



The Galway Waterways Foundation
c/o ProActivate Ireland
58 Dominick Street
Galway, Ireland
Ph: 0876993193
E: galwaywaterways@gmail.com

16 February 2022

Members of the Climate Action, Environment,
Recreation, and Amenity SPC
Galway City Council, City Hall
College Road
Galway

Subject: SPC meeting 23.02.22: Waterway's governance policy proposals

Dear SPC members,

The presentation and policy proposals concerning the governance of Galway's waterways comprises three parts:

1. Why waterways governance needs to change?
2. What are the present governance arrangements?
3. Two alternative policy proposals

Parts 1 and 2 will be covered in a PowerPoint presentation. The justifications for the alternative policy proposals in point 3 are covered in the attached document, "A Governance Solution for Galway's Waterways". I would kindly request that you read through this document before the presentation and discussion. It is a little long but waterway's governance has a complicated basis in law as well as custom and practice. This is further complicated by the remits of key agencies such as the IFI and the NPWS. On top of these are the requirements of the Water Framework Directive as operated by the EPA and the regional water management committees.

The argument has been put forward that because of existing legislation and agency remits the local authority has no role to play in revising waterways governance. The feedback from TDs, government ministers and the contents of the attached document demonstrate that quite the opposite is the case, and the local authority has an absolutely key role to play.

I would like to reassure the members of the local authority executive that the policy proposals that will be put forward in the presentation do not impinge in any way on their ongoing operational responsibilities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.