



**Comhairle Cathrach
na Gaillimhe**
Galway City Council



Rates and Local Property Tax Newsletter

June 2025



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Galway is the largest urban centre within the The Northern and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA) area, and one of just two cities in the Atlantic Economic Corridor, serving as a vital catalyst for economic growth and competitiveness in the region while making a substantial contribution to GDP.

The budget of the local authority for 2025 is €144,104,090.

In late 2024, the Elected Members of Galway City Council approved an ambitious proposal by the Local Authority to invest an additional €19.5m in the city over the next five years. This investment is being funded through:

- a 15% increase in the Local Property Tax, and
- a revision of the Annual Rate of Valuation (ARV) from 0.217 to 0.23 — a commercial rate that is now beginning to align with most of the other 30 local authorities nationwide.

This investment demonstrates Galway City Council's commitment to Galway's growth and development, providing enhanced services for businesses, local communities, residents, and the two million tourists who visit the city annually. Galway City Council has submitted 12 priority projects to the Programme for Government, and has requested local and Oireachtas representatives to support the progression of these projects.

These priorities include N6 Galway City Ring Road, BusConnects Galway; Galway City Flood Defence Scheme (Coirib go Cósta); funding model; pilot Tourist Bed Night Tax; wastewater infrastructure; regeneration of Dyke Road and Sandy Road; enabling development of Ardaun; the Clifden Railway Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge; cultural infrastructure fund; and Galway Port redevelopment.

This investment programme is vital to ensuring Galway City continues to thrive and remains a world-class destination to live, visit, and do business.

Mid-Year Updates

As we enter Q3 2025, with a new Mayor set to take office later this month, this newsletter highlights key initiatives that staff and Elected Members of Galway City Council have been advancing over the past six months, following the adoption of the budget, in support of the city's businesses and communities.

A substantial programme of work has been completed—and is ongoing—across service delivery and capital projects in Galway City. This newsletter showcases key highlights and milestones from the past six months.

We look forward to continued progress and successful delivery throughout the remainder of 2025.



Leonard Cleary
Chief Executive



Cllr. Peter Keane
His Worship, the Mayor of the City of Galway



Service Delivery

- **Night-Time Economy:** ‘Youth Lates’ Live Music events (year two). ‘Cafe Lates’ (year two) - seven cafés participating. ‘Thursday Lates’ pilot at Galway Arts Centre. **Training:** ‘All Right All Night’ safety training; Vulnerability and Safeguarding for Night-Time Economy Workers; Drug, Alcohol, and Spiking Awareness; ‘Night Out Access In’ accessibility awareness training. €240k awarded from the Community Recognition Fund for enhancement works to **Fr. Burke Park**.
- Five **Green Flag Awards** for Quincentennial Park, Children’s Millennium Park, O’Sullivan Park, Kennedy Park and Terryland Forest Park.
- **Blue Flag** and **Green Coast Awards** for Silverstrand and Salthill Beaches.
- Two **shelters** installed at Ballyloughane Beach, with spectacular murals painted by local artist, Ró.
- **Galway City Parking** ‘cashless’ payments - Over 60% of parking transactions being done on the parking app/online solutions, with over 25,000 users.
- **Electoral Commission Oversight Report on The Electoral Registers** - Galway City Council “one of the most effective local authorities with regard to recording of accuracy indicators for each elector” and one of the top two local authorities in terms of PPSNs recorded.
- Grants of €450,000 awarded to the city’s **arts organisations** for 2025.
- **St Patrick’s Day** - Three-day festival of music, theatre, circus and spectacle. Parade featured 70 groups with a total of 3,500 participants.
- **Funding:** €100,000 approved under the Creative Practitioners Bursary, Band Grant and Healthy Galway City Community Grants in April. €82,440 pending approval for Local Amenity Grants, Local Community Festival Grants and An Innovative City Initiative. €565,000 will be allocated under the CAIRDE grant scheme in June. €25,000 Community Participatory Funding awarded to Mervue Playground. €134,604 Local Enhancement Programme grants to be announced in June.
- **Street Cleaning** - early morning 5am clean-ups have been particularly difficult during the recent spell of good weather but the service was maintained to an excellent standard. Galway City Council is looking at ways to improve awareness of littering within the public realm and to reduce waste going to landfill overall.
- **Purple Flag Accreditation** secured for Galway City and Salthill in 2025.
- **Shopfront Enhancement Scheme** – launched June 2025.



- **‘Giob Geab’** – new Climate Story telling night in Druid Theatre, 26 March 2025.
- **NetZeroCities Pilot** - Retrofit information sessions ongoing. Retrofit Rig - Net Zero Energy Building courses and retrofit sessions (February). Participated in Cities Mission Conference, Lithuania May 2025. Project ends on 31 May 2025.
- **Tonnta Irish Language Festival** (February) - brought to life by Gaillimh le Gaeilge, celebrating Galway as Ireland’s only bilingual city.
- Galway City Council funded several festivals with **Marketing Grants** including Tonnta, Galway Fest, Galway Drum Show, an Tóstal, Grá Fest and Connacht Rugby.
- **Storm Éowyn** - response ongoing, with significant resources deployed in the response and the on-going clean-up. The nature of this storm was unprecedented, with widespread damage far exceeding anything experienced by the local authority in recent times. Approximately 4,000 trees damaged throughout the city and woodlands that fall under responsibility of Galway City Council.
- One of Ireland’s first **eMobility Hubs** launched in Westside Decarbonisation Zone, at Westside library.
- Galway City Council worked with Galway Westend and the Woodquay Traders Associations to introduce **outdoor dining** for the summer season for 2025.
- **Galway City Museum** - New models by LEGO® brick artist, Jessica Farrell, and €15,000 Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media funding for stunning 3D model of a 16th-century Tower House.
- 15th annual **Galway City Heritage Conference**, 25 March 2025.
- First **bilingual Council Meeting** during Seachtain na Gaeilge, March 2025.
- **Wellpark Grove** laneway project with mural and tree planting.
- Pilot **Smart Benches** launched in Westend, Eyre Square and Salthill.
- **Circular Galway City** - Sewing Workshops March 2025.
- Uachtarán na hÉireann, Michael D. Higgins commemorated **25 years of Terryland Forest Park** at a celebration in Galway City on 6 June 2025. The ‘Green Lungs’ of Galway City was planted in early 2000, over the course of a single day (12 March), with over 3,000 people arriving into an empty field - and leaving having planted a forest.
- **Love Your Beach Week, Biodiversity Week, Africa Day, Bealtine Festival** - May 2025. **Cruinniú na nÓg**, June 2025.
- **Galway Lorient** - 50 years twinning celebration, with Brittany Fest Galway taking place in May 2025.
- **Mayor’s Awards** - Nine outstanding winners announced at a ceremony on 1 May 2025.



- **Annual Mayor's Charity Ball** on Friday 13 June, in aid of four local causes - Galway Autism Partnership, Galway Down Syndrome, The Blue Teapot Theatre Company, and Rosabel's Rooms.
- Joint Galway City and County **Metropolitan Area Socio Economic Profile Census 2022** launched, aligning 27 neighbourhoods in Galway City Development Plan with Central Statistics Office small area boundaries (April 2025).
- 400 Senior Planners attend prestigious **National Planning Conference** on 50th anniversary of Irish Planning Institute (April 2025).
- Award-winning 'An Cliathán' Age Friendly housing scheme and The Creativity Fund to support people experiencing homeless to participate in cultural life to feature in **International Social Housing Festival**, 4-6 June.
- Chief Executive of Galway City Council, Leonard Cleary, welcomed over 80 **Galway City Tourism network professionals** to a Fáilte Ireland networking event in the Galmont Hotel on 20 May. The event highlighted significant opportunities for the sector in Galway City, with a Destination Experience Development Plan (DEDP) currently being developed with Fáilte Ireland and local tourism businesses.
- **LEO Galway** - 30 businesses received support for Lean, Green and Digital. 36 businesses/clients completed Start Your Own Business training programme. 14 clients completed Management Development training.
- **Sustainable Alliances Against Anti-Muslim Hatred** exhibition in City Hall.
- **Housing maintenance** on-going for over 2,877 units, including emergency unscheduled works, energy retrofitting, refurbishment of tenanted and void properties. 26 properties surrendered, and 29 void properties refurbished for re-tenanting in 2025. Planned works on over 400 homes (external window/door replacement, damp remediation, replacement of heating systems, minor roof repairs, electrical works). Fire Alarms, Emergency lighting, and Fire extinguishers programme of works continues across 27 Multi Development Units under Housing maintenance remit, including inspections and remediation.
- **Housing Adaptation Grants** for Older People and People with a Disability scheme for private and Local Authority homes continues in 2025 - currently 74 homes received Disabled Persons Grant works under this programme.
- **Roads: Bridge rehabilitation works** completed at Dominick Street Canal Bridge and Fr. Griffin Road Canal Bridge. **Road resurfacing works** completed at 13 road sections. **Footpath reconstruction works** completed at Bohermore and Renmore Road. **Mobility improvement works** completed at 10 locations. **Pedestrian area enhancement works** at High Street.

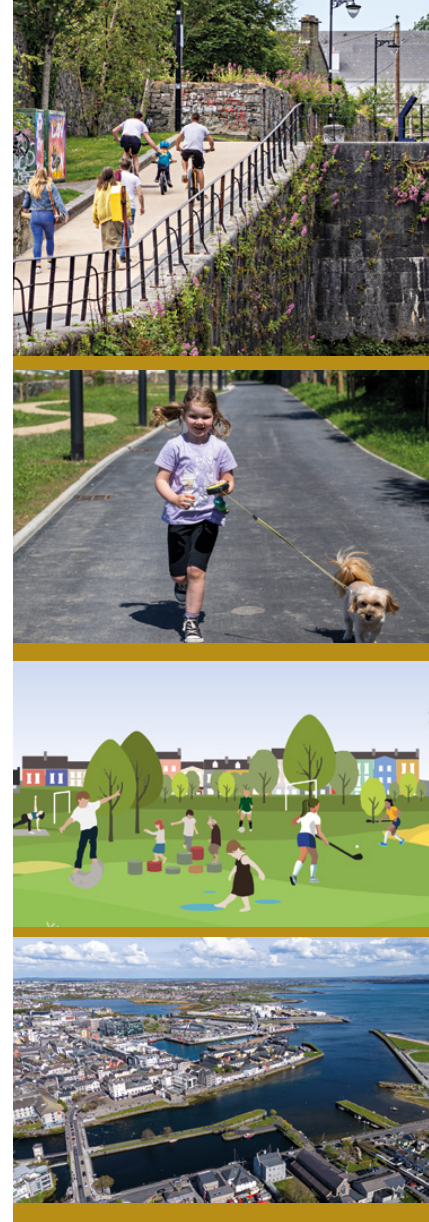


Capital Projects

- **Salmon Weir Pedestrian Crossing** Section 38 of the planning process approved, currently at detailed design.
- **Ballybane Road and Castlepark Road Cycle Network Scheme** construction began in February, on 2.4km segregated cycle lanes with enhanced safety for walkers and wheelers.
- The **Crescent / Sea Road Junction Upgrade** substantially complete, included Scoil Fhursa – front of school and approach safety interventions.
- **Parkmore Road Bus Priority Scheme** expansion of the 409 bus route into Parkmore Business Park, came into operation in March.
- **Western Distributor Road Active Travel Scheme** Preparing for submission of Part 8 of the Planning application.
- **Bus Connects Dublin Road** Submitted to An Bord Pleanála in February. **Bus Connects: Cross City Link** under judicial review.
- **Bóthar Stiofáin** Active Travel Scheme tender documents being prepared.
- Galway City Council, Galway County Council and Galway Chamber joint breakfast briefings to discuss opportunities for leveraging government support for **key strategic priorities** for Galway and the wider North-Western Region.
- Planning Permission received for **Woodquay Park** redevelopment.
- **Salthill Village and Seafront Framework Plan** - Engagement events and public consultation.
- **West Area, Integrated Urban Strategy** - Engagement Events.
- **Community Monuments Fund** - €250K secured for St Nicholas Collegiate Church/ Menlough Castle.
- Since 1 January, the number on **Derelict Sites Register** has increased from 11 to 51. 6 sites were removed from the Register in that period. Levies totalling €177,450 raised on 7 of these sites. 87 new derelict sites identified in 2025 - inspections undertaken and appropriate statutory notices issued. Draft Derelict Sites Policy and Procedure approved by the Project Development SPC for review at June Council meeting. A publicity campaign to make the public aware of the issue of derelict sites and how to report them is planned.
- **Derelict and Vacant Property** information evening 26 May 2025.
- **Cross Street Rejuvenation** Stakeholder Workshop.
- **Affordable Housing Scheme, Letteragh Road** Launched.
- A **new Tourism Office** for Eyre Square is going through the design phase with support from Fáilte Ireland.



- Eginton Canal Active Travel Scheme wins the **Best Trail/ Waterway in Ireland Award**, in the All-Ireland Community and Council Awards 2025, at the national ceremony in February.
- **Construction Industry Federation (CIF)** Meeting to strengthen the partnership between the public and private sectors in delivering much-needed housing units across Galway City (March 2025).
- **Crown Square** is at Stage 2 (b) Detailed Design stage. The tender process is currently ongoing for the fit-out contractor.
- **Kingston Park and Millers Lane Parks and Public Urban Realm Project** - Second stage non-statutory public consultation process ended 22 May. Over 160 people attended consultation event in April, with very positive feedback received to date. Project is now moving towards 'Preferred Option' stage.
- **Southpark Neighbourhood Park and Public Urban Realm Project** – 1st Stage Non-Statutory process completed in Q1; work in progress on design optioneering exercise to feed into 2nd Stage Non-Statutory Consultation Process in August – September 2025.
- **Renmore Neighbourhood Park and Public Urban Realm Project** – 1st Stage Non-Statutory process completed in Q1; work in progress on design optioneering exercise to feed into 2nd Stage Non-Statutory Consultation Process in August – September 2025.
- Work progressing on detailed design for refurbishment of **Youth Theatre** at Nun's Island and **Creative Space** at the Manse House. Capital Funding of €3.8 million has been secured from the THRIVE fund to implement this.



Recruitment

Recruitment activity has significantly increased to support the delivery of a wide range of services. The scale and diversity of roles being filled reflect the dynamic and evolving needs across the organisation.

A number of appointments have been made, including roles such as: Waste Enforcement Officer, Community Safety Coordinator, Executive Scientist, Assistant Parks and Landscape Officer, Senior Executive Planners, IT Cyber Security, Environmental Compliance Officer, Financial Management Accountant, Senior Architect, Senior Executive Engineers, Administrative Grades.

These are just a selection of the many positions filled in recent months.

In addition, recruitment is currently underway for several new roles, including: Executive Quantity Surveyor, Local Authority Graduate Planners, Arts Development Officer, Executive Accountant, Assistant Planner, Executive Planner, EV Local Infrastructure Co-Ordinator, Executive Architect, International Relations Officer. This ongoing recruitment drive highlights the breadth of expertise required to deliver on our commitments and priorities.

For information on current vacancies, see www.GalwayCity.ie/Human-Resources

Paying your Local Property Tax

The easiest way to pay your LPT charge is online.

You can use Revenue's online LPT calculator to calculate your LPT charge - see Revenue.ie

You can pay in one single payment in full or phased payments (instalments) to spread your payments throughout the year.

To make your payment in full, or set up a phased payment arrangement, please log into the LPT portal - see Revenue.ie

You can also pay in full, or on a phased basis, through an approved payment service provider (PSP). The approved PSPs are An Post and Payzone. You can set this up on the LPT Portal, and subsequently make your payment(s) at the PSP.

Rate Payers in Difficulty

Galway City Council will facilitate payment plans for customers with outstanding balances on rates.

Ratepayers experiencing financial difficulties should contact their Revenue Collector at Rates@GalwayCity.ie to agree a revised payment plan.

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