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23rd June 2021

A Chara,

I refer to your letter of 14th June 2021 seeking information in relation to the funding of Galway 2020 and this Council's governance arrangements. I note that the information request arises from a committee discussion on 18th May 2021 following consideration of anonymous correspondence.

Can I clarify that Galway County Council didn't itself receive any funding towards Galway 2020 (bullet point 3 of your letter) but it did contribute its own direct funding to the project and it is in that context the following information is supplied for the assistance of the Committee.

On 16th December 2014 the Government decided that Ireland should exercise its right to submit a nomination for the European Capital of Culture for 2020. Following an open competition and selection process Galway was designated as European Capital of Culture in July 2016.

At its monthly meeting on 24th April 2017, the Members of Galway County Council resolved to provide funding of €2M to the European Capital of Culture. On 29th April 2019 the Members approved a further allocation of €2M whereby €1.5M would be allocated directly to Galway 2020 to facilitate additional programming in the County and €500K retained by Galway County Council for the development of

legacy post 2020. However, the amount contributed under this second tranche was reduced because of programme curtailment related to the Covid restrictions resulting in an overall contribution of €2.8m.

A Service Level Agreement was put in place between Galway County Council and Galway Cultural Development and Activity Company Limited, T/A Galway 2020, to define the roles and responsibilities of the Council and Galway 2020. It addressed key deliverables, funding, independent audit requirements and specified that the County Council nominees to the board of Galway 2020 would be the Chief Executive (or their nominee) and the sitting Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council.

Galway 2020 is a company limited by guarantee and has been incorporated following all the legal requirements under Irish Company Law. The founding documents of the Company specify that it may have a board of up to 15 members which would be responsible for directing the company's affairs at a strategic level.

Board meetings are held monthly and consider progress on the delivery of the Cultural Programme, financing and operations. To date all Company Accounts have been filed as required and Audit requirements fully complied with.

In relation to the council's funding contribution mentioned earlier the appropriate approvals are in place in accordance with the financial provisions of the Local Government Act 2001. It is, of course, subject to audit by the Local Government Audit Service and appropriate governance structures have been put in place as provided for in the Service Level Agreement between the Company and the Council.

I hope the foregoing information will be of assistance to the Committee.

Mise le meas



Jim Cullen
Chief Executive
Galway County Council