

What is the City Development Plan?

The Galway City Development Plan is the main public statement of planning policies for the city. It sets out the land use, amenity and development objectives and policies of the planning authority, for a six-year period. The plan consists of a written statement of objectives and a series of maps.

What is in the plan?

The plan includes objectives for:

- zoning of areas for residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural etc. purposes;
- preserving, improving and extending amenities;
- development and renewal of obsolete areas;
- provision of water supplies and sewage services, waste recovery and disposal facilities;
- provision of accommodation for travellers;
- provision of services for the community (e.g. Crèches)

The City Development Plan can also include development objectives relating to the control of use of buildings, community planning, reservation of lands, preservation, conservation etc.

How does the plan affect me?

The development plan is a blue print for the planning and development of the Galway City for the next six years. For example, it sets out where roads, water supplies, sewage are to be provided and it zones land for a particular purpose (housing, shopping, schools, industry, commercial etc.) This will affect what type of buildings can be constructed and the use to which land can be put. It affects many facets of daily economic and social life- where you can live, what services are available and where developments with job opportunities are to be sited.

Does the plan affect planning applications?

All planning applications are viewed in relation to the development plan in order to assess their conformity with the plan's objectives; development permitted must normally be in accordance with the plan.

What is the affect of Zoning?

When land is zoned for a particular type of development in the City Development Plan, this is a clear indication that a planning permission for this form of development may be obtained, subject to compliance with standards contained in the plan. Zoning may also indicate restrictions on development (e.g. A limit on size/type of commercial units, certain types of industry only) and permitted development will be limited accordingly.

What protection can the City Development Plan give?

Galway City has a strong historical heritage, which can be seen in its buildings. It also has a rich collection of natural amenities. The plan may list for preservation, particular natural amenities (views, trees, landscape etc) and particular buildings, features or sites of artistic, architectural or historic interest.

Development proposals, which might alter or interfere with any of these amenities, will be restricted, and works which might otherwise be exempted development will required planning permission.

Who makes the plan?

The making, reviewing and varying of the plan is a function reserved for the elected members (i.e. councillors) of the planning authority. It is their duty to adopt the plan with the technical help of their officials (the Manager, planners, engineers etc.), and following extensive public consultation. If the elected members fail to make a plan within the statutory period, the manager must make a plan.

How you can contribute to the Development Plan?

Public participation is an integral part of the preparation of the new City Development Plan 2011-17. The plan will be more effective if it has the participation and input from different sections of the community.

The City Council welcomes submissions/observations during the periods designated for public consultation:

- **27th February 2009 to 18th June 2009**

During this period you are invited to make submissions/observations with regards to planning issues relating to the City. These issues raised where appropriate will be summarised in a report prepared by the Manager for the Council. The planning authority officials will then prepare a draft plan, based on the policy issues outlined in the Managers report and any specific direction from the City Council.

- **Wednesday 3rd February 2010 to Wednesday 21st April 2010**

The City Council considers the Draft Plan and it is then put on public display for at least 10 weeks. This will give more opportunities for the public to make submissions / observations, this time specifically relating to the Draft Development Plan. Again the Manager will prepare a report on the submissions/observations for consideration by the City Council who may change the Draft Plan based on the Manager's report or their own views.

- **October 2010 to January 2011 (dates to be confirmed at time)**

If the Draft Plan is materially altered (i.e. significantly changed), the amendments go on further public display for at least 4 weeks, during this time fresh comments on these changes can be made again by the public. Following consideration of any new comments, the plan is formally adopted by the City Council and becomes the official Galway City Development Plan 2011-2017.

How do I make a Submission/Observation?

Any person can write submissions/observations to the planning authority during the review and display periods listed previously.

Submission/observations should be clear, simple and concise. They should also relate to issues which are contained in a development plan. Further details on the content of a development plan are contained in the information leaflet entitled "Review of City Development Plan 2005-2011 and Preparation of New City Development Plan 2011-2017" which is available from the Planning Department or the Galway City Council website

If maps are appropriate, please ensure that the maps are clear and where possible in A4 or A3 sizes.

All submissions/observations should state if you are writing as an individual or on behalf of a group/organisation.

A submission/observation form is available from Galway City Council or can be downloaded from the Council website. However, submissions do not have to be made on this form.

All submissions/observations should be clearly marked - "**Submission/Observations - Galway City Council Draft Development Plan**".

Throughout the consultation period the Council will hold drop in clinics at the Council offices and public information meetings in different locations. At these meetings the issues raised will be recorded and considered as part of the Draft Development Plan.

Further details of the public meetings and drop in clinics will be advertised in local newspapers/radio and on the Council's Website indicating the locations, dates and times.

All submission/observations will be available to view on the Council's website directly after the public consultation and display periods.

Contact Details:

All written submissions or observations should be addressed to:

*Senior Planner,
Development Plan and Policy Section,
Planning Department,
Galway City Council,
City Hall,
College Road,
Galway*

or e-mailed to the following address,
planning@galwaycity.ie

Any telephone inquiries regarding the preparation of the City Plan can be made to Planning Section, Galway City Council at **(091) 536599**. Further details are also available on Galway City Council's website www.galwaycity.ie



Remember this is YOUR opportunity to have input into the preparation of the Development Plan that will affect your City!

Development Plan and Policy Section, Galway City Council Feb 2010

