

Introduction:

Galway has experienced significant population growth in recent years. It is the third most populated Irish City, with a current population of 72,414 people (2006 census). The city is also a designated "Gateway" for the West of Ireland under the National Spatial Strategy. Given Galway's national importance, it is essential that the best strategy for sustainable development of the City up to 2017 be adopted in the future City Development Plan.

The Purpose of a Development Plan:

The purpose of a development plan is to set out the planning authority's policies and proposals for sustainable development and use of land within its area. The development plan is primarily a land-use document. It provides the strategic framework to guide new development to appropriate locations and sets out clearly defined criteria against which proposals for new development can be judged. It must have regard to economic, social, environmental and cultural considerations in the formulation and development of its policies and proposals. These considerations provide the context within which decisions on the development and the use of land must be made.

The role of land use planning is to secure the prudent use of a limited resource i.e. land. The plan must provide transparent and concise guidance to provide assurance to communities and developers regarding proposals in their area. This guidance is important also to enable planning authorities to make decisions in a rational and consistent manner. The development plan must provide a reasoned balance between development and conservation needs and clearly provide for the achievement of sustainability.



What is the Development Plan:

The development plan consists of a written statement and relevant associated maps. It must include many objectives with regards to the:

- Zoning of land use.
- Provision and facilitation of infrastructure, including transport, energy, communication facilities, water supply, waste recovery and waste disposal facilities, and ancillary facilities.
- Conservation and protection of the environment, including areas of archaeological or natural heritage.
- Integration of planning and sustainable development with the social, community and cultural requirements of the area and its population.
- Preservation of the character of the landscape, areas of natural beauty and interest.
- Preservation of structures or parts of structures, which are of special architectural, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific or technical interest.
- Preservation of the character of Architectural Conservation Areas.
- Renewal of areas in need of regeneration.
- Provision of travellers' accommodation, community services, including schools, crèches and childcare facilities
- Preservation, improvement and extension of recreational amenities.
- Control of establishments under the E.U. Major Accidents Directive.

In addition, a development plan may include a wide range of other objectives relating to:

- Location and pattern of development.
- Environment and amenities and community facilities
- Infrastructure and transport

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Development Plan must be carried out to assess the likely significant environmental effects of the plan. An Appropriate Assessment which assesses the ecological implications of the plan in relation to Natura 2000 sites i.e. Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas must also be undertaken.

Timeframe of the Development Plan:

The making of the development plan is outlined under Part II of the Planning and Development Act, 2000. A new development plan must be prepared every six years. It will take approx. 2 years to prepare the new Galway City Development Plan, which commenced on 27th February 2009. The new development plan for the City must be adopted by January 2011.

Figure 1 - The estimated timeframe for the preparation of the new development plan is envisaged at this stage to be as follows:

- ⇒ 27/2/09 to 18/6/09 – Publish notice of intention to review the existing Development Plan and prepare a new Development Plan. Submissions/observations with regards to "Predraft Plan" issues invited from the public.
- ⇒ 19/6/09 to 11/1/10 – City Manager's report for the members of the City Council taking into consideration any submissions/observations received. Preparation and making of the Draft Development Plan.
- ⇒ 3/2/10 – 21/4/10 - Draft Development Plan on public display. Submissions/observations invited from public. City Manager's report submitted to members of City Council taking into consideration any submissions/observations received. The period for receipt of submissions and observations ends on Wednesday 21st April (16.00 hours).
- ⇒ 6/10 to 9/10 Dates to be confirmed at time - Draft Plan may be adopted provided that any amendment made is not a material alteration of the draft.
- ⇒ 10/10 to 1/11 Dates to be confirmed at time– Draft Plan with any amendments on public display. Submissions/observations invited from public. City Manager's report submitted to members of City Council taking into consideration any submissions/observations received. Afterward the amended Draft Plan may be subsequently adopted.



How you can contribute:

Public participation is an integral part of the preparation of the draft development plan. The plan will be more effective if it has the participation and input from different sections of the community. The City Council welcomes any written submissions/observations during the appropriate periods, as indicated in the timeframe for the preparation of the draft Development Plan, (see Figure 1).

It may prove helpful to refer to the information leaflet entitled "A Guide to making a Submission/Observation on the new Galway City Development Plan 2011-2017" (available from the Planning Department and Galway City Council website) before making an observation/submission.

The making and adoption of the City Development Plan is a function of the Elected Members of Galway City Council. Contact details for Members are available on City Council website or from City Hall.

There will be opportunities for public consultation through out the development plan review and preparation of new development plan, including public information sessions, drop-in clinics and exhibitions. Further details will be advertised in local newspapers/radio and on the Councils website indicating the locations, dates and times of these.

Contact Details:

All written submissions or observations should be addressed to Senior Planner, Planning Department, Galway City Council, City Hall, College Road, Galway or e-mailed to the following address, devplan@galwaycity.ie

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

Any telephone inquiries regarding the preparation of the draft development plan can be made to Planning Section, Galway City Council at (091) 536599. Further details also available on City Council 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 - February 2010



Review of Galway City Council Development Plan 2005-2011 and Preparation of New City Development Plan 2011 -2017

Information Leaflet

