomed the development of the Residents Association Handbook and Mr., Hora responded to a question from Cllr Adenuga on publishing the handbook and circulating to residents' associations in the County.

7. To note details of Community Meeting Spaces Survey

   Brian Hora presented the report on the Community Meeting Spaces Survey which was circulated to the Committee. Mr. Hora outlined the key survey findings and learnings from the report and responded to questions from Ms. Lisa Rowntree and Cllr David Gilroy on the

actions to be taken on foot of the results and mapping community meeting spaces available.

It was agreed the report would be circulated to all elected members and published on the Council website.

8. To Receive an update on the Age Friendly County Programme

Ms. Valerie McHugh gave a detailed presentation on the implementation of the County Meath Age Friendly Strategy 2023-2028. Ms. McHugh noted this the Strategy was approaching its mid-point and the process of developing a new strategy will commence in 2027. In her presentation Ms. McHugh gave details of actions taken under each of the eight themes of the Meath Age Friendly Strategy.

The Committee welcomed the presentation and Ms. McHugh and Mr. Barry Lynch responded to questions on Age Friendly Housing and the annual Meath Cares About Older People event from Cllr Gilroy and Cllr Moore.

9. AOB

Barry Lynch thanked the members of the committee for their attendance and input into the meeting and also thanked staff involved in the preparation of the reports and agenda items.

Date of Next meeting 17th September 2025 at 2pm

Recommendations to Corporate Policy Group

1.	On the proposal of Cllr Adenuga seconded by Ms Lisa Rowntree it was recommended the Arts Grants & Bursaries 2025 be submitted as presented to full Council for approval. Report attached.
2.	On the proposal of Cllr Gilroy, seconded by Cllr Adenuga it was recommended the Community Grant Scheme 2025 be submitted as presented to full Council for approval. Report attached.
3.	On the proposal of Cllr Gilroy, seconded by Ms. Suin O'Connor it was recommended the Regional Festivals & Participative Events funding from Failte Ireland 2025 be submitted as presented to full Council for approval. Report attached.

That concluded the business of the meeting.