

Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe Turascáil Bhliantúil

Galway City Council Annual Report 2024



Comhairle Cathrach
na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council



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1. Welcome by Mayor Peter Keane

Is cúis áthais dom freastal ar mhuintir na Gaillimhe mar Mhéara na Cathrach 2024, tar éis na dtoghchán áitiúil 2024.

It is my great pleasure to have served the people of Galway as Mayor of Galway City 2024, working in partnership with Deputy Mayor, Councillor Níall McNelis; the Elected Members; and the staff of Galway City Council.

Galway City Council commenced a new five year term in June 2024, following the local elections. One third of the members are first time councillors - a welcome injection of new people and ideas in the local authority. One third of the members of Galway City Council are female, which is a positive step in terms of representation of the diverse city we serve as public representatives.

Galway City Council provides essential services to the people living, working, studying in, and visiting, our city – in areas as diverse as housing, planning, roads, environment, recreation, economic development, placemaking, arts and culture, and social inclusion.

The 2024 Annual Report is a snapshot of some of this activity, with highlights including strategic projects at Eglinton Canal Active Travel Scheme and Wolfe Tone Pedestrian Bridge II; the continued high performance of Galway as a city for the tourism, the arts and the environment – with Blue Flags, Purple Flags, the Galway By Night pilot programme and THRIVE Funding for Nun's Island Theatre; and community development continuing to underpin the strength of the city – with the creation of a new integration unit for new communities, and initiatives including Crinniú na nÓg, arts grants for homeless people, and sports grants and health promotion.

It has been an honour to support the progression of these services and projects, working with the Elected Members, and stakeholders and communities of Galway City.

His Worship, Mayor of the City of Galway, Councillor Peter Keane



Cllr. Peter Keane
Mayor

2. Introduction by Chief Executive Leonard Cleary

Tá áthas orainn Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2024 Chomhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe a chur i láthair, ina leagtar amach na héachtaí atá bainte amach agus gníomhaíochtaí na Comhairle i rith na bliana.

In 2024, local authorities celebrated 125 years of local government, continuing a long tradition of provision of services at a local level.

Local authorities are the closest and most accessible form of government to the people they serve, with the people of Galway City expressing their democratic preference for public representation in the Local Elections in June 2024.

I was delighted to join Galway City Council as the new Chief Executive shortly before the local elections, and to commence engagement with elected representatives, staff, residents, community and businesses on a shared goal of a thriving Galway City - which has significant positive implications for the wider hinterland and western region.

In November 2024, Galway City Council made a submission to the Programme for Government, as agreed with the Elected Members, which identifies the 12 key priorities requiring a National Government intervention, to progress over the next decade. These priorities include the 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.

These Strategic Priority Projects are essential to progress Galway City Council's vision of Galway as a vibrant, world class city in which to work, live, do business, and visit.

The plan of Strategy Priority Projects informs the Galway City Council Corporate Plan 2024-2029, which was adopted on the 9th December 2024. The Corporate Plan details the range of services and projects to be resourced in Galway City, and will inform funding applications to national government, over the lifetime of the current council.

Thank you to the people of Galway for their support and engagement with the local authority over 2024.

Thank you also to our Elected Members and to the staff of Galway City Council for their continued public service.

Welcome to the new staff who joined Galway City Council in 2024, and congratulations to all those retiring, or progressing in their career in other organisations.

This annual report reflects the combined efforts and dedication of the staff and members of Galway City Council on behalf of the public. It reflects the position of the city, and of the local authority, in a positive space to progress our ambitions and potential, as a cultural and creative city, collaborating with the diverse communities and businesses of Galway and beyond, to strengthen and enhance our unique attributes, sustainability, inclusiveness, safety and innovation.

Leonard Cleary, Chief Executive



Leonard Cleary
Chief Executive

3. Elected Members of Galway City Council

(January to June 2024)

Galway City East



Cllr. Alan Cheevers



Cllr. Michael J. Crowe



Cllr. Alan Curran



Cllr. Declan McDonnell



Cllr. Terry O'Flaherty



Cllr. Noel Larkin

Galway City Central



Cllr. Mike Cubbard



Cllr. Frank Fahy



Cllr. Eddie Hoare



Cllr. Imelda Byrne



Cllr. Colette Connolly



Cllr. Martina O'Connor

Galway City West



Cllr. John Connolly



Cllr. Peter Keane Mayor



Cllr. Clodagh Higgins



Cllr. Donal Lyons



Cllr. Níall McNelis



Cllr. Niall Murphy

(June to December 2024)

Galway City East



Cllr. Aisling Burke



Cllr. Declan McDonnell



Cllr. Alan Cheevers



Cllr. Shane Forde



Cllr. Helen Uchechukwu Ogbu



Cllr. Terry O'Flaherty

Galway City Central



Cllr. Eibhlín Seoighthe



Cllr. John McDonagh



Cllr. Mike Cubbard



Cllr. Frank Fahy



Cllr. Josie Forde



Cllr. Eddie Hoare

Galway City West



Cllr. Peter Keane Mayor



Cllr. Alan Curran



Cllr. Clodagh Higgins



Cllr. Donal Lyons



Cllr. Níall McNelis



Cllr. Michael J. Crowe

The General election was held on the 29th of November 2024, where Cllr John Connolly was elected to represent Galway West. At a special meeting of casual vacancy held on the 20th of December 2024 Michael J. Crowe was nominated by co-option to Galway City Council.



4. Senior Management Team



Patrica Philbin,
Director of Services,
Urban Development
Directorate



Patrick Greene,
Director of Services,
Operational
Development
Directorate



Helen Kilroy,
Director of Finance
& Corporate
Development
Directorate



Derek Pender,
Director of Services,
Project
Development
Directorate



Elizabeth Fanning,
Acting Director
of Services,
Social
Development
Directorate

“ Our Mission Statement

To continue the development of Galway as a world class city in which to live, work, study, ” visit, and invest through delivering services in an equal, inclusive, and sustainable manner.

Our Vision Statement

Galway City Council will lead a cultural and creative city, collaborating with the diverse communities and businesses of Galway and beyond, to strengthen and enhance our unique attributes, sustainability, inclusiveness, safety and innovation.

5. Area Committees

In 2024, Galway City Council’s Area Committees played a key role in local governance, fostering community engagement and informed decision-making. Representing the East, West, and Central areas, they provided a platform for councillors to address local issues, review plans, and oversee services. Through regular meetings, they enhanced collaboration and served as a link between the council, officials, and residents, ensuring local issues such as housing, transport, and infrastructure receive focused attention and contribute to more effective decision-making.

Central Area Committee	
Members	Jan – May 2024 – Cllrs. Colette Connolly, Imelda Byrne, Mike Cubbard, Frank Fahy, Eddie Hoare, Martina O’Connor June – Dec 2024 – Cllrs. Frank Fahy (Chair), Mike Cubbard, John McDonagh, Eddie Hoare, Eibhlin Seoighthe, Josie Forde
Number of Meetings Held in 2024	4 (8 th Feb, 18 th April, 6 th Sept, 5 th Nov)
Topic Discussed in 2024	• Net Zero Cities Pilot Project • Enforcement of Parking/Speed Radar Signs • Local Improvement Schemes • Footpaths and Accessibility issues • Masterplans (Southpark & Kingston) • Housing Projects • Flood Defence for Spanish Arch & Claddagh • Bus Shelters for Westside & Shantalla • Active Travel Projects • Cross Street Rejuvenation Project

West Area Committee	
Members	Jan – May 2024 – Cllrs. John Connolly, Clodagh Higgins, Peter Keane, Donal Lyons, Níall McNelis Niall Murphy June – Dec 2024 – Cllrs. Donal Lyons (Chair), Níall McNelis, Clodagh Higgins, Alan Curran, Peter Keane John Connolly
Number of Meetings Held in 2024	5 (2nd Feb, 9th Feb, 24th May, 2nd Sept, 4th Nov)
Topic Discussed in 2024	• Social & Affordable Housing Projects • Local Improvement Scheme • Knocknacarra FC Planning Application • Kingston Masterplan • Multi-Modal Transport Corridor • Tourist Office, Salthill • Coirib go Cósta – Galway City Flood Relief Scheme • Active Travel Projects • Anti-Social Behaviour • Promenade & footpath repairs • Salthill Vision Framework

East Area Committee	
Members	Jan – May 2024 – Cllrs. Alan Cheevers, Michael Crowe, Alan Curran, Noel Larkin, Declan McDonnell, Terry O Flaherty June – Dec 2024 - Cllrs. Shane Forde (Chair), Helen Ogbu, Declan McDonnell, Terry O’Flaherty, Aisling Burke, Alan Cheevers
Number of Meetings Held in 2024	4 (1st Feb, 18th April, 19th Sept, 1st Nov)
Topic Discussed in 2024	• Local Improvement Scheme projects • Social & Affordable Housing Projects • Active Travel Projects • Masterplans - Renmore • Changing shelters & toilets in Ballyloughane. • Playgrounds – Renmore • Maintenance of Walter Macken Flats • Public Transport - Castlegar • Anti-Social Behaviour • Traffic light issues • Footpath maintenance and repairs • Litter management • Bus Shelters • Ballybane Needs Analysis • Traffic calming measures – Old Monivea Road & Castlegar School

6. Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs)

Strategic Policy Committees consider matters connected with the formulation, development, monitoring, and review of policy for Galway City Council. The membership of SPCs is made up of Galway City Council Elected Members and external representatives from local sectoral interests. Following the local elections in June 2024, a new Strategic Policy Scheme was agreed for the next 5 years at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 9th September 2024. The tables below highlight the work undertaken by the SPCs in 2024. For details of SPC Membership, please refer to Appendix 1.

SPC Work Programme 2024

Housing and Social Inclusion SPC	
Chair	Cllr. Declan McDonnell
Number of Meetings Held in 2024	3
Policies Discussed	• Presentation on works at Ballinfoile Park • HDSG Progress Report • Homeless Update • Traveller Accommodation Plan Update • Action Plan • Tenant Purchase Scheme • Affordable Housing scheme update • Regional Homeless Action Plan • TAP Year 4 Progress Report
Policies Adopted	Traveller Accommodation Plan 2025-2029

Planning SPC	
Chair	Cllr. Donal Lyons
Number of Meetings Held in 2024	3
Policies Discussed	• NWRA Presented Galway City & Metropolitan Area Plan • Residential Zoned Land Tax • Draft Heritage Plan • Minor Amendments to Tables & Chairs Licence Policy for Galway City Council. • Lobbying Act 2015. • Local Economic and Community Plan • Salthill Village and Seafront Framework Plan.
Policies Adopted	

Economic, Community & Cultural Development SPC	
Chair	Cllr. Donal Lyons
Number of Meetings Held in 2024	2
Policies Discussed	• SPC Work Programme for 2024 • The Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) • Night-time Economy • Creative Communities presentation • Update on Ireland West Knock Airport • Local Authority Integration team presentation • Community Recognition Fund 2024
Policies Adopted	• LECP Framework 2024 – 2029 and LECP Implementation Plan 2024-2025 as recommended by the SPC

Transportation SPC	
Chair	Cllr. Frank Fahy
Number of Meetings Held in 2024	3
Policies Discussed	• Presentation on Pay & Display Project • Road Safety Improvements/toucan crossing at Seamus Quirke Rd/Browne Roundabout • Park & Ride Projects Update • Presentation on Galway City's Walking & Cycling Index • Parkmore Road Bus Priority Scheme • Wolfe Tone Pedestrian Bridge Project Update • Draft City Noise Action Plan 2024-2028
Policies Adopted	

Climate Action, Environment, Recreation & Amenity	
Chair	Cllr. Martina O'Connor
Number of Meetings Held in 2024	4 (21/02/24, 22/05/24)
Policies Discussed	• Climate Action Plan, • Energy use • Adaptation, • Project Development
Policies Adopted	• Climate Action Plan

7. Corporate Policy Group (CPG)

The Corporate Policy Group comprises the Mayor and the Chairs of each Strategic Policy Committee. This group functions similarly to a Cabinet, serving as a forum for formulating policy positions that impact the city before submission to the full Council. The Mayor represents the Corporate Policy Group at Galway City Council meetings. All members serve from January to December, unless otherwise specified.

Corporate Policy Committee	
Members	Jan – May 2024 – Chair: Cllr. Eddie Hoare, Mayor of the City of Galway, Cllr. Donal Lyons, Cllr. Níall McNelis, Cllr. Frank Fahy, Cllr. Martina O'Connor, Cllr. Peter Keane June – Dec 2024 – Chair: Cllr. Peter Keane, Mayor of the City of Galway, Cllr. Declan McDonnell, Cllr. Mike Cubbard, Cllr. Donal Lyons, Cllr. Clodagh Higgins, Cllr. Níall McNelis, Cllr. John Connolly replaced by Cllr. Mike Crowe 20 December 2024
Number of Meetings Held in 2024	9
Topics Discussed in 2024	• Marketing and Promotion Fund 2024 • Budget Strategy Report and Budget Report 2025 • Training and Development Programme for Councillors 2024 • Town Twinning and Friendship Agreements • Corporate Plan 2024 – 2029 • Strategic Priority Projects for Galway City Council 2024 - 2029

8. 2024 in Pictures





9. Social Development Directorate

The objective of the Social Development Directorate is to enhance the quality of life for the people of Galway City through housing and integration supports for those in need and through the accelerated delivery of excellent quality social and affordable homes in appropriate locations, thereby creating socially inclusive and sustainable communities as an exemplar of social development.

9.1 Housing Services

Table 9.1 Housing Services in numbers, at year end 2024

Number of applicants on housing waiting list, including those currently in receipt of social housing support and transfers	4139
Number of housing allocations	290
Number of offers refused	41
Number of Galway City Council social housing tenancies	2651
Number of tenancies surrendered	87
Number of possession orders granted	7
Number of properties sold under the Tenant Purchase Scheme	8
Number of HAP tenancies	1851
Number of RAS tenancies	432
Number of adults in homeless emergency accommodation	213
Number of Homeless HAP tenancies	76

Social Housing Needs Assessment 2024

The purpose of the annual Social Housing Needs Assessment is to capture the total number of households qualified for social housing support, whose need for support was not being met, at a particular date in the calendar year. The SSHA was carried out on 4th November 2024. 1090 applications were re-assessed, with 237 applications closed in total following assessment. 514 additional households qualified for housing support in 2024. The total number of households on the housing waiting list and not in receipt of social housing support at 4th November 2024 was 1946. The total number of households on the waiting list, including those in receipt of social housing support and transfer applicants, is 4139.

Social Housing Allocations 2024

290 social housing allocations were made to applicants on the housing waiting list in 2024. Of these, 165 were local authority tenancies, 123 were approved housing body tenancies and there were 2 long-term leasing tenancies. 122 properties were advertised on the Choice Based Letting system, with a total of 11,172 expressions of interest received. 41 offers of accommodation were refused during the year.

Housing Assistance Payment Scheme (HAP)

A total of 190 HAP tenancies were established in 2024 including the transfer of 7 households on long term rent supplement over to HAP. Overall, 3608 households have been accommodated under HAP since its inception in Galway City.

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

The number of properties in the private rented sector under the Rental Accommodation Scheme was 166 at the end of 2024. A further 266 tenancies were supported under RAS in the Voluntary Housing Sector on 31st December 2024. A total of 57 new AHB RAS tenancies were created. 14 Notices of Termination in RAS and approximately 90 in HAP were served by landlords during 2024, primarily for the purpose of sale.

Estate Management

Galway City Council is responsible for the management of 2651 tenancies located throughout 170+ estates the city, with the number of tenancies and new estates continually increasing. Proper management of these tenancies and their associated housing estates is a key aim of the Social Development Directorate.

Three Housing Estate Liaison Officers (HELOs) and one Senior Liaison Officer are employed by the Council and provide a high-profile presence on the estates. They are engaged with estate management, anti-social behaviour and tenancy enforcement and work towards ensuring that local authority estates are better places to live. A Traveller Accommodation Officer and Traveller Liaison Officer are also employed by the Council.

Specific estate management functions include tenancy advice and training, support to resident's associations and investigation of complaints relating to breach of tenancy and/or anti-social behaviour. The Estate Management Team work in partnership with other departments in Galway City Council and with other groups and agencies in the city, including An Garda Síochána and Residents' Associations. The Greening the Laneways Project in Struthán Mhuirlinne in November 2024 was an example of an inter-agency initiative funded through the government's Anti-Dumping Initiative.

Anti-social behaviour and breaches of tenancy are dealt with as per Galway City Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Policy. In 2024, 700 complaints were received relating to anti-social behaviour and, of these, 650 were resolved in 2024. 300 formal letters, 20 tenancy notifications and 38 statutory tenancy warnings were issued during the year. Possession orders were sought against 8 occupiers of City Council properties; 4 occupiers were illegal occupiers; 3 occupiers were not entitled to succession, and 1 occupier was evicted for anti-social behaviour. Of these, 7 possession orders were granted with 2 of these currently under appeal.

Housing Rents

Galway City Council continued to manage and maintain the rent accounts of 2,651 tenancies in the city. Rents are recalculated to reflect changes in household composition or household income, as per the Council's Differential Rent Scheme 2019.

Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

18 applications were received under the scheme in 2024. Of these, 7 were deemed eligible to proceed to letter of offer. 8 properties were sold by Galway City Council in 2024, with a total market value of €1,950,000.

Local Authority Home Loan Scheme

30 applications for the local authority home loan were received in 2024. Of these, 8 applications were approved and the other 22 are still active and awaiting further information. Loan applications associated with Tenant Purchase sales accounted for 1/3 of all applications received and 3 of these were approved.

Social Work Support

In 2024, referral rates to the Social Work Unit were at an all-time high with 237 referrals received. Positive outcomes delivered by the team in 2024 include:

- Launch of the Creativity Fund for individuals in Residential Emergency Homeless Accommodation in collaboration with the Arts Section, supporting 27 individuals in emergency accommodation to access funding for arts related projects.
- Implementation of the Housing Led for Families Pilot Project, in collaboration with the housing homeless team, a new program aimed at supporting vulnerable families in emergency accommodation.
- Launch of an online social work referral system, accessed through the Galway City Council website, to improve systems, data collection and overall efficiency of the team.

Customer Service

Throughout 2024, the Housing Department maintained an office, opening times from 9.30 am to 1 pm.

9.2 Housing Capital

Galway City Council launched the Housing Delivery Action Plan in July 2022, which projects 2,240 social and affordable homes to be delivered across the city over the five-year plan. A copy of the plan is displayed on the Galway City Council website.

The Action Plan sets out how Galway City Council and Approved Housing Bodies will provide new social and affordable housing through direct build as well as through turnkey and Part V arrangements.

The action plan outlines a commitment to deliver:

- 1235 new social housing homes
- 1005 new affordable homes, including for purchase and cost rental.

The Housing Delivery Action Plan details how Galway City Council will achieve the targets set in the national Housing for All policy in partnership with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and Approved Housing Bodies.

The plans set out the proposed details of social and affordable housing delivery over the period 2022-2026, in line with the targets set out under Housing for All. The overall target for delivery across the 'build' categories of LA build, Part V, AHB – CALF and CAS build is 1,235 homes. Delivery will cover a range of housing including mixed-tenure schemes, increase social housing stock and address important issues such as affordability and vacancy.

Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
Build	305	219	224	241	246	1,235

Delivery in 2024 - LA Build / Turnkey / AHB & Leasing:

Scheme	Location	No. of Units
SHIP Construction Turnkey – Galway City Council	Coill Tire, Doughiska	10
SHIP Construction – Galway City Council	Garrai Bheag, Ballybaan More	58
SHIP Construction – Galway City Council	211A Tirellan Heights	1
CAS (Renewal) - Ability West	Glenanail Drive, Riverside	4
AHB CALF – Turnkey – Cluid Housing	Cnocan Glas, Letteragh Road	23
Long-Term Leasing – Galway City Council	Leana Thuaidh	24
AHB CALF Turnkey – Tuath Housing	Mincloon, Ragoon	13
CAS Construction – Galway Simon	111 Upper Newcastle	10
Part V Units – Galway City Council	Maolchnoc	10
CAS Part V – Ability West	Garrai na Saili	7
TOTAL		160

Merchant's Road Development: The Merchant's Road proposal comprises a mix of cultural space on the ground floor and residential accommodation on three floors above. Above the ground floor level cultural space, 11 no. social housing units are proposed, to be accessed by stairs and a lift. These units are 3 no. one bedroom and 8 no. two bedroom. This would be considered an appropriate type of development in the city centre location. The ESB have commenced in January the relocation of overhead wires to facilitate development. Enabling works including demolition of the existing structures will commence in Quarter 2 of 2025 with the main scheme development to commence on site in Quarter 3 of 2025.

Clybaun Road: The proposal is for a 61-unit housing project comprising of 30 Social and 31 Affordable units. Stage 1 approval for the 30 social housing units was received in January 2022 and stage 2 received in February 2024. Enabling works commenced on site in December 2024 and works are in progress to go to tender for delivery partner in Q2 2025.

Ballyburke: This site involves 84 social houses and went for Part 8 planning process 2024, which is now complete. The scheme's gone out to tender and is currently under assessment by the integrated design team.

Seamus Quirke Road Day Centre and Temporary Homeless Accommodation: The proposed development aims to provide a much-needed upgrade in the existing day centre facilities, along with additional resources. It will also accommodate temporary homeless accommodation year-round, with the focus on identifying and progressing routes out of rough sleeping and homelessness on a regular basis while also adapting during the winter months to increase the intake of vulnerable rough sleepers. Planning was approved by Council under Part 8 in Q2 2023. It's envisaged to have a contractor commencing in Quarter 2 of 2025 with a construction programme of 18 to 24 months.

Munster Avenue: The Munster Avenue proposal project is a high-quality urban infill housing project in a central city location. The existing vacant dilapidated house will be renovated with a new bookend building containing 3 number new 1 Bed residential units forming a strong urban but familiar form. The project will be submitted for Part 8 planning in April 2025.

Circular Road: Bóithrín an Saoirse: A scheme to provide 5 Culturally Specific Traveller Units has been designed for this site. Works on site commenced in Q4 2023 with completion in Q2 2025. This development will replace the existing halting site bays and include 3 No. 3-Bed dwellings, a 4-Bed dwelling, and a 2-Bed dwelling.

Sliabh Bhán Remedial Scheme: The remedial works scheme to deal with defects which have manifested in the Sliabh Bhán estate (comprising 54 units) in Ballybane. The scheme completed its final phase of remediation and units now returned for tenant allocation.

Garrai Beag: Galway City Council development consisting of 48 units (social housing scheme) was completed in December 2024.

Part V

Part V activity further increased in 2024 with 10 units acquired. The Housing Department entered discussions regarding a number of Part Vs for various proposed sites and schemes. Negotiations with Developers and the Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022-2026 indicate another 90 Part V units scheduled for delivery 2022-2026. Formal agreements were signed for 27 units in 2024 which included 8 Part V Affordable Units).

Acquisitions

Focus for acquisitions is primarily on preventing homelessness for tenants in situ. Continued engagement with inhouse technical support, allocation teams, together with HAP and RAS departments occur regularly to ensure an aligned approach to purchases. 2024 delivered 44 properties preventing families from entering into homelessness.

Delivery of Homes by Approved Housing Bodies (AHB)

New homes were delivered by AHBs in partnership with Galway City Council in 2024 at a variety of locations across the city. The main streams of funding available are the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) and Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF).

Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)

CAS project proposals were received from a number of AHBs for the housing needs of applicants under the specific categories (homeless, older people and people with disability). Peter Triest Housing Association progressed their application for 6 units in Ragoon. Retendering and expiration of the planning permission has delayed progress; however, it is anticipated that CAS construction will commence in 2025.

1 single unit acquisition application was completed in 2024 with Galway Simon and a further 3 units are in the process of being acquired with completion in early 2025.

Stage 4 approval was received by Ability West for CAS (Renewal) of 4 1-bed units in Glenanail Drive. The table below shows CAS Projects initiated, in progress or completed in 2024.

AHB	Location	Category of Tenant	Construction or Acquisition	No. of Units	Status
Peter Triest Housing Association	Cúl Gharrai, Ragoon	Disability	Construction	6	Stage 4 Approval
Ability West	Glenanail Drive	Disability	CAS (Renewal)	4	Completed
Galway Simon Community	Upper Newcastle	Homeless	Construction	10	Completed
Ability West	Garrai na Saili	Disability	CAS (Part V) Turnkey	7	Completed
Tuath Housing Association	Claí Mór, Old Monivea Road	Homeless / Disability / Older Persons / Mental Health	Turnkey	33	Turnkey Funding Approval 20.12.23 - Delivery Q2, 2025
Galway Simon Community	Newcastle Road	Homeless	Acquisition	1	Completed

Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)

The Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF) involves an AHB securing a minimum of 70% private funding for the acquisition of units for the provision of social housing, with the Department providing up to 30% of the remaining funding requirement as a Capital Advance through the local authority. Expressions of interest have been identified by Approved Housing Bodies for potential acquisition and/or construction.

Croí Conaithe

32 Applications were received in 2024. 4 were withdrawn and 11 fully funded in 2024. Of these 8 were seeking the full derelict top up amount. Various requests have been received regarding extensions and Galway City have been allowing the maximum time for each unit to ensure consistency across all applications. The acquisitions team is managing expectations and ensuring correct procedures are in place.

Repair and Leasing

A target of two repair and leasing schemes were required to be completed in 2023. GCC received four enquiries, for this scheme, with one progressing to completion. The completed unit is managed by an AHB and fully occupied. The remaining three submissions are currently being reviewed with a view to progress in 2024.

Mortgage to Rent

The Mortgage to Rent scheme is a government initiative to help homeowners who are at risk of losing their home through mortgage arrears. In Galway City, 1 application is currently in progress.

Land Acquisition

Galway City Council has a rolling Expressions of Interests for the supply of Social Housing and Development Land following the establishment of the Housing for All Land Acquisition Fund in November 2022. Galway City Council completed the acquisition of lands off Cappagh Road in 2024 with a scheme of circa 35 units currently under development by the Architects department.

Unsold Affordable Housing

76 homes acquired in the period to 2009 and intended for sale under previous Affordable Housing Schemes remain unsold. The Schemes under which they were acquired were discontinued in 2011. These homes have been managed by Clúid and Tuath Housing Associations with all units occupied by tenants from the Council's housing waiting list. Council was notified in December 2022 that approval was received from the Department of Housing to transfer suitable Unsold Affordable Properties (USAs) to permanent social housing stock.

The Housing Delivery Action Plan for 2022-2026 proposes up to 541 units will be delivered under CALF which will substantially assist the Council in meeting its overall targets under Housing for All. Galway City Council currently have now almost 1,000 units on Capital Advance Leasing Facility Payment and Availability Arrangements with the Approved Housing Bodies around the city. The table below shows CALF agreements completed in 2024.

Location	Unit Nos	AHB	Total CALF Eligible Capital Outlay	CALF (%)	Payment and Availability Period	Status of Project
Galway City West	23	Clúid Housing Association	€11,965,266.51	28.4233%	30 Years	Delivered Q3, 2024
Galway City West	13	Tuath Housing Association	€4,299,866.00	28.00%	30 Years	Delivered Q4, 2024

9.3 Housing Maintenance

Galway City Council's housing stock at 31st December 2024 was 2877 units. This includes halting site bays, unsold affordable units, public private partnership units, modular hub units and community facilities. 87 units were surrendered back to Galway City Council's housing stock in 2024. In addition, 97 Units were refurbished in 2024, and made available for reletting.

Planned Maintenance Programme

In 2024, the following number of units underwent works:

Retrofitted under the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme	58
Damp remediation	26
Radon testing	208
Roof and guttering repairs	186
External windows and door replacement	162
Boiler replacement	87
Radon remediation	26

Fire safety work continued across all units and apartments in 2024, including fire alarm and extinguisher management. Response maintenance and emergency works also continued, with 5683 maintenance requests received in 2024.

Building control and inspections

Number of valid commencement notices	188
Number of valid fire safety certificate applications	97
Number of valid disability access certificates	82
Number of building control inspections	28
Number of completion certifications submitted	84

Private Rental Minimum standards inspections

Properties inspected	705
Number of inspections carried out	764
Properties compliant	86
Improvement letters issued	662
Improvement Notices issued	5

Housing Grants: Adaptation, Mobility Aid and Housing Aid for Older People

122 housing adaptation grants were completed under the Housing Adaptation, Mobility Aids and Housing Aid for Older People grant schemes in 2024. The total expenditure on grant schemes was €845,423.90.

Private Housing Grant Type	Total Completed 2024	Total Payments 2024
Housing Adaptation Grant (HAG) Private	30	€294,202.17
Housing Aid for Older Persons (HOP)	88	€537,436.73
Mobility Aids Grant (MAG)	4	€13,785.00

In addition to private grants, adaptation works were completed to a further 34 local authority properties at a total spend of €351,742.

The DPG scheme provides funding for adaptations for a range of works depending on requirements including installation of wet rooms, ground floor bathrooms, sensory rooms, ramps and railings, stair lifts, kitchen, and bathroom modifications in line with Occupational Therapist reports.

9.4 Traveller Accommodation

Traveller Accommodation

Allocations continued to Traveller families throughout 2024, with 20 allocations taking place comprising of local authority, AHB, and Traveller specific accommodation.

The Annual Count of Traveller Families and their accommodation position in 2024 detailed a figure of 597 Traveller families in Galway City on the night of the count.

The Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) was adopted by Galway City Council on the 16th of December 2024 and covers the next five-year period. The consultation process commenced on the 4th of January 2024 and involved a range of stakeholders, including adjoining Housing Authorities, HSE, Approved Housing Bodies, the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) and Traveller families, who were contacted by letter and asked to complete a survey on their accommodation need and location of preference. Responses informed the annual targets set out by the programme.

In relation to the Galway City Council Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024, this ended in 2024. The plan had projected a need for 242 units of accommodation for Traveller families in the city and Galway City Council delivered 75% of the targets set in the programme, providing 182 units of accommodation to Traveller families. Approximately, 73% of the units allocated were Standard Local Authority/AHB Housing. Over 4% of accommodation delivered was Traveller Specific halting site accommodation. Private Rented Accommodation accounted for 17% of allocations made to families.

Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029 Targets

Accommodation Type	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Totals
Standard Housing (incl Transfers)	35	40	40	40	40	195
Traveller Group Housing	0	0	0	0	10	10
Refurbishment	0	7	5	0	0	12
Rental Accommodation Scheme	1	1	1	1	1	5
Long Term Leasing Scheme	1	1	1	1	1	5
Housing Assistance Payment	5	5	5	5	5	25
Total	42	54	52	47	57	252

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC)

The LTACC and its Operational sub-group held 2 meetings in 2024. Both groups comprise of elected members, officials, and Traveller representatives. A new LTACC was formed, following the local government elections in June 2024. Councillor representatives for the new LTACC were circulated at the end of June 2024. Elections for Traveller representation to the LTACC took place during the month of September 2024.

9.5 Homelessness Services

Emergency homeless accommodation

Galway City Council's Housing Department continued to work closely with statutory and voluntary stakeholders in the provision of homeless services throughout 2024. Emergency accommodation was continuously at capacity throughout the year. At the end of 2024, there were 213 persons availing of homeless emergency accommodation in Galway City Council. Section 10 Homeless Expenditure in 2024 for the West Region amounted to c. €16.3 million.

Tenant in situ scheme

A Tenant in-Situ scheme, introduced in 2023, continued in 2024 and supported the acquisition of vacant units as a prevention measure into homelessness. In 2024, 44 properties were acquired, 14 vacant and 30 with tenant in situ. At year end, a further 18 properties were in conveyancing.

Housing-Led Family Support Scheme (Galway Pilot)

Funding has been provided by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for a new 18-month pilot programme for families with relatively complex needs. Four families are included in the pilot and support is provided by COPE Galway, with additional support provided by TUSLA, HSE, and Galway Traveller Movement, dependent on the needs of the families.

HAP Homeless Place Finder

At the end of 2024, there were 76 Homeless HAP tenancies, comprising of 22 singles and 54 families. At year end, there were 125 valid NTQ'S, 31 of these were in the private rented sector and 94 were HAP/RAS properties.

Cold Weather Response

The Cold Weather Response (CWR) for rough sleepers runs annually from November to March. The service is operated in a property leased by Galway City Council on the East side of the City by COPE Galway, on behalf of Galway City Council. Weekly interagency meetings were established in order to facilitate case management and resource allocation throughout the response. Street Outreach and Day Centre Services continued to operate throughout the year to rough sleepers. There was additional capacity made available in existing emergency accommodation including access to a community centre to meet the need of rough sleepers where there were a number of extreme weather warnings throughout the winter months.

Housing First

The Implementation Plan for Housing First 2022 – 2026 was launched in late December 2022. The aim of the plan is to continue to work with the single homeless people who are deemed long term homeless with often complex mental health needs. The council have a target of 30 over the lifetime of the plan.

West Regional Homeless Action Plan

The West Region Homeless Action Plan 2025 – 2027 was completed and is scheduled to be considered and adopted at the Galway City Plenary meeting in early 2025.

9.6 Social Inclusion

The Make Way Day 2024 campaign was officially launched in City Hall on 18th September 2024 by the Mayor of Galway City, Peter Keane. The launch was attended by Access For All members, An Garda Síochána & City Council officials. Make Way Day is an annual campaign by the Disability Federation of Ireland. On that day we asked people to make way on the city streets for people with disabilities and raised public awareness about challenges caused by obstacles blocking footpaths.

In 2024, 38 Social Inclusion grant applications were received reflecting an increase on previous years. Galway City Council supported 28 projects, and a total of €25,000 grant funding was approved to community groups and organisations.

Social Inclusion Week took place from 21st – 26th October 2024. The theme was 'Just a Minute of Patience'. A variety of events took place across the city during this week and Galway City Council supported the events providing a total funding of €1,400.

The Social Inclusion Officer role encompasses that of Access Officer for Galway City Council. The promotion of access issues across the city is a key function of the role and the co-ordination of the Access for All Group is central. Access for All Galway is a group comprising of representatives and advocates from across the Disability Sector in Galway. Monthly meetings are attended by the Social Inclusion Officer who liaises with relevant department within Galway City Council on actions to be progressed.

In tandem with same, the new National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability (2022 – 2026) was developed under the auspices of the Housing Agency. The Galway City Council Plan was devised and agreed by the Housing and Disability Steering Group (HDSG) chaired by Galway City Council. Membership of the HDSG includes GCC, HSE, DFI, IWA, Brothers of Charity, Rehab Care, Peter Triest Housing Association, Co-operative Housing Ireland, COPE Galway, Galway Simon Community, Respond and Tuath, and Lived Experience membership from Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI) and the Independent Living Movement Ireland.

9.7 Integration and Ukrainian Services

Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

The LAIT in Galway City Council was fully formed in March 2024 and commenced their onsite support clinics across 20 site locations in April, providing a bespoke service to the needs of 1761 international protection applicants and 559 beneficiaries of temporary protection. Clinics were conducted onsite in morning and afternoon sessions once a fortnight. Clients' needs were identified and addressed by the support work teams. Clinics were advertised in advance and online clinics were available to clients who were unable to attend the onsite clinics. A total of 277 clinics were conducted in 2024.

2024 saw the closure of many facilities housing beneficiaries of temporary protection as the department consolidated their portfolio of properties. It also saw the opening of four new centres for international protection applicants in the city to which the team provide ongoing supports.

The team hosted Ruhama in June 2024 who delivered sex trafficking training to key agencies. The team hosted a team building day in October 2024 consisting of the LAIT team, HSE staff and direct provision staff.

Ukrainian Response

In 2024, the Offer A Home scheme supported 35 pledged properties across the Galway City area, with 114 registered tenants.

The Community Integration Forum members met three times in 2024 to discuss emerging needs of the client group, highlight blockages or issues facing the client group and to share information and upcoming events of interest to each agency. Several actions were agreed at meetings which are then addressed by the members.

10. Urban Development Directorate

10.1 Placemaking & Architectural Conservation and Heritage

10.1.1 Placemaking

Placemaking is an all rounded approach to the planning, design, implementation and management of public spaces and strategic developments. Galway City Council Urbanism and Placemaking team has been set up to progress implementation of key public realm projects contained in the Galway Public Realm Strategy and incorporated into the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029. Funding of €8.64 million was awarded under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) to advance a number of public realm projects to provide significant new and improved public realm in the city centre. Projects under this scheme include redevelopment of Cross Street, Middle Street, Buttermilk Lane and Buttermilk Walk and consultation with key stakeholders has commenced. Consultation has also commenced on the Lombard Street Rejuvenation Project. Other public realm projects delivered includes the Eglinton canal project which was completed in May 2024. 6.2km of trails were installed along the cities River, Canal and Coastal Trails developed with new wayfinding and interpretation on the history of the city's waterways.

The Placemaking team have also been working in collaboration with the LDA to bring forward spatial frameworks and regeneration plans for residential-led, mixed-use development at Sandy Road and Dyke Road. To date, the project has promoted a proactive and inclusive approach to community and stakeholder engagement. A Draft Site Development Framework was published in July 2024, with a Consultation and Stakeholder Report Published in December 2024. The Land Development Agency in partnership with Galway City Council will make an application for approval to An Bord Pleanála for a development of 219 no. homes, a creche, open space, and pedestrian pathways and connections early in 2025.

10.1.2 Architectural Conservation and Heritage

An Architectural Conservation Officer (ACO) was appointed in 2024 to support the protection, conservation and reuse of built heritage in Galway city, and to raise awareness of best practice in line with national policy and legislation. The Conservation Office has also enhanced and developed relationships with a network of key stakeholders including the National Monuments Service, National Built Heritage Services, the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland, and the Irish Walled Towns Network. These organisations will be partners in the development and provision of events and training in Galway city in 2025

The Council awarded 6 grants under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2024 and one under The Historic Structures Fund 2024, from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Coupled with match funding from Galway City Council, these schemes resulted in an investment of €213,953 in Galway City's Built Heritage. This is the largest amount of BHIS funding awarded to date to Galway City Council.

In November a free event, 'Conserving Energy; Conserving Buildings', was held. Experts in energy retrofit of traditional buildings offered advice and guidance to those present on how an energy retrofit can be good for the building, the environment, and their health. Architectural conservation referrals were made to 38 planning applications affecting Protected Structures, and 19 referrals to planning applications affecting Architectural Conservation Areas and buildings in the Zone of Archaeological Notification made. The ACO also engaged with the Enforcement Team on 21 cases, 14 of which are from 2024.

In 2024, the Heritage Office actively promoted Galway city's heritage through advice, guidance, and public engagement. Supported by the Heritage Council, it published *Galway Heritage in Stone Volume 10* and *Galway's Heritage – Oidhreacht na Gaillimhe Volume 45*. The Annual Galway City Heritage Conference, titled *Treasures of Galway: Treasuring Galway's Rich Heritage*, was well received in April. Conservation efforts continued at Menlough Castle, focusing on its riverside facade, and at St. Nicholas Collegiate Church, where interior and exterior work on the South transept progressed with Community Monuments Fund support. The Heritage Plan 2025-2030 was advanced through consultations, set for adoption in 2025. Heritage Week in August featured guided tours and workshops, enhancing public engagement. Ongoing partnerships were maintained through participation in the Heritage Officer Network and Irish Walled Town Network meetings.

10.2 Forward Planning

10.2.1 Ardaun Local Area Plan (LAP)

The implementation of the Ardaun Local Area Plan (LAP) 2018-2024 is ongoing. Ardaun has been identified as the key area for the extension of the city with the ability to meet a significant amount of the future housing need for Galway

Key infrastructural projects are currently being advanced to support the phased delivery of the LAP, including transport and water/wastewater services. Work is progressing by Irish Water on the design and implementation of the Ardaun Wastewater Network Extension. This infrastructure will enable development for Ardaun Phase 1 to advance.

10.2.2 Salthill Village and Seafront Framework Plan

A Salthill Village and Seafront Framework Plan has commenced, in line with the requirements of Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029 (Policy 10.3 Salthill).

The Plan will be a vision document which will support the implementation of a range of national and local policy priorities in particular building climate resilience, supporting compact growth, health and wellbeing and sustainable mobility. It will consider future investment and funding opportunities for Salthill and will facilitate an integrated approach to the many planned and future projects and initiatives.

The process is divided into 5 stages- Listening and Learning; Visioning; Strategies and Projects; Formal Consultation and Final Plan. Engagement and collaboration is at the heart of each stage of the 18 month plan process.

10.2.3 Joint Retail Strategy for Galway City and County Metropolitan Area

Galway City Council and Galway County Council are currently preparing a Joint Retail Strategy for the Galway City and County Metropolitan Area. The strategy will look at all aspects of retailing in the City and County Metropolitan area. Public engagement commenced with over 1000 shopper surveys and 400 household surveys carried out between in October, whilst several meetings were held with key retail stakeholders including local businesses. A drop in workshop with Elected Members of both councils was held in November. A draft of the strategy will be completed in April 2025.

10.2.4 THRIVE Strand 1

The Forward Planning Team made a successful funding application to the North West Regional Authority, under THRIVE Strand No.1. €200,000 was secured for the preparation of an Integrated Urban Strategy of the West Area of Galway City. THRIVE – the Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme- supports locally

developed plans that take an integrated strategic approach to the regeneration of our towns and locally selected projects that assist in creating town centres that function as viable, vibrant, and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit while also functioning as the business, service, social, cultural and recreational hub for the local community.

The Integrated Urban Strategy of the West Area of Galway City will be a multi-faceted strategy, based on collaboration with the local community, businesses and residents in the area, to identify and develop plans, projects and initiatives to help re-imagine the local area and to tackle regeneration, vacancy and dereliction. It will be focussed on the Galway Arts Centre building, at No.47 Lower Dominick Street and strengthening links with it and a planned creative space at Nun's Island Theatre Site, as part of a wider agenda to revitalise heritage buildings and enhance the arts sector within the west area.

10.3 Development Control

Development Management

Development management is a positive and proactive way of managing the use of land and property.

Throughout 2024 330 valid planning applications were received, of which 292 applications were received through the ePlanning portal. In addition, 2 Large Scale Residential Developments were submitted for consideration. A total of €355,133 was received in related application fees.

There were 537 decisions processed by the Planning Department in 2024 and the average time taken for the making of a decision, from receipt of planning application, was six weeks. There were 42 appeals to An Bord Pleanála in respect of decisions made by Galway City Council of which 19 were first party appeals and 23 were third party appeals. 20 were upheld by an Bord Pleanála.

In addition to the above the Planning Department also processed:

- 4 Part VIII Developments
- 4 Outdoor Event Licences, and assisted in the co-ordination and delivery of two other events, the Galway Footballers Homecoming and the Redbull F1 Showrun
- 46 Applications for Declarations of Exempted Development under Section 5 of the Planning and Development Act 2000
- 211 applications in respect of Disability Access Certificates and Fire Safety Certificate. A total of €662,503.60 was received in related application fees.

Planning Enforcement

Galway City Council continues to adopt a proactive approach to ensure compliance with planning controls and the prevention of unauthorised development. 284 complaints were received in relation to breaches of planning codes in 2024. The Enforcement department issued 270 Warning Letters and 59 Enforcement Notices throughout 2024 and withdrew 96 Warning Letters and 18 Enforcement Notices.

Since Q4 of 2024 a dedicated Enforcement Officer is actioning complaints received in relation to the Short Term Letting of residential properties in the city. In 2024 19 complaints were received.

A new IT system was introduced with the aim of improving efficiency in enforcement and compliance activities. Throughout 2024 the enforcement team have been working closely with Agile Systems and the ICT to configure and implement the system with the goal of going live with the new system in early 2025.

Development Contributions

Under the 'Development Contribution Scheme 2021-2027', a total of c. €5.5 was collected in 2024. The monies collected will be used to assist in the provision of necessary public infrastructure and community facilities prioritised for the city. Of the total contributions received, c. €3.5 million was received through the development contributions waiver scheme.

Residential Zoned Land Tax.

The Annual draft Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) map for 2024 was published on January 1st showing residential and mixed use lands subject to RZLT. A number of submissions were made requesting removal of lands from the RZLT which were assessed, and determinations were made by the local authority or by An Bord Pleanála on appeal. The annual tax will be first due in February 2025, having been deferred from February 2024.

10.4 Economic Development

10.4.1 Galway City Night-Time Economy (NTE)

Galway City is one of nine pilot locations selected for a Night-Time Economy (NTE) Advisor under a national initiative to enhance nightlife vibrancy and safety. In 2024, a Consultative Working Group was established, and extensive public consultations were conducted through surveys, focus groups, and workshops. The Galway City NTE Action Plan was finalised in June, outlining strategies for a diverse and inclusive night-time environment. A Stakeholder Advisory Forum was formed to oversee implementation, meeting twice in 2024. Collaboration with national initiatives like Creative Ireland, Fáilte Ireland, and the National Transport Authority has supported projects such as late-night public transport pilots and pro-social safety campaigns. Both Galway City and Salthill retained their Purple Flag designation for a high-quality, well-managed night-time experience.

10.4.2 New Year's Eve Family Festive Féile

The Galway City Council's New Year's Eve Family Festive Féile successfully provided an inclusive and family-friendly celebration. The event featured live music performances at St. Nicholas Collegiate Church and Cross Street, along with roaming entertainment like the Bash Brothers Drumming Band. Highlights included diverse musical acts, from traditional sounds to lively Rockabilly, creating an engaging atmosphere for all ages. The tolling of the St. Nicholas Collegiate Church bells at 8 pm offered a reflective moment, adding depth to the celebrations. The Galway Continental Christmas Market further enriched the festive ambiance, attracting larger audiences than the previous year. By activating key public spaces and showcasing Galway's rich musical culture, the event reinforced the city's reputation as a vibrant cultural hub.

10.4.3 Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024 – 2029

In January 2024, Galway City Council approved the Local Economic and Community Framework Plan 2024-2029 and its Implementation Plan for 2024-2025. Under High-Level Goal 2 – An Innovative City, a partnership programme was launched to support enterprise development, the CreaTech sector, and the circular economy, with €40,000 allocated to three selected projects. Collaboration with internal and external partners ensured progress, with a year-end report tracking implementation. This initiative has driven economic growth and innovation in Galway City.

10.4.4 Galway Local Enterprise Office - 2024 Key Achievements and Impact

The Galway Local Enterprise Office (LEO) celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2024, highlighting a decade of supporting local businesses and fostering economic growth. Key achievements included the creation of over 100 jobs, support for 120 startups through the Start Your Own Business Programme and mentoring for 503 businesses. LEO Galway also exceeded targets in digital transformation, sustainability, and export initiatives, with notable successes like Grá Chocolates winning a regional award.

10.5.5 Local Authorities and Chamber Collaborate on Key Strategic Opportunities for Galway

In October, Galway City Council, Galway County Council, and Galway Chamber held a high-level meeting to explore collaborative opportunities for regional development in Galway. Representatives from the three organisations began developing a unified approach to service delivery, project advancement, and regional growth across the Galway Metropolitan Area.

10.4.6 Westside and Sandy Road Enterprise Centre

In 2024, Galway City Council's Economic Development Unit continued to work with tenants at Sandy Road and Westside Enterprise Centres to standardise licence agreements and signpost business supports available, while also welcoming GOCOM Radio, Ireland's first multilingual community radio station as a new tenant at Westside Enterprise Centre.

10.4.7 Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC)

In 2024, Galway City Council played a key role in the Atlantic Economic Corridor initiative, supporting projects and finalising a revised strategy to promote balanced economic growth and regional development along the Atlantic coastline, with a focus on Galway City's sustainability.

10.4.8 Galway City Council and Northern and Western Regional Assembly Announce €3.8 Million Investment in CreativeSpace at Nun's Island

In October 2024, the Northern and Western Regional Assembly in collaboration with Galway City Council, secured a €3.8 million grant from the European Regional Development Fund's THRIVE Scheme to restore the Nun's Island Theatre and Church House, creating a vibrant creative space in Galway City.

10.4.9 Galway City delegation visited Chicago & Milwaukee Irish Fest 2024

In August 2024, a Galway delegation led by Galway City Council and joined by Galway County Council, visited Chicago and Milwaukee to strengthen political, cultural, educational, and economic ties, promote tourism, and celebrate the long-standing sister city relationships.

10.5 Tourism Development

The Galway City Tourism Strategy 2021–2025 continued to progress in 2024, with several key capital projects advancing, including the completion of the Destination Towns Outdoor Museum and improvements to pedestrian crossings in Galway's Westend. The Urban Animation Project in Woodquay Park and the Water Sports Hub on Dyke Road moved through design stages and were submitted to an Bord Pleanála, while funding was secured for a new tourist office in Eyre Square. Galway City Council supported Fáilte Ireland's Destination Experience Development Plan, with initiatives like outdoor dining in Westend and new Christmas lights at the Spanish Arch and Woodquay. In September, the Council appointed a Festival and Events Officer to help grow and support festivals, with funding provided to 12 festivals for offseason marketing. Additionally, the Galway Convention Bureau attracted 44 international events in 2024, contributing over €7.5 million to the local economy, and the RedBull F1 Showrun event drew 13,000 spectators to Salthill and generated significant local spending.

10.6 Arts and Culture Development

In 2024, Galway City Council's Arts Office engaged with over 80 arts organisations and 200 stakeholders, collaborating with regional arts offices and implementing key actions from the Directions Plan for the Arts 2021-2026.

10.6.1 Arts Grants

In December 2023, Galway City Council launched Arts Organisations Grants to support earlier planning for arts projects, with applications closing in January 2024, and a total investment of €400,000 supporting 56 local arts organisations. The Arts Office provided ongoing support throughout the year and launched the 2025 grants programme in December 2024.

Funding of €25,000 was awarded to 12 schools and two community bands in 2024.

10.6.2 Artist's Supports

In 2024, Galway City's bursary scheme received 86 applications and awarded 20 creative practitioners across various disciplines a total of €36,500.

In 2024, four local artists - Emily Cullen, Eamonn Doggett, Mars Duignan, and Kenneth Lee were selected for two-week residencies at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre, with free accommodation, meals, and studio access provided.

Galway City Council's Arts Office developed the partnership with the Irish Theatre Institute (ITI) to expand the development opportunity initiated through 'Six in the Attic' which was awarded to Eibhlin Caffrey in 2024.

In 2024, the Arts Office funded Galway City-based writer Kirsty Warren for the Irish Writer's Centre mentoring programme, supported local artists James Hatton and Emma Zukovic at Interface Inagh, and invested €2,800 for six creative practitioners to attend the May Gathering of the Performing Artists Forum in Sligo.

Galway City artist Emily Lohan was awarded a two-week residency programme in Áras Éanna in 2024, funded via a strategic partnership between Galway City Council and Áras Éanna Arts Centre on Inis Oírr.

10.6.3 Arts and Disability

The Levelling Access bursary scheme was launched in November for an artist with a disability at any career stage and valued at €5,000 for one artist in each local authority. This funding was supported by the Arts Council of Ireland. The Arts Office also provided development support and funding to Christian O' Reilly's production of Unspeakable Conversations showcased in Galway International Arts Festival.

10.6.4 Cultural Partnerships

In August 2024, the Arts Office launched an open call for the Cultural Partnership Fund to support collaborative programmes with local arts organisations. Key projects funded included Galway Community Circus' workshops in East Galway (€20,000), Branar's tailored arts engagement for schools (€20,000), and Baboró's workshop programme with various partners (€18,500). Additional funding supported Cúirt's children's programming (€17,500), Galway Music Residency's live events with ConTempo Quartet (€10,000), Druid's research and development for 2025 workshops (€6,000), and Outset Gallery's accessible street art toolkit (€3,000).

Music Generation

In 2024, Music Generation Galway City offered four programmes to provide music education to 2,932 children in various community settings, employing 23 music professionals and three staff members. The initiative also ran summer camps, with continued support from Galway City Council, which invested at least €25,000 annually, and was chaired by Cllr Terry Flaherty until June 2024, followed by Cllr Eibhlín Seoighthe.

10.6.5 UNESCO City of Film

In 2024, Galway City Council's Arts Office partnered with Ardán to implement the UNESCO Galway City of Film programme, contributing €40,000 while also investing €25,000 in the Western Regional Audiovisual Production (WRAP) fund in collaboration with neighbouring local authorities and the Western Development Commission.

10.6.6 Art in the Public Realm

The Arts Office supported the Percent for Art Scheme for the new Salmon Weir Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge, collaborating with artist Alan Clarke, and also facilitated a mural of Gailbhe at Raven Terrace in partnership with the Planning team and Monaghans.

10.6.7 Culture Night

Culture Night 2024 in Galway City involved a dynamic, inclusive highlight of Galway City Council's cultural calendar. Approximately 72 events took place with an estimated 30,000 participants and many more recorded on the streets of Galway throughout the night.

10.6.8 Galway City Museum

Galway City Museum The capital development programme with Fáilte Ireland continued at pace throughout the year with the Museum Development Design Team working towards the completion of the design phase. An Energy Audit led to a Museum Retrofit programme which will be part funded by Galway City Council and the SEAI Pathfinder fund. A wide variety of exhibitions, events, workshops, talks and collection development took place during the year.

10.6.9 Town Hall Theatre

In 2024, the Town Hall Theatre, Galway's municipal theatre, presented a diverse programme of local, national, and international events, increasing the number of performances and attendances, reaching 115,000 visitors. It managed multiple venues, including performance spaces, bars, exhibition areas, and artists' studios, and played a key role in Galway's cultural scene by supporting major local theatre companies and arts organisations. The venue's continued post-Covid recovery was marked by its high number of events and ticket sales, cementing its status as the second busiest Arts Council-supported venue outside of Dublin and Cork.

THT Support for Artists

In 2024, Town Hall Theatre provided extensive support for artists, including production assistance for dance residencies, outreach performances, rehearsal space, tech support, marketing services, and mentorship, while also offering subsidised offices, studios, and meeting spaces for local arts organisations and artists. In 2024, the Town Hall Theatre hosted a diverse professional programme, featuring performances by Decadent, Druid, Galway International Arts Festival, and others and supported notable productions such as *A Personal Prism* and *No Magic Pill*, both showcasing actors with physical disabilities. The venue also expanded its dance, theatre, cinema, classical music, community, and literary programmes, including a special collaboration for the International Cello Festival and a community opera project. Highlights included the premiere of *Unspeakable Conversations* and *Somnium*, both developed with the theatre's support, and critical acclaim for their performances at the Galway International Arts Festival.

10.6.10 Galway City Council Creative Ireland Programme

In 2024, Galway City's Creative Ireland Programme saw increased engagement, funding and activity, with 61 projects funded through the Creative Communities strand, awarding €427,235 in grants to support local artists and communities. Highlights included the Eastside Arts Festival, a community-driven event with intergenerational programming, and the Creativity Fund, which enabled people experiencing homelessness to engage with the city's cultural life. Additionally, the project *Bundúchasach/Ykpkéara* celebrated visual arts traditions from the Gaeltacht and indigenous Brazilian communities, culminating in an exhibition and catalogue launch.

10.6.11 Cruinniú na nÓg 2024

On Saturday 15 June 2024, Galway City Council hosted the National Day of Creativity for Young People, with the theme "Dare to Create," featuring various youth-focused events such as robot workshops, circus sessions, and a Cruinniú Lates for young DJs. The event was supported by €37,938 in grants for 21 projects, engaging 28 creative practitioners and reaching an audience of 365, with Sonya promoting the festival locally and nationally to showcase the creative talent of Galway's youth.

In 2024, the Culture and Creativity Team secured additional funding from Creative Ireland for projects like *The Air We Share*, a Creative Climate Action initiative addressing air pollution in Westside through artist residencies, and *Mending HeARTS*, a cardiovascular arts programme with €140,000 in funding. An additional €14,000 was awarded for the Eastside Arts Festival Evaluation, Creative Youth Advisory Group, and Youth Lates initiatives.

10.6.12 Leisureland

The numbers using Leisureland in 2024 continued to grow with the facility approaching peak capacity in some areas. Leisureland completed the installation and commissioning of five new energy efficient Air Handling units for the main pool hall and Event space. A solar panel farm was also installed, to supply these units with electricity and significantly reduce Leisurelands carbon footprint. The project also involved reroofing and insulating the foyer mid-section of the building.

10.7 Human Resources

The Human Resources Department aims to ensure sufficient staff resources to meet Galway City Council's objectives, support staff development, and provide welfare assistance as needed. Key functions include supporting strategic projects like the Strategic Workforce Plan and Water Services Transition, as well as managing recruitment, industrial relations, employee relations, People XD, time & attendance, superannuation, performance management, staff welfare, learning & development, and blended working functions.

10.7.1 Workforce 2024

The headcount in the organisation at 31 December 2024 was 634 staff members consisting of temporary/permanent indoor and outdoor employees who carry out managerial, administrative, technical, craft and other roles.

10.7.2 Strategic Workforce Plan

Galway City Council is developing a Strategic Workforce Plan (SWP) in accordance Department requirements. Strategic Workforce Planning models workforce demand and supply over a longer term based on how specific internal and external environments will impact the skills, jobs and talent needs of the business and is a cross functional process. Work progressed throughout 2024 on data gathering with various Departments on current and future requirements and development of a workforce modelling tool.

10.7.3 Recruitment

In 2024, despite a competitive recruitment environment, the Human Resources Department successfully recruited qualified staff to meet the organisation's needs. The Recruitment Section managed 63 competitions and made 190 appointments, including 111 new employees (96 permanent, 15 temporary/contract/seasonal). The remaining 79 appointments were for acting posts and promotions. There were 23 retirements.

10.7.4 Performance Management and Development System (PMDS)

Implementation of the PMDS process continued in 2024 with training for outdoor supervisors held in March 2024.

10.7.5 Learning & Development

Training and development courses provided and facilitated in 2024 through the Corporate Training Programme included Certificate and/or Diploma Courses in Local Government Studies; Project Management; Diploma in Public Management; Competency Based Interview Training; Minute Taking; Staff Induction; Supervisory Skills Training for Line Managers; Microsoft Teams; PMDS; Climate Action Awareness; Retirement & Life Planning; Workplace Investigations & Decision Making; Senior Leadership; and Women in Leadership. The training team also took on the organisation of Health & Safety training in 2024 in collaboration with the Health & Safety Section.

10.7.6 Time to Read Programme

Volunteers from Galway City Council participated in the Time to Read Programme with the St. Nicholas' Parochial School in 2024. Children from second class received reading support from a City Council volunteer over 14 weeks, had a reading session in the City Library, and were informed of GCC operations during a visit City Hall.

10.7.7 Blended Working

Galway City Council continued operation of its blended working policy with the annual re-application process in November and December via a fully online process.

10.7.8 Staff Welfare

There was continued engagement and collaboration with staff and Line Managers on staff welfare issues. This included the administration of Galway City Council's Sick Leave Scheme and the Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) provided by Spectrum Life. The EAP service provides employees with access to a wide variety of services to assist through a range of personal or work-related issues. Work/Life Balance Schemes, such as Parental Leave, Shorter Working Year, Cycle to Work Scheme and Commuter Tickets continued to be administered. Roll out of wellbeing initiatives continued in 2024.



Cllr. Eddie Hoare, Mayor, with Children from St. Nicholas' Parochial School at the launch of the Time to Read Programme

10.7.9 Employment Relations

The Human Resource Department facilitates employment relations through engagement with staff members and/or trade unions on various employment matters and strategic projects. This included ongoing support to Water Services staff on the transition to Uisce Éireann (UÉ) and options of reassignment to GCC or transfer to UÉ or the National Voluntary Redundancy Scheme.

10.7.10 Gender Pay Gap Report

The annual Gender Pay Gap Report was published in December 2024. The report showed a Gender Pay Gap of -0.82% Mean and -13.67% Median. A negative gender pay gap indicates that on average females occupy higher paid roles than males.

10.7.11 Superannuation

Working with MyPay on superannuation services, guidance and support was provided to current and retired staff throughout 2024 in addition to informing staff on changes by DPENDR to public sector pensions.

10.7.12 Retirement/Staff Events

The Annual Christmas Party for retired staff members took place on 7 December 2024.

At the Retirement & Service Awards held on 27 November 2024, Mayor of Galway City Council, Cllr. Peter Keane, and the Chief Executive, Mr. Leonard Cleary, acknowledged the contribution to the organisation of staff and retirees.

Retirees on the Honours List

• Liam Blake	Planning
• John Brennan	Housing & Social Inclusion
• Mark Brennan	Housing & Social Inclusion
• Patrick Callaghan	Recreation & Amenity
• Tommy Connolly	Water Services
• Martin Gerard Creavan	Transportation
• Christy Dolan	Environment
• Joseph Fahy	Environment
• Martin Folan	Water Services
• Pádraig Griffin	Water Services
• Tommy Healy	Water Services
• Gerard Higgins	Transportation
• Marcus Keane	Transportation
• Edmund Lendizon	Transportation
• Gary McMahon	Community
• Laurena Mitchell	Planning
• Noel Monahan	Environment
• Geraldine Mulkerrins	Transportation
• Patricia O'Grady	Housing & Social Inclusion
• Mary O'Leary	Environment
• Anthony Ryan	Recreation & Amenity
• Albert Shaughnessy	Transportation
• Joseph Shoer	Recreation & Amenity



Pictured at the Annual Retirement & Service Awards on 27 November 2024 were retiree recipients:

Back Row - Left to Right: Martin Folan, Pdraig Griffin, Tommy Healy, Joseph Fahy, Martin Gerard Creavan, John Brennan, Mark Brennan, Noel Monahan, Laurena Mitchell, Gary McMahon.

Front Row - Left to Right: Mary O'Leary, Leonard Cleary, Chief Executive, Cllr. Peter Keane – Mayor of Galway City, Albert Shaughnessy, Patricia O'Grady.

20 Year Service Award Recipients for 2024

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| • Cliona Clancy | Planning |
| • Michael Cooley | Environment |
| • Greg Cullen | Housing & Social Inclusion |
| • Brendan Cunningham | Water Services |
| • Gavin Dalton | Transportation |
| • Alan Daly | Recreation & Amenity |
| • John Doody | Planning |
| • Kathleen Folan | Transportation |
| • Patrick Foley | Environment |
| • Sean Keaney | Water Services |
| • Patricia Mitchell | Housing & Social Inclusion |
| • Bridget Ryan | Water Services |
| • Ronan Kinneen | Community Development,
Corporate Assets & Derelict Sites |



Pictured at the Annual Retirement & Service Awards on 27 November 2024 were service award recipients:

Back Row - Left to Right: Sean Keaney, Patrick Foley & Brendan Cunningham.

Front Row - Left to Right: Ronan Kinneen, Bridget Ryan, Leonard Cleary, Chief Executive, Cllr. Peter Keane – Mayor of Galway City, Cliona Clancy, Alan Daly.

10.7.13 Priorities for 2025

- Completion of Strategic Workforce Plan.
- Participation in National Apprenticeship Scheme.
- Implement Recruitment Applicant Tracking System.
- Delivery of HR Operations Programme in accordance with HR Department's objectives.

11. Project Development Directorate

The Project Development Directorate seeks to drive Galway City's evolution as a vibrant, resilient, and inclusive urban centre, positioning the city to meet the challenges of the 21st century while preserving its unique cultural and environmental heritage. By bringing together Community Development, Climate Action, Active Travel, Property Assets, and Derelict Sites into a single, cohesive entity, the Directorate seeks to enhance Galway's liveability, accessibility, inclusiveness, sustainability and connectivity. The newly established Project Management and Capital Delivery Office (PMCDO) will bring rigour, efficiency and transparency to the planning and delivery of Galway's capital projects.

11.1 Project Management Office (PMO) and Capital Development

The newly established PMCDO will be responsible for overseeing the professional and efficient management of capital projects aligning them with the Council's strategic objectives and adhering to best practices in design and construction. The PMCDO is tasked with managing the design and execution of the Council's capital programme, safeguarding the city's built heritage, and ensuring optimal value for investment. To achieve its overarching objectives, the PMCDO will operate as the central hub for most project management and capital infrastructure activities, excluding housing, within the Council.

11.2 New HQ development

The design and fit out of Crown Square to serve as Galway City Council's new headquarters continues to progress. An Integrated Design Team lead by Henry J Lyons is working in conjunction with the Project Team, and the project has progressed through Stage One and Stage 2(a) Scheme design and is currently in Stage 2(b) Detailed Design. The Suitability Assessment Questionnaire has been published as of March 2025, beginning a two-stage tender process which will culminate in the appointment of a contractor in Q3 of 2025. The Project Team continues to engage and provide regular updates on the project to elected representatives, staff, unions and other stakeholders.

11.3 Active Travel



Wolfe Tone Pedestrian Bridge II

The Wolfe Tone Pedestrian Bridge II project saw the construction of a new cantilever bridge on the south side of the existing Wolfe Tone Bridge, which is one of the busiest crossings of the River Corrib. The new walkway provides a safe, segregated pedestrian crossing of the Wolfe Tone Bridge for residents and visitors, and gives an unobstructed view of the iconic Long Walk, Claddagh Quay and the historic Spanish Arch. Construction was completed in May 2024, and the bridge was officially opened by Mayor of Galway City, Cllr. Eddie Hoare and Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan T.D.

Parkmore Road Bus Priority Project

This saw the development of a new southbound bus lane along Parkmore Road, from the Business Park roundabout to the Monivea Road junction. This facilitates faster bus journeys. This project also saw the installation of six new bus stops, and four new signalised pedestrian crossings. Works began in February 2024, and the project was completed ahead of schedule in December 2024. This work has facilitated the expansion of Bus Éireann's 409 Bus Route, which now travels into Parkmore Business Park West and offers a more convenient bus service to employees.



BusConnects Galway: Dublin Road

The Dublin Road Bus Corridor project will provide a continuous corridor of high-quality public transport, pedestrian and cycling facilities running along the 3.9km length of the R338 Dublin Road. The new bus facilities, which will include additional dedicated bus lanes in both directions and enhanced bus stops, will provide for more reliable and more comfortable journeys for commuters. The provision of active travel infrastructure will also allow for safer, more comfortable journeys for walkers, wheelers and cyclists. A consent application for this project was submitted to An Bord Pleanála in February 2025.

BusConnects Galway: Cross City Link

In September, An Bord Pleanála granted consent for the BusConnects Galway: Cross-City Link (University Road to Dublin Road) project. This project will provide improved bus infrastructure along an east-west corridor through Galway City Centre. The project will also benefit walkers, wheelers and cyclists and include public realm enhancements. The An Bord Pleanála decision is now subject to judicial review proceedings before the High Court. This process is ongoing.

Ballybane Road and Castlepark Road Cycle Network Scheme

The tender process to appoint a lead contractor for the Ballybane Road and Castlepark Road Cycle Network Scheme was substantially completed in 2024. This has enabled construction works to begin in February 2025. The project is due to be completed in Q3 2026.

The Crescent/Sea Road Junction Upgrade

Construction began in October 2024 and is scheduled to last for five months. Works include measures to reduce vehicle speeds, the construction of two pedestrian crossings and the introduction of a new footpath along The Crescent, where there had not previously been one. In a first-of-its-kind development for Galway, new rain gardens have also been installed at the junction to improve drainage and enhance biodiversity. In addition, works on this scheme also incorporate interventions identified in the Safe Routes to School delivery plan for Scoil Fhursa.

Other works

Access control enhancement works (i.e. the removal of kissing gates) were completed at Terryland Forest Park and at South Park (where three gates were removed). Rehabilitation works were carried out on a short section of cycle track and footpath along Headford Road outbound opposite Maldron Hotel. A new pedestrian crossing was also provided along Liosban Road in 2024.

Walking and Cycling Index

Galway City Council supported the first ever Galway Metropolitan Area Walking and Cycling Index, which was published by the National Transport Authority in March 2024. This report provides the largest-ever assessment of walking, wheeling and cycling in Galway and was based on an independent survey of over 1,100 residents from across the Galway Metropolitan Area. Key findings include:

- 60% of adult residents walk 5 or more days a week, and 1 in 5 (20%) of adults cycle at least once a week.
- 88% of residents support building cycle tracks physically separated from traffic and pedestrians even where that means less room for other traffic.
- Every day those who walk and cycle takes nearly 29,000 cars off the road in the Galway Metropolitan Area.
- Residents walking, wheeling and cycling create an annual economic benefit for individuals and the Galway Metropolitan Area of €144.4 million.

Efficiency of Space Image

As part of Bike Week in May, the Active Travel Department teamed up with students from Salerno College and An Mheitheal Rothar, a sustainable enterprise and bicycle cooperative, to create an 'Efficiency of Space' photo. This was a first-of-its-kind image for Galway, demonstrates how much road space can be saved if more people cycle or take public transport, rather than travelling by car. The photograph was taken on Threadneedle Road.



Naming of Droichead an Dóchais

On 31 May 2024, a naming ceremony was held to confer the name Droichead an Dóchais on the former Salmon Weir Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge. Over 60 names had been suggested by the public, before Droichead an Dóchais was chosen by Councillors who endorsed the recommendation of the Civic Naming Committee. Members of the public who proposed Dóchas/Hope as the bridge name were presented with certificates by Mayor of the City of Galway Cllr. Eddie Hoare to commemorate their suggestions.

Awards

Droichead an Dóchais received international recognition in 2024 when it was shortlisted for the International Bridge Project of the Year awards at the New Civil Engineer Bridges Awards in London. The other bridges shortlisted for this award are in the United Arab Emirates, USA, Canada, India, France and China (two projects). Separately, Droichead an Dóchais was named Civil Engineering Project of the Year at the Engineering Excellence Awards. Meanwhile, Senior Engineer Colm Ó Ríordáin won a Gold Medal prize honouring his work as an Active Mobility Leader at the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport Ireland (CILT) Mobility & Supply Chain Awards.

11.4 GCRR Development

Work continued throughout 2024 on drafting the response to the request for further information from An Bord Pleanála. This included updating all environmental and ecological data, updating traffic modelling and demonstrating compliance with the latest Climate Action Plan.

11.5 Corporate Assets and Derelict Sites

11.5.1 Corporate Assets

Work progressed on the management of corporate assets, leases and licenses and first registration of historical land assets with Tailte Éireann. The verification process on c.600 land assets continued alongside transfer of remaining water services assets to Uisce Éireann.

11.5.2 Derelict Sites and Dangerous Structures

11 sites remained on the Derelict Sites Register at the end of 2024. 220 potentially derelict sites were identified and a series of notices issued to property owners under the Derelict Sites Act 1990. Work will continue in 2025 on identifying derelict properties to reduce dereliction throughout the city. Enforcement proceedings including the application of derelict sites levies and compulsory acquisition will be implemented as necessary throughout 2025.

40 structures were listed on the Dangerous Structures register at the end of 2024. Advisory Letters were issued as appropriate. The existing properties on the Register will be reviewed in 2025 and further action will be taken as necessary, under the Sanitary Services Act 1964 to prevent them from posing a danger to the public.

11.6 Climate Change

11.6.1 Climate Action Plan

The Galway City Council Climate Action Plan (LACAP) was adopted by elected members on the 12th of February 2024. This sets out an ambitious five-year programme to delivering transformative action across all functions of Galway City Council and throughout Galway City. Through the Climate Action Plan, Galway City Council aims to reduce greenhouse gases on both its operations and the wider city by 51% by 2030, and to become carbon neutral by 2050. [Climate Action Plan | Galway City Council](#)

11.6.2 Adaptation

Galway City Council secured approval to become part of the European Union Missions for Adaptation to climate change. This project has provided Galway City Council with technical assistance in reviewing the climate risks to Galway City, providing training to staff and supporting the climate action team in developing project business plans to secure both National and European funding. [EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change Portal](#)

11.6.3 Energy Reduction Projects



Galway City Council has established an Energy Management Team comprised of lead staff responsible for significant energy users, e.g. public lighting, buildings and transport fleet and meet on a regular basis to identify a register of opportunities that provides a pathway to achieving Galway City Council 2030 emission reduction targets. 30% grant funding was secured through the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) to complete retrofit works to melody court community centre, bowling green site office, Galway city dog pound, Ballybane dressing rooms, and 10 small satellite site offices. The works consisted of upgrades to windows, doors, LED lighting, air tightness, insulation and solar pv at a cost of 150,000 euro, of which 30% is recoupable from the SEAI.

50% grant funding was secured through the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) to complete retrofit works to Ballinfoile community centre, Knocknacarra community centre, Galway city museum and Town Hall Theatre. A design consultant has been appointed who is developing a detailed design that will align the buildings to 2030 climate action targets and budgets available. It is envisaged that the works will include windows and door replacements, air tightness, improved insulation, heat pump installation and solar pv at a cost of approximately 3 million euros, of which 50% is recoupable from the SEAI. The tender for the works to Ballinfoile and Knocknacarra community centres will be opened to the market in quarter two 2025 with the works to be complete by the end of 2025. The tender for the works to the Museum and Town Hall Theatre will be opened to the market in quarter four 2025 with the works to be complete by the end of 2026.

11.6.4 Net ZeroCities programme



Galway City Council secured 1,000,000 million euro through the Net Zero pilot cities funding programme which is part of the Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme. Galway City is the only Irish City to secure this designation, which supports European cities to test and implement innovative approaches, solutions and services to reduce carbon emissions and initiate transformational change. [NetZeroCities | Galway City Council](#)

The Galway City NetZeroCities project aims to address the barriers associated with retrofitting private sector homes and highlight the comfort, financial and health benefits of improving energy efficiency in the home, as well as the environmental benefits. As part of the Galway City NetZeroCities Project,

- A community hub was established to provide information to households and guide them through their retrofitting journey.
- Research is being conducted on energy upgrade and retrofitting skills & training courses for contractors and measures will be developed to address any gaps in provision and/or uptake.

- A steering group established to address the challenges facing households in relation to retrofitting and to drive strategic change and innovation at a local, regional and national level.

The Galway City NetZeroCities project partners are Galway City Council, Atlantic Technological University, Galway Energy Co-operative, North Western Regional Assembly and the University of Galway.

11.6.5 Electric Vehicles



Galway City Council introduced the first Local Authority Electric Sweeper in the west of Ireland as part of a move to decarbonise the Council fleet by 2030. The electric sweeper intends to replace end of life diesel-powered machines, and joins the growing electric fleet in Galway City Council, which includes 20 electric vans. This switch from fossil fuel to electric vehicles is one initiative in the Galway City Council Climate Action Plan. This new electric sweeper has been procured specifically to fit in cycle lanes to keep them free of detritus such as leaves and stones, as well as cleaning footpaths and roadways.

11.6.6 Climate Inspirations Festival



The first of its kind in Ireland climate festival was successfully delivered in September 2024 <https://galwayclimatefestival.ie/>. **Climate Inspirations-Communities in action** is a new, innovative, creative and collaborative festival that aims to change the narrative around climate action to one of positivity. It harnessed Galway's creative energy and embrace our theatrical, musical, art, active travel, gaelige and food cultures. It involved climate talks and panel discussions, street theatre, a pop up community garden restaurant, art, live music, a city centre family cycle, a 2nd hand market and the closing of Middle Street, Galway City Centre for a playful street's initiative.

Post event surveys were conducted and outlined that 45% of respondents rated the overall experience as excellent and 37% as good. A video was developed to capture the positive and collective ambition of the city to become more sustainable.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OeSZg4TTcFo>

11.6.7 Community Climate Action Fund

The community climate action grant programme was launched in 2024 supported by which provides funding to community groups to implement actions to address themes such as energy reduction, sustainable travel, shopping & recycling, food & waste and climate action. Sixteen community groups in Galway City were supported through strand 1 totalling a value of 440,000 and 2 community groups were supported through strand 1a totalling a value of 117,720.

11.6.8 Supporting Sustainable Energy Communities

Galway Energy Cooperative, a sustainable energy community in the westside of the city was supported by providing a 25,000 euro grant to complete an energy masterplan for the west of the city. The energy masterplan outlines a register of opportunities for energy saving projects and proposals that are now being implemented in conjunction with Galway City Council. Further awareness campaigns and community outreach will commence in 2025 to increase the number of sustainable energy communities in Galway City. [Sustainable Energy Communities | Galway City Council](#)

11.7 Community Development

11.7.1 Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and LECP

The Galway City LCDC was established to develop, coordinate and implement a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development. A copy of the Galway City LCDC Annual Report 2024 is available at [LCDC Annual Report 2024](#)

Galway City Council adopted the LECP Framework Plan 2024 – 2029 and LECP Implementation Plan 2024 – 2025 in January 2024. An end of year review of the first year of the Implementation Plan was completed and presented to the LCDC in December 2024. The review outlines progress on each of the actions monitored by the LCDC. Information on the LECP can be found [Here](#).

Galway City LCDC is the contracting authority for SICAP 2024-2028, and its role is to manage and administer the programme delivered by Galway City Partnership. The budget for 2024 was €772,258 with additional Ukrainian funding of €331,451. Galway City Partnership once again exceeded the targets set in 2024.



11.7.2 Mayor's Awards

The Mayor of Galway City, Cllr. Eddie Hoare announced the winners of the Mayors Awards at the Galway Bay Hotel. 80 individuals and groups received a certificate in recognition of their voluntary activity in community life in the city. The Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to CrewBlu@Tribes Volunteers for their dedication and commitment to creating an inclusive and vibrant community by giving up their time to develop a para-rowing programme.

11.7.3 Community Funding Schemes and Initiatives

The Community Recognition Fund supports projects in areas welcoming arrivals from Ukraine and other countries. €1,816,322 was allocated from Department of Rural and Community Development in 2023 to 16 projects with completion in 2024. An additional €1,644,752 was allocated for 2024 projects. Key projects included upgrades to Leisureland, power supply for events, accessibility and amenity lighting improvements and community facility enhancements.

€127,606.49 allocated to 67 groups under the Local Enhancement Programme to support minor capital works and improvements to facilities and the purchase of equipment. €15,000 allocated to 21 community led festivals under the Local Community Festivals to encourage community participation through a sense of ownership and to promote good relations.

Africa Day celebrates the richness of African cultures and the contribution of people of African descent to Irish life. This year's events featured a grand gala at the Salthill Hotel, showcasing a range of performances, keynote speeches, and activities that highlighted cultural diversity and sustainability. Other events included a celebration of African heritage in Salthill Park, an African Youth and Multicultural Day at the Clybaun Hotel, an intercultural bridge conference connecting Irish, African, and Ukrainian communities, an indoor music festival, and an Afro Rhythms celebration

A weekend of community celebrations and neighborhood lunches took place in 34 locations under Galway City Street Feast. Street Feast aims to promote social inclusion and integration, tackle loneliness and build supportive and resilient neighborhoods in new and older communities.

11.7.4 Galway City Community Network / Public Participation Network



Over 180 members drawn from the community, voluntary and environmental sectors, Galway City Community Network is the Public Participation Network in Galway City. 2024 marked the 10-year anniversary since the establishment of Galway City Community Network as the PPN in Galway City. Throughout the year, GCCN continued to support its members through training, capacity building and induction sessions for new and potential members. GCCN also facilitated community representation on key decision-making structures, including the restructured Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) and the LCDC.

11.7.5 Community Development Programme

2024 marked the second year of AMACH! LGBT+ implementing the three-year CDP funding scheme which has enabled the organisation to get the Teach Solais LGBT+ Resource Centre open and operational. AMACH LGBT+ used CDP funding to conduct community surveys, leading to the creation of social groups and health workshops, while also hosting key events like LGBTI+ Community Days and Galway Pride. Through the Creative Communities Grant, they collaborated on an intergenerational mural and planter painting workshops, culminating in the mural's unveiling during Galway Pride Week to strengthen community bonds and celebrate Teach Solais LGBT+ Resource Centre.

11.7.6 Healthy Galway City (HGC)



HGC is an initiative of Galway City LCDC which seeks to create a city where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential. The Healthy Ireland Fund included €78,348.57 for 2024 to allow delivery of priority health and wellbeing initiatives. HGC and Galway Sports Partnership (GSP) collaborated to deliver programmes to increase the percentage of adults and children meeting national physical activity guidelines. HGC funded activities targeted people with disabilities, older adults and people living in disadvantaged communities.

HGC collaborated with Galway City Partnership on the delivery of mental, social and physical wellbeing programmes to people living in disadvantaged communities including community singing groups in Ballybane, Ballinfoile and Westside, community art and wellbeing programmes, programmes for young people through the Ballinfoile Youth Project and support for the Galway Social prescribing service.

Healthy Galway City also partnered with Galway Traveller Movement on several programmes to increase levels of positive mental health amongst the Traveller community, including group equine therapy, exercise classes, confidence building workshops, nutrition courses and the provision of culturally appropriate alternative therapies via the TORIE Counselling Service.

11.7.7 Age Friendly Programme / Comhairle na nÓg

The Age Friendly Programme funded Galway City Library Age-Friendly Space which includes higher seating for easier sitting and facing large-print books for those with vision impairments. Positive Ageing Week celebrates the contributions of older individuals and highlights the positive aspects of aging. The 2024 theme, “Challenging Ageism - Reframing How We Think, Feel, and Act Towards Aging,” took place in October.

The Week highlighted individuals who embody healthy, active aging and enrich their communities. The flagship event, the Local Heroes Exhibition, was launched at Galway City Museum and toured libraries across the city, showcasing older people who positively impact their communities and lives year-round.

The Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards, organised by Age Friendly Ireland, highlight initiatives that help older people live active, healthy, and independent lives. Galway City Council’s was shortlisted in the Housing category. An Cliathán is a purpose-built development that combines modern design with accessibility and sustainability, featuring barrier-free entrances, accessible transport, communal spaces, and green areas to support aging in place and community engagement.

Galway City Comhairle na nÓg is a Youth Council for young people 12-17 years living or in education in Galway City. The topic for 2024 was Safety / Personal Safety with a focus on safety and accessibility, safe youth spaces for young people to socialise, personal safety in public spaces and online safety. The Comhairle na nÓg Youth Conference took place in the Galway Bay Hotel in October with 87 young people attending from schools in Galway City.

11.7.8 Community Centres

€4,343,255 awarded to Galway City Council under the Community Centre Investment Fund in partnership with Newcastle Combined Residents Association for the development of a new community centre in Newcastle with works to commence in 2025.



Ballinfoile Community Centre's activities and bookings continued to increase with an ongoing increase in footfall. Following a tender process for the management of the centre, a Licence and Management Agreement 2025-2026 was entered into between Galway City Council and SCCUL Enterprises CLG.

11.7.9 Galway Local Sports Partnership (GSP)

GSP continued to have an impact on sport and physical activity provision during 2024. Initiatives were delivered by the new Active Cities Officer and Community Sports Development Officers (CSDO). €140,000 was allocated to 50 clubs under the Galway City Council Sports Club Grant and €30,000 to 28 clubs under the Galway Sports Partnership Club Development Grant.

GSP supported 803 people over 49 with 4 courses with Galway Volunteer Courses and over 3000 people took part in Bike Week over 20 events in May. 9 events catering for 112 participants were held under Women in Sport /Her Outdoors Weeks and Sports Inclusion Disability Officer ran Autism in Sport online training for 65 people and 3 programmes for people with disabilities with 62 participants. Older adults' programmes/events 6 with 216 participants.

#BEACTIVE NIGHT (European Week of Sport) GSP was successful in gaining funding to run a #BEACTIVE Night as part of the EWOS with events taking place in Salthill Park, Leisureland and on the Prom with the powder run finale.



Active Cities Galway Project installed 8 BoxUp systems in Doughiska, Ballybane, Renmore, O'Sullivan Park, South Park, Westside, Salthill and McGrath's Field.

12. Operational Development Directorate

12.1 Roads and Transportation

Licensing & Taking in Charge

Key Achievements

- 700+ road opening licences processed
- 200+ permits issued for skip, crane, scaffolding, hoarding
- 20+ abnormal loads permits issued
- 40+ road closures processed to facilitate construction works and other events
- Five housing estates taken in charge
- Expanded our EV fleet with the purchase of a sweeper and van. Our 'green fleet' now consists of 21 EVs and one electric sweeper.
- Christmas Park and Ride saw over 6,000 passengers' avail of the service.
- Launch of a new parking app with over 16,500 registered users and rising
- Upgraded the system in our traffic section for management of parking, pay & display.
- Design and construction of a safety system by GCC at Westside (junction of Siobhan McKenna Rd and Circular Rd)

Financial Overview

The safety scheme at Westside was delivered within budget of €150,000.

The total expenditure for the Christmas Park & Ride was €93,665.00.

Challenges & Solutions

Legal challenges prevented the implementation of new pay and display machines. We entered a temporary arrangement with existing provider to overcome delays.

Goals for 2025

- Continued delivery of all licencing functions while mitigating the impact on the city's transportation network.
- Continued decarbonisation of GCC fleet to meet our 2030 targets.
- Full implementation of an enhanced pay and display programme.

Roads Maintenance

Key Achievements

GCC roads maintenance crews successfully completed works at over 70 different locations across the city during 2024. These can be categorised under three main headings:

Strengthening & Surface Repairs

These works involve a range of techniques to address pavement deterioration, including patching, resurfacing, with the goal of restoring road functionality and safety. A total of 26 projects were completed in 2024.



N59 Resurfacing Works

Safety & Mobility Improvement Works

Crews implement safe systems of work, providing adequate surfaces, enhanced signage, and road markings, whilst considering the needs of all road users, including those with reduced mobility and those using active transport. A total of 47 projects were completed during 2024.



Pedestrian Crossing Eyre Square

Drainage Improvement Works

Works are aimed at enhancing the removal of surface and subsurface water from roads to prevent damage and ensure safety, longevity of pavements, and minimise environmental impact. A total of six projects were completed during 2024.

Financial Overview

- The Dept. of Transport grant allocation for GCC was €3,347,990 and issued in February. This relates to maintenance and improvements to regional and local roads.
- This funding comprises nine categories with the Restoration Improvement programme the primary focus with an allocation of €1,821,500.
- The Transport Infrastructure Ireland grant allocation to GCC for Current Maintenance – Protection and Renewal of National Roads was €189,517 and issued in February. Additional funding was secured for pavement renewal works on the N59 (€178,995) and N6 (€69,750).

Challenges & Solutions

Many local authorities experienced challenges due to the rising cost in materials. A key solution to this for GCC centred on a long-term fixed price contract with our primary contractor. This allowed us to complete works within budget and for less than what the job would have cost if priced at the time.

Goals for 2025

Continued delivery of the Roads Restoration & Improvement programme for 2025 within budget and with minimal disruption to the city's road users.

Bridge Management

Key Achievements

Mill St Bridge (Ruxton Bridge).

Remedial works completed which included vegetation clearance from the structure, cleaning of masonry, replacement of concrete edge beams, repair and repointing of abutments, piers, arch barrels, and parapet walls.

Mobility improvement works at the junction of Parkavara/Mill Street junction were also completed.



Image – Mill Street Bridge works

Dominic St Bridge

Remedial works included vegetation clearance, cleaning of the structure and concrete deck repairs.

Salmon Weir Bridge

Bridge inspection to inform preliminary and detailed design of remedial work required to Salmon Weir Bridge commenced. A design of structural investigations is on-going.

Weighbridge at Fr. Griffin Road

Significant scope of works undertaken including, removal of the platform and corroded longitudinal steel beams, cleaning the pit, conservation of the weighbridge mechanism, construction of concrete piers (and shims) to support the platform, replacing the corroded steel beams, works to the access hatch, reinstatement of platform, removal of barriers and reopening of area.

Goals for 2025

An application for funding under the Regional and Local Road Specific Road Improvement Programme has been submitted to the DOT in respect of planned works to the Salmon Weir Bridge.

Noise Action Plan 2024-2028

Galway City Council drafted the Galway City Noise Action Plan 2024-2028 and following a period of statutory public consultation, the draft plan was finalised.

The Galway City Noise Action Plan 2024-2028 was then adopted as a strategic policy document.

City Centre Enhancement & Multimodal Projects

Key Achievements

Pavement rehabilitation works were completed on Quay Street. Following a formal request from businesses in the area, planned works on High St (to be conducted in two stages) were initially deferred to allow for peak business periods. The contractor appointed a designated contact to consult with business during construction works.

Following the initial feasibility study in late 2023 topographical surveys were completed for each route. Draft reports were received in Q4 2024, and concept design works are ongoing.

Challenges & Solutions

Agreeing and implementing breaks to contract works were challenging. The appointment of a designated contact person helped to foster positive communication with stakeholders and keep the project on target.

Goals for 2025

Multi-modal projects

A business case was presented to government departments and agencies for funding earlier this year (Q3 2024). A strategic works program and funding requirement to deliver this key infrastructure will be published. (Q2 2025). The cost estimate of the phased program based on the NTA funded project out-turn costs is €72,316,000 and do not generally include land costs.

An application for funding under the Regional and Local Road Specific Road Improvement Programme has been submitted to the DOT in respect of planned works to a section of the Circular / Letteragh Road. The funding amount sought in that application was €6,230,000.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure

Key Achievements

Galway City Council is in the final stages of completing an EV Public Charging Strategy and Policy which follow the required statutory process with an aim to have adopted by Q1 2026. In conjunction to the Strategy and Policy GCC will be drafting city wide implementation plan which will outline in detail the demand locations for publicly available EV charging infrastructure. The combination of these plans will lead to the physical roll out of EV infrastructure over a phased basis across the city.

Challenges & Solutions

Implementation of EV infrastructure will be a positive shift from the reliance on internal combustion engines (i.c.e.) where GCC will be a leader in this transition nationally. This will include several challenges, particularly in the area of sufficient electricity capacity within the ESB network. GCC will ensure strong proactive stakeholder engagement including identification of strategic locations along with alternative power solutions to deliver the required EV infrastructure within Galway City.

Financial Overview

Within 2025, funding for the publication of the EV strategy along with the proposed 2025 pilot's schemes will be combination of GCC internal revenue along with grant funding through ZEV (Zero Emissions Vehicles Ireland)

Goals for 2025

In line with the EV Strategy Galway City Council will roll out a number of Pilot initiative of EV infrastructure to gain dynamic data particularly in the area of Residential Charging and the key "Just Transition" aspect for city residents who do not have access to their own driveway to charge.

12.2 Environment Services

The Environment Section has responsibility for a diverse range of activities including Waste Enforcement, Waste Management, Environmental Awareness, Tidy Towns/ Pride of Place, Scientific Services (Water, Air and Noise), Casual Trading, Dog Services and Blue Flag Beaches. The 2024 work programme was largely driven by an extensive regulatory framework, including recent legislation such as the Waste Management (Collection Permit) Regulations 2023, S.I. No 343/2023 and Circular Economy (Environmental Levy) Regulations 2023.

Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environment Inspections (RMCEI)

Across all Environment thematic areas, Galway City Council undertook 219 routine inspections and 1408 non-routine inspections. The Waste Enforcement Team with the assistance of the Community Wardens investigated 1187 complaints relating to litter and waste. Galway City Council investigated 184 complaints relating to Water, Air and Noise pollution. The Environment Section also received and reported on 37 planning applications.

Eglinton Canal Clean Up Project.



Litter Management Services

The Environment Department on behalf of Galway City Council manage the process of road and footpath sweeping for areas such as the existing road network, bus lanes, cycle lanes, footpaths, permeability routes and other Active travel areas. The crews commence these duties at 5am each morning 7 days a week throughout the year. Galway city population is estimated at 84,572 according to the last CSO figures and is estimated to increase by a further 50% by 2050 which will significantly increase the number of users for Active travel options, increased housing estates taken in charge and increased service to be delivered by the Local Authority.

Galway City Council plan an extensive expansion to the network inclusive of additional bus lanes, cycle lanes, footpaths, permeability routes and other Active travel options over the next number of years and it is imperative that options to increase service efficiency and to reduce carbon emissions need to be introduced.

In 2024 the Environment Department purchased an EV electric sweeper for specific use on narrow laneways and footpaths, pedestrian routes, cycle routes and permeability routes.

Automated Public Conveniences (APCs)

Maintenance and upgrade works were carried out to APCs where required. The APC at Earls Island which was temporarily removed to allow for the construction of Droichead an Dóchais was reinstated closer to Galway Cathedral.

Air Quality

Following the results of the “Clean Air Together Project” Galway City Council undertook a 1-year study of air quality in 2024 at 8 locations on the Dock Road. Air quality in the city will be monitored throughout the year, with the results of the study available in 2025.

Pride of Place Awards

The Pride of Place Awards is an All-Ireland annual competition which was established to promote and celebrate the best in community development. In 2024 Galway City was represented by 3 groups, all of which received awards as follows:

HopeSpace Galway were winners in the youth category. Sruthan Mhuirlinne were runners up in the Urban Neighbourhood category in recognition of their proactive approach to anti-litter initiatives within the community. Branar Children’s Theatre were runners up in the Creative Community category.



HopeSpace Galway, Winners in the Pride of Place Youth Category.

Beaches

The Environment section monitors all bathing areas in the city from Ballyloughane to Silver Strand and has 2 Blue Flag beaches and 2 Green Coast Awards. 58 water samples were taken during the 2024 bathing season. Galway City Council hosted the 2024 Blue Flag Awards at the Galway Bay Hotel, just a stone's throw away from Ladies Beach, which has retained it's Blue Flag status for a successive 19 years.

Education and Awareness

The council continue to avail of Anti-Dumping Initiative funding to combat illegal dumping with initiatives that included a Circular Economy Business Workshop, A Second Hand Market & Sewing Workshop at Galway Climate Festival, Re love Fashion Competition, Bulky Goods Collection, Eglington Canal Clean Up Project, Sruthan Mhuirlinne Upkeep Project, Spaces for biodiversity competition, installation of a Water Station at Salthill, along with the plantation of trees and bulbs in a number of areas across the city.



Sruthan Mhuirlinne Mural Project.

Dog Pound and Services

In 2024 there was 198 dogs through Galway City dog pound. 189 dogs were rehomed, reclaimed or returned to their owners. Funding was provided under the Dog Control Support Initiative to purchase a new Electric Van for the Dog Warden Service and to upgrade power at the facility. In addition, the Environmental Awareness Officer organised 28 Responsible Dog Workshops throughout the city's primary schools.

12.3 Recreation and Amenity

The objective of the Department is to protect, enhance and conserve the natural environment of our city, to provide leadership in biodiversity and to develop and promote high quality recreational, leisure and amenity facilities to improve quality of life.

Key Achievements

Kingston & Millars Lane Parks & Public Urban Realm Project

The Framework Consultancy Team Led by MKO Consultants were awarded the contract in February 2024. Councillors voted for an LSSIF submission to be drafted and submitted for these projects. To allow this, the progression of the masterplan was halted to ensure that a comprehensive submission could be drafted by MKO and GCC. LSSIF was submitted in June 2024.

The dedicated web site www.kingstonparkmillerslane.com went live on Monday 23rd September 2024 kicking off a six week non statutory public consultation period with feedback requested by 1st November 2024. An in-person workshop was held on the 17th October 2024.

Southpark and Renmore Public Park & Public Urban Realm Projects

In October 2024 MKO was awarded both these contracts to deliver the masterplans. Works commenced on gathering information and undertaking ecological surveys that are season dependant.

Retractable Automated Ball Stop Netting at Cappagh Park

Sportsnet Ireland were appointed supplier, Ryan Hanley Consultancy were GCC design consultants, and the fabrication subcontractors are Ard Precision. The requirements were modified part of the way through to include an additional lower curtain wall. This extended the design and manufacturing period. By end of 2024 poles in place with solar panels. Works to be completed in 2025.

Proposed Dublin Road Lawn Cemetery

Preliminary design progressed and Part 8 Documents drafted. The Part 8 was published 19th September 2024 with final submission date 17th October 2024. The Council voted through the Part 8 in December 2024.

Green Spaces Strategy 2022-2032

Information gathering, surveys and meetings continued throughout 2024. Significant stakeholder engagement continued and as part of this, a sports survey was issued through public participation network (PPN). Through the PPN sports clubs were invited to engage as were local communities, schools, residents etc. Series of in person workshops for the public and councillors held in 2024. This initial steps of GSS to be concluded in 2025.

Woodquay Park Project

Design and extensive consultation undertaken, with Part 10 issued at the end of September to An Bord Pleanála (ABP), closing date for submissions on the 11th November 2024. End of November ABP issued the Consultant the submissions received (36 no.). No request was made by ABP for further information.

Sports Capital Projects

Corrib Park Grass Soccer Pitch

The new grassed soccer pitch in Corrib Park was completed and opened in 2024. The project included a full-sized soccer pitch along with ballstop netting, spectator fencing and footpath works.

Mervue Park All-weather Pitch

A contract has been awarded for construction of a new 70x35m synthetic turf pitch in Mervue Park. Once commenced, works will take approximately 4 months to complete., date of completion is expected Q1 2025.

Corrib Park MUGA Refurbishment

Works completed in 2024 and opened for use by Residents Association under licence in Q4 2024.

Westside Running Track

20 LED floodlights with sensors that pick up movement were installed around the running track. This has been a hugely successful project and means that the track can be used into the long winter nights.

Pitches and Dressing Rooms

Ongoing upkeep of 51 grassed pitches throughout the city and associated dressing rooms. Issuing licences for use of facilities. Addition of water filling station to Southpark. Major upgrade to Crestwood Dressing Rooms.

Parks, Woodlands & Estate Management

Active Travel Project, South Park Works to replace the existing kissing gates at the entrances to South Park from Mutton Island, Nimmo's Pier and Grattan Road completed.

Cappagh Park:

Pathway resurfacing works were completed to a section of Cappagh park. Works included resurfacing existing pathways, installation of bollards and installation of drop kerbs and tactile paving to entrances from neighbouring estates. 20 number trail posts were also installed for 5km Parkrun.

Kennedy Park,

Steps to plaza were upgraded.

Children's Millennium Park,

Major refurbishment of the playground undertaken in 2024. Works included new 4 tower castle multi activity unit, new accessible equipment and sensory equipment. The works were funded through Local Property Tax and Commercial Rates.

Roscam playground: A Play and Recreation Capital Grant was Award by the DCEDIY in 2024 to Galway City Council. A capital grant was awarded of €16,953.06 for Roscam Inclusive Toddler Castle Play Unit. The project was recently completed as per the below photos.



Castlepark Calisthenic Gym:

A Calisthenics gym was completed, the outdoor gym is the first of its kind built by Galway City Council.

Beaches and Water Safety

Maintenance works carried out on the beaches include the removal of seaweed and sand regrading works, rock armour repairs. New information signage boards were also installed along at the City's four beaches Grattan, Silverstrand, Salthill and Ballyloughane.

Lifeguard services were provided at all the bathing water facilities in the City between June – September in co-operation with Galway County Council.

A total of 60 ring-buoy locations along the River Corrib and canals were inspected weekly and replaced as necessary. Two additional lifebuoy locations were identified and life buoys installed at Ladies' Beach and the beach adjacent, both being secured to the changing facility structures.

Blue Flag and Green Coast Awards

Galway City Council hosted these awards in Galway Bay Hotel in May 2024. GCC retained their awards for both Green Flag and Green Coast for Silverstrand and Salthill beaches.



2024 Green Flag Awards

In November the Mayor of the City of Galway, Cllr. Peter Keane raised the Community Green Flag in Terryland Forest Park, along with Director of Services Patrick Greene and the volunteer group the Tuatha of Terryland Forest Park. An Taisce Community Green Flag Award is the first of its kind in Galway City, the award highlights the excellent work achieved through cooperation between GCC and the Tuatha volunteer group in Terryland Forest Park.



The parks that retained their Green Flag status this year include Quincentennial Park, Children's Millennium Park and O'Sullivan Park. While Kennedy Park (Eyre Square) and Terryland Forest Park were awarded Green Flags for the first time, bringing the total award haul to 5 flags for Galway.

Community engagement and biodiversity awareness-raising in 2024

- Buaille Bó Ballyloughane Grassland Conservation Grazing Pilot Project, located in a beach near Renmore, east of Galway City. This project explored links between biodiversity, agriculture, climate, community engagement and the local authority.
- Throughout March and April 2024, over 1,000 school children visited Ballyloughane to learn about the Buaille Bó Ballyloughane Beach Conservation Grazing, with a guided tour provided to each school group by the Biodiversity Officer.
- Numerous events were held across the City to celebrate 2024 Biodiversity Week between May 17th - 26th. With outdoor walks and talks in many of our precious habitats including woodlands, beaches, peatlands and ponds, and wildlife such as bats in the urban centre. Interactive indoor presentations were held in our libraries on the interconnection between biodiversity and our folklore.
- In June the inaugural Biodiversity Working Group convened with representatives across Council Departments, academia, PPN, NGOs and community groups. The focus of the meetings was on developing the actions and in the Galway City Biodiversity Action Plan 2024.

- Heritage Week between 16th - 26th August, included the Wild Bee Festival Sat 17th - Sun 18th August Knocknacarra Community Centre and Youth Biodiversity Workshops held in the City's Libraries between the 22nd and 24th August.
- There was an open invitation to the general public to inform them of the revision of the Galway City Biodiversity Action Plan and to receive feedback through GCC through "Have your Say" webpage and in person workshops at local libraries. In addition, in person consultation events in public libraries across Galway City during September and facilitated workshops were held to engage as many cohorts of the community as possible to inform the plan.
- Grattan Beach 'Living Lab', in conjunction with the University of Galway and the Atlantic Seaboard North Climate Action Regional Office (CARO), as a Nature Based Solution for climate change, coastal defence and biodiversity - sand fencing reinstalled at Grattan Beach. It has received significant media attention with scientists across Europe and America visiting the site, due to its unique location in an urban environment.
- Ongoing development of Galway City Invasive Alien Species Strategy Management and Education Project 2024. Training continuing for staff and members of the public. Invasive species management in Rosshill Woods to remove Cherry Laurel was carried out by a specialist contractor in October and November to address the impacts of the invasive species on the woodlands.

Community Engagement – All Ireland Pollinator Plan



Community Outreach & Education



Biodiversity Week
17-26 May 2024

Bat Walk with Dr Caltriona Carlin, University of Galway

9:15pm-10:45pm
Tuesday 21 May
Meet at Galway Cathedral

Bat walk in Galway City with Galway Bat Group and Bat Conservation Ireland.



Exploring Life of a Pond with Galway City Biodiversity Officer Paula Kearney

Galway City Biodiversity Youth Workshops
22nd to 24th August
9.30am-1.00pm

Galway City Invasive Species Week

Lunchtime Webinar 22 May 1.00 - 2.00pm

Invasive species in your gardens and communities and how to prevent them with Horticulturist Linda Gleeson

Irish Wetland Bird Survey

Galway Workshops

Learn how to identify and survey the wintering wetlands of Galway Bay.

Biodiversity Week 17-26 May 2024

Invasive Species in Merlin Woods

10:30am-1:00pm
Saturday 25 May
Meet at Merlin Woods Community Garden

With the Friends of Merlin Woods, learn how to identify, report and monitor invasive species with invasive species experts Linda Gleeson and Doreen Moriarty.

Please wear appropriate footwear and warm/waterproof outdoor clothing. Children under 18 are very welcome, but must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Saving Swifts

Birdwatch Ireland talk on Swifts

Galway City Library H91 R6WF
Tuesday 20th August 6pm-7pm

Bird Watch Ireland in conjunction with Galway City Council Biodiversity Officer and Galway City Library are giving a talk on the plight of swifts and what we can do to help protect them.

Biodiversity Week 17-26 May 2024

Birds of Rusheen Bay and Barna Woods

10:30am-1:00pm
Saturday 25 May
Car Park Rusheen Bay

The birds of Rusheen Bay/ Barna Woods with Ornithologist Tom Cuffe.

Please wear appropriate footwear and warm/waterproof outdoor clothing. Children under 18 are very welcome, but must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Wild Bee Festival 2024

Knocknacarra Community Centre
Galway City: H91 R6PW

Saturday 17th	Sunday 18th
10:00 How can Communities Help Pollinators? Linda Gleeson, Linda Gleeson, Linda Gleeson	10:00 Learn about Ireland's Bumblebees Linda Gleeson, Linda Gleeson, Linda Gleeson
11:00 Creating Community Meadows in Galway City Linda Gleeson, Linda Gleeson, Linda Gleeson	11:00 Biodiversity in Merlin Woods Linda Gleeson, Linda Gleeson, Linda Gleeson

The Hare's Corner is coming to Galway City

Biodiversity Action Plan Pre-Draft Public Consultation



The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) made targeted funding available for local authorities regarding the implementation of the National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) under the Local Biodiversity Action Fund 2024. Local Biodiversity Action Fund 96k was granted for the Galway City IAS Management and Education Project; The Hare's Corner – Galway City including ponds, mini woodlands/orchards and plans for nature; Galway City Swift Project; Recording Irish mayfly – establishing conservation status; and Pilot Ground Truthing of the VWT modelling of landscape connectivity for Lesser Horseshoe Bats in Galway City.

Heritage Council funding of 20k was granted towards the development of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

Biodiversity Awards and Nominations 2024

Galway City Wild Bee Festival Recognised at National Heritage Awards 2024: Galway City Council was 'buzzing' to be a runner up in the 'Sustainability and Climate Heritage Award' at the National Heritage Awards, on Friday 15 November 2024. The National Heritage Awards celebrate the most engaging events of National Heritage Week. With over 2,500 events held in Heritage Week in 2024, Galway City Council was honoured to be shortlisted for the Wild Bee Festival, at a ceremony in The Grand Chapel and Hall, Kilmainham Hospital, hosted by Síle Seoige.

Galway City was nominated for the Best Environmental/ Ecological Project category for the Buaile Bó Ballyloughane Conservation Grazing Project.

Healthy Green Spaces Initiative & “No Mow” areas

GCC remained committed to the Healthy Green Spaces Initiative and no mow policy. These are producing some amazing spaces for the communities and the public.

Cemeteries Operations and Management

The City Council continued to manage and operate two cemeteries in the City at Rahoon and Bohermore. Cemetery Sunday Mass was held in Bohermore on 18th August and in Rahoon on 8th September both events had a substantial turnout.

Various works were carried out on the cemeteries, namely in Rahoon Cemetery where James Joyce plaque and the Bodkins Mausoleum cleaned and a new plaque installed. The new plaque was unveiled by President Higgins on Saturday 13th January. 14 no Urn Plot headstones installed in lawn section.

12.4 Community Centres

Key Achievements

Westside Community Centre

Westside CC was the focus as the Local elections count centre in 2024. To accommodate this the following were undertaken:

- Cleaning and painting contractors employed to carry out a deep clean, the internal walls were painted.
- Carpenters and electrical contractors employed to create the space within the main hall for the count and when it was complete to dismantle all after the event.
- An additional temporary bike stand was provided by the T&I. Drainage facilities improved within the building and old tiling replaced.
- Grass was cut and areas tidied up around the centre.

Knocknacarra Community Centre

Along with regular maintenance and accommodating ongoing bookings, a new storage facility was fitted in Knocknacarra CC to provide much need storage within the main hall. Water refill stations were installed at Knocknacarra Community Centre.

Renmore Community Centre

A full deep clean of the entire community centre in Renmore was completed.

12.5 Water Services

In July 2022, an agreement titled the “Framework for Future Delivery of Water Services” was reached at the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC), leading to the establishment of a Master Services Agreement (MSA) in August 2022. Under this agreement, Galway City Council transferred full operational responsibility for water services to Uisce Éireann (UE) on 26 July 2023, replacing the previous Service Level Agreement (SLA). Council staff continue working in the water section under UE management, with this arrangement in place until 31 December 2026, after which staff will either transfer to UE or be reassigned within the Council. While Galway City Council retains responsibility for surface water systems, combined sewer systems fall under UE.

Fire and Library Services

Fire and Library services are operated and managed by Galway County Council, as a shared service on behalf of the City Council.

12.6 Major Emergency Management & Severe Weather Response

Key Achievements

Eight GCC staff members completed training for key roles required during a response to major emergencies.

- On-site Coordinator
- Information Manager
- Media Liaison Officer

Other staff also attended two exercises as observers.

The draft Major Emergency Plan (MEP) was significantly progressed with completion of various appendices including Flood and Severe Weather Plans.

A new system to capture events and analyse their impact during severe weather events was launched in 2024, SWEMS – Severe Weather Event Management System. This will be an invaluable resource in that it allows real-time updates to be uploaded by local authority staff on the ground using online mapping technology. Incidents reported by the public in relation to severe weather emergencies can also be recorded by the council.

Challenges & Solutions

Each severe weather event experienced presents unique challenges. For example, one of the key findings during the impact of Storm Eowyn was the disruption to communication networks, including 'fail-safe technology' such as Tetra Radios. Strengthening of network equipment and capacity to respond to and manage crisis will be a keen area of attention in future scenarios.

Goals for 2025

- Completion of the joint Major Emergency Plan with Galway County Council
- Continued training of staff for key roles required during severe weather events
- Enhancing infrastructure to deal with future events.

12.7 LCNT

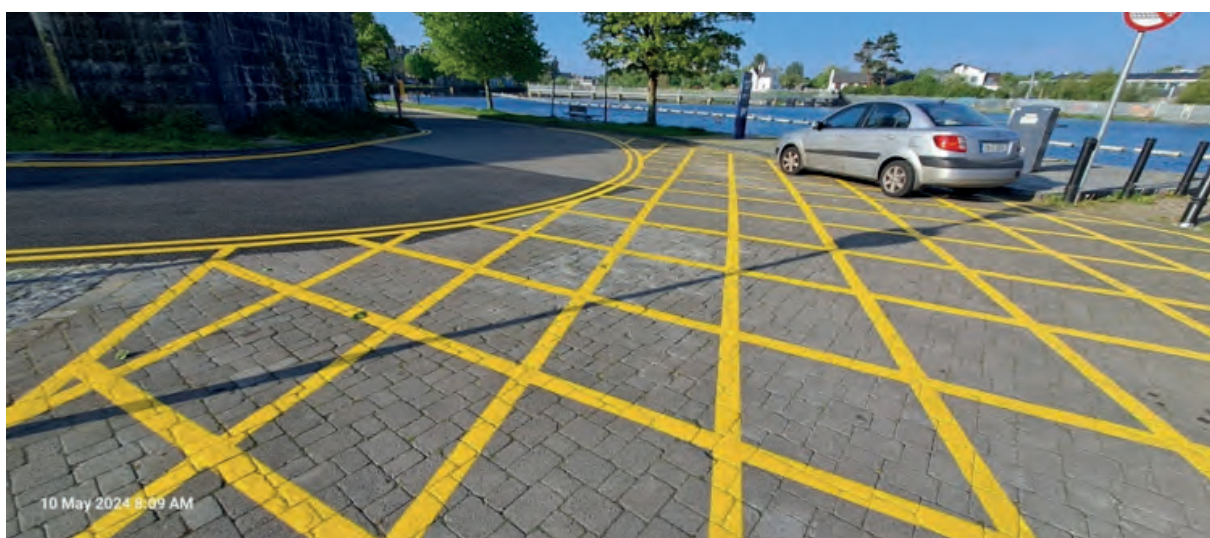
During the year the following works took place.

- Infrastructure inspections and planned pier maintenance continue at the five LCNT piers.
- Surface repairs and renewal of line marking took place at Steamers Quay
- Cleaning and painting works were carried out on the Eglinton canal railings.
- Painting and graffiti removal works were completed to the Claddagh Lock Gate
- Lough Corrib Navigation Trust recently carried out a litter pick from the Claddagh basin lock gate, along the Eglinton canal, into the Gaol River and on into Steamers Quay. The project was carried out in partnership with the Recreation and Amenity Section of Galway City Council and was funded by the Anti-Dumping Initiative.

The work was planned to coincide with World Cleanup Day 2024 which aims to top last year's figures where a staggering 19.1 million participants from 198 countries and territories came together to collect a total of 219,000 tonnes of waste on September 16th. Galway City Council and Lough Corrib Navigation Trust are proud to be part of this year's effort.



- Resurfacing of recreational areas by the Eglinton Canal took place
- Repair works were carried out at Knockferry pier rock armour wall.
- LCNT staff continue to monitor and survey the marker network and produce works lists for specialist marine contractors to carry out necessary works and improvements to the navigation infrastructure.
- New Safety Information Boards were erected at all LCNT piers.
- A Water Safety Risk Assessment was carried out on Lisloughrey Pier when construction works were complete.



Steamers Quay paving after resurfacing and renewal of road marking works



Resurfacing of recreational areas by the Eglinton Canal

13. Corporate Development Directorate

13.1 Finance

13.1.1 Payments to Councillors in 2024

Local Government Act 2001 – Section 142 Expenditure	
Mayor and other allowances	€24,579
Entertainment and Associated Expenses	€33,955
Representational Payments, Expenses of Members and Representation at Conferences	€925,009
Total	€983,543

13.2 Corporate Services

13.2.1 Council Meetings

Plenary Council meetings are generally held on the second Monday of each month excluding August. Special meeting may be held from time to time by the Mayor in consultation with the Council.

Council Meetings in 2024 included:	
Plenary Council meetings, including adjourned meetings	14
Special Council meetings	6
West Area Committee	5
East Area Committee	4
Central Area Committee	4
Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs):	
Planning SPC	3
Transportation SPC	2

Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs):	
Housing and Social Inclusion SPC	3
Economic, Community & Cultural Development SPC	2
Climate Action, Environment, Recreation & Amenity	2
Corporate Policy Group (CPG)	9
Meeting with Members of Oireachtas for the Galway West constituency with the Mayor and Management Team	1
Procedures Committee	1
Date	Details of Special Council Meeting
22/04/2024	Freedom of the City / Naming of Droichead an Dóchais
31/05/2024	Freedom of the City – Mr. Keith Finnegan
30/09/2024	To agree the Local Property Tax (LPT)
14/10/2024	To agree the Local Property Tax (LPT) Adjourned meeting
11/11/2024	Demonstration of Sympathy for Mr. Billy Lawless, RIP
20/12/2024	Filling of Casual Vacancy for Councillor John Connolly

Galway City Council's Annual Meeting 2024 was held on 21st June 2024.

- Councillor Peter Keane was elected Mayor of the city of Galway.
- Councillor Níall McNelis was elected Deputy Mayor of Galway City.

The Statutory Budget meeting was held on the 2nd December 2024. Two adjourned Statutory Budget meetings were held on the 9th and 13th December 2024. The City Council's draft Budget 2025 was adopted on 13th December 2024.

13.2.3 Mayoral Receptions 2024

Date	Event
08/01/2024	Galway United
20/02/2024	Liam Mellows Camogie Club
09/04/2024	Helium Arts
28/05/2024	Park Run Galway
09/12/2024	Galway Quincentennial Committee 1984

13.2.4 Courtesy Visits

Date	Event
20/02/2024	Ambassador of Poland, Prof. Arkady Rzegocki
27/02/2024	Ambassador of Latvia, Mr Juris Štālmeistars
28/02/2024	Ambassador of Finland, Leena Gardemeister
07/03/2024	Ambassador of Lithuania, Mr. Marijus Gudynas
05/03/2024	Ambassador of New Zealand, Trevor Mallard
06/03/2024	Ambassador of Japan, Norio Maruyama
11/04/2024	Ambassador of Slovenia, Mr. Stanislav Vidovič
02/05/2024	Ambassador of Cuba, Bernardo Guanche Hernández
07/05/2024	Ambassador of Iran, Dr Kazem Sharif Kazemi
22/05/2024	Ambassador of Norway, Mari Skare
26/06/2024	Ambassador of Netherlands, Maaïke van Koldam
03/10/2024	Ambassador of Argentina, Ana Laura Cachaza
16/10/2024	Ambassador of Belgium, Karen Van Vlierberge
08/11/2024	Ambassador of Romania, Laurențiu-Mihai Ștefan
14/11/2024	Ambassador of Germany, David Gill
06/12/2024	Ambassador of Barbados - Mr. Cleviston Haynes

13.2.5 Other visits to City Hall in 2024

Date	Event
08/02/2024	Claddagh National School
18/04/2024	Launch of Brittany Festival 2024 (Lorient Delegation)
25/06/2024	Celtic Irish American Students
11/11/2024	Mental Health Reform Showcase
17/10/2024	Liuyang Delegation
13/12/2024	Wuhan Delegation



Freedom of the City Event: Chief Executive Leonard Cleary, Keith Finnegan and Mayor Eddie Hoare.

13.2.6 Register of Electors

The Electoral Reform Act 2022 introduced a rolling register, allowing online voter registration at any time. It enables 16 and 17 year-olds to pre-register and be automatically added upon turning 18. PPS numbers and dates of birth are now collected to improve identity checks and register accuracy. In response to these reforms, a 2024 Media Awareness Campaign was launched, featuring advertisements, internal communications, and flyers to inform the public about the new online registration process. This campaign has helped Galway City Council prepare for the transition from www.checktheregister to Voter.ie in 2025/2026.

2024 was a busy year for the Franchise Team with three Electoral events held throughout the year as follows:

- The Family and Care Referendums held on 8th March 2024.
- The Local Elections held on 7th June 2024
- The General Election held on 29th November 2024.

13.2.7 Local Elections 2024

Local elections are held every five years to elect Members of Local Authorities. These elections give citizens a chance to choose representatives who will make decisions on local services, including housing, transport, planning, and environmental issues. Elected Members play a key role in shaping community development and local governance.

The Local Elections 2024 took place on 7th June and resulted in the departure of six Councillors: Imelda Byrne, Colette Connolly, Michael J. Crowe, Noel Larkin, Niall Murphy and Martina O'Connor. We extend our sincere gratitude to them for their dedicated service to the communities of Galway City, and we wish them all the very best in their future endeavours.

We are also pleased to welcome six newly elected Councillors: Aishling Burke, Josie Forde, Shane Forde, John McDonagh, Helen Ogbu and Eibhlín Seoighthe. We look forward to working with all of our 18 Elected Members and wish them every success in their five year term.

13.2.8 Customer Service

Galway City Council's Customer Service Centre includes the Reception Desk and Cash Office in City Hall's main foyer, open to the public Monday to Friday from 9am to 4pm. Our Call Centre operates from 9am to 5pm, handling general enquiries, including traffic, housing and environment queries and payments. Additionally, the centre manages all customer complaints, Fix Your Street cases, and email correspondence via customerservice@galwaycity.ie and seirbhisdochustaimeiri@galwaycity.ie

2024 Key Services and Support:

Parking Permits Processed (resident, carer, visitor)	7702
Bulky Waste Collections Managed	1075
Community Clean Ups Assisted	81
Fix Your Street: cases on issues like illegal dumping, street lighting faults, and potholes	804 cases logged
Call Centre and Payment Processing	
Total calls answered in 2024, including out-of-hours emergency reports	58,798
Total cash office and payments processed in 2024:	
• Cash office receipts:	14,120
• Telephone payments:	15,570

In addition to the services outlined above, the Customer Services team provided essential support across various sections. They assisted housing tenants and applicants, supported homeless service seekers, and managed Choice Based Letting queries. The team also handled inquiries related to recreational facilities, logged reports of water outages and leaks, and addressed finance-related matters, including rates waivers and appeals. Furthermore, they played a crucial role in supporting the Corporate Services Department, particularly with voter registration and office administration, during a demanding year of election events. They were also called upon to provide administrative support during severe weather events.

13.2.9 Safety, Health, and Welfare at Work

In 2024, the Health and Safety Unit, in collaboration with Senior Management, continued to coordinate Galway City Council's Safety Management System to meet legislative and corporate obligations under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005. The Unit also maintained its ongoing review of the Council's Safety Statement, Safety Management Manual, and annually updated Ancillary Safety Statements across all directorates and business areas.

Proactive Safety Monitoring

The Health and Safety Unit, in conjunction with Senior Management, continued to coordinate the implementation of the Annual Programme of Inspections for 2024. The following Safety Inspections were completed in 2024:

- Safety Inspections completed by Line Managers and Supervisors (231)
- Safety Inspections completed by the Health and Safety Officers (57)

Reactive Safety Monitoring

Galway City Council continued to provide services to the citizens of Galway City in a safe and effective manner. The Health and Safety Unit issued monthly Accident and Incident Summary reports, provided guidance to prevent recurrence, and reported statistics to the Local Government Management Agency.

Emergency Preparedness

The Health and Safety Unit, in conjunction with Fire Wardens and Senior Management, completed Fire and Emergency Evacuation Drills at six workplace locations and conducted weekly inspections of First Aid Boxes, AEDs, and Fire Extinguishers to ensure readiness for use.

Health and Safety Training

The Health and Safety Unit continued its efforts in delivering mandatory and desirable Health and Safety Training courses. Over the course of 2024, staff had been continually receiving Health and Safety training to undertake their jobs safely.

Safety Consultation

The Health and Safety Unit continued to meet and consult with the Safety Consultation Committees to address any concerns raised in relation to our operations or the Safety Management System. 12 meetings were held in 2024.

The two committees are focused on Operations at Administration buildings and Facility Management (Offices Operations SCC) and Operations at Maintenance Works (Maintenance Operations SCC) respectively.

The Health and Safety Unit continued to provide health and safety updates to the Senior Management Team at the Safety Monitoring Committee (SMC) meetings.

13.3 Corporate Governance

12.3.1 Protected Disclosures Act 2014

No protected disclosures were made to the Council under the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 as amended in 2024. The Protected Disclosures Annual Reports are available on the Council website at www.galwaycity.ie.

13.3.2 Freedom of Information

In 2024, a total of 146 requests were made to Galway City Council under the Freedom of Information Act 2014. The table below provides an analysis of the outcome of these requests. 4 requests were appealed internally.

Requests Granted	23
Requests Part-Granted	54
Requests Refused	34
Requests Withdrawn	15
Dealt with outside of FOI	12
Requests Transferred	0
Carried forward to 2025	8
Total	146

12.3.3 Access to Information on the Environment (AIE)

In 2024, a total of 15 requests were made to Galway City Council under the AIE Regulations. The table below provides an analysis of the outcome of these requests. 2 requests were appealed internally.

Requests Granted	1
Requests Part-Granted	7
Requests Refused	7
Requests Withdrawn	0
Dealt with outside of AIE	0
Requests Transferred	0
Carried forward to 2025	0
Total	15

13.4 Communications and Marketing

The communications team continued to manage and support core communications functions including social media, press releases, media liaison, digital content, project/ event launches, branding, communications training, and Severe Weather response.

The 'Galway City – Your Council' podcast series two was released in late 2024/ early 2025, introducing six highly experienced Galway City Council staff talking about their roles and their professional backgrounds. Series one of the podcast won the Communications award in the prestigious Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards in November 2024.

13.5 Gaeilge | Irish Language

Gaeilge staff continue to support Galway City Council to deliver obligations under the Official Languages Act and fourth Galway City Council Irish Language Scheme 2009-2022, which is the local authority's adopted Irish language policy, and is retained, under the Official Languages Act.

The Galway City Language Plan is implemented by Gaillimh le Gaeilge in partnership with Galway City Council, through the Meitheal Plean Teanga.

An official meeting of the Houses of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Irish Language, the Gaeltacht and the Irish-Speaking Community took place in Galway County Council on 8 March 2024. The theme of the meeting was 'Cathair na Gaillimhe, Cathair na Gaeilge, Conas an Chathair a fhorbairt agus naisc a chruthú idir an chathair agus na ceantair Ghaeltachta sa Chontae'.

Following public consultation on the draft Strategic Policy Committee structure for Galway City Council in August 2024, a Gaeilge sub-committee of the Corporate Development SPC was established to progress policy relating to the Irish language. The formation of a sub-committee is a significant indicator of the importance of Gaeilge to the culture, heritage, identity and operations of Galway City Council, and will create a space for members to develop policy to support the implementation of Galway City Council's legal obligations in relation to Gaeilge. As Baile Seirbhíse Gaeltachta (Gaeltacht Service Town), Galway City is one of 26 Limistéir Pleanála Teanga (LPTs) (Language Planning Areas) in the state.

Irish language training continued in 2024, including in-house classes, and certifications through Common European Framework Reference for Languages (CEFR) certified courses. Phone skills and customer service training was delivered for public-facing staff.

Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021

From 1 January to 31 December 2023 public bodies are required, under Section 10A of the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021, to meet targets relating to advertising placement and spend in the Irish language. Public bodies are also required to furnish a report on these activities to An Coimisinéir Teanga. Galway City Council is required to place 20% of advertisements, including social media advertising, in the Irish Language or in English and Irish, and to allocate 5% of advertising spend to advertising in Irish language media outlets.

2024 Figures *	
Percentage of advertisements in Irish or bilingual:	54%
Percentage of advertising spend in Irish language media:	4%

13.6 Civic Naming

The Civic Naming Committee met five times, and recommended the following civic commemorations, which were agreed by Council:

- Droichead an Dóchais for the new pedestrian and cycle bridge at the Salmon Weir.
- Multi-use Games Area in Westside was named after the former teacher and athlete Eugene Dunleavy.

13.7 ICT and Digital

The ICT section of Galway City Council provides staff with support and secure access to technology and systems, enabling Galway City Council to deliver high quality services to the public. The section is focussed on the LGMA's National ICT & Digital Strategy 2024 which aims to deliver 90% of all applicable services via digital methods by 2030.

Galway City Council's ICT & Digital department at year end comprises 13 staff supporting approximately 500 end users across four core teams: Infrastructure & Operations (Network, Server Infrastructure, IT Service Desk, Devices, & Telephony), Enterprise Applications (tasked with ensuring the stability and operational efficiency of the numerous databases and enterprise systems which underpin the day-to-day functions of the organisation, along with assisting departments with the introduction of digital solutions), Web & Digital services, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The recruitment process for a Cybersecurity team was started.

Achievements in 2024:

Service Desk “Business As Usual” Stats:

Category	No. of Tech Staff	No. Tickets 2024
IT Infrastructure & Operations	6	4855
Enterprise Apps	3	457
GIS	1.5	72
Web	1.5	224
Cybersecurity Incident Investigation	0	12
External Network support		3
Blended Working ICT Kit Requests		395
Mobile Phone Queries	1	194

IT Infrastructure & Operations Projects Delivered:

- Installation and configuration of a new Hyper Converged Hybrid Cloud Infrastructure (HCI), following tender process. The project resulted in reduced energy consumption and increased efficiency, agility and resilience. This technology provides built-in Data Protection and Disaster Recovery reducing the reliance on tape backups.
- Installation of the Orchestra tool for managing data sharing, users and data lifecycle in Microsoft 365.
- Launched new Service Desks for Finance, HR, Facilities, Health & Safety and ICT.
- Rolled out endpoint management & security software to all devices to manage all aspects of the hardware on the GCC network including: software deployment, patch management, remote troubleshooting, asset management, and security compliance. This simplifies IT Management providing centralized control, ensuring devices are up-to-date, secure, and aligned with organizational policies, whether they are on-premises or remote.
- Installed additional cybersecurity detection and response platform
- Joined the LGMA's interim national SOC (Security Operations Center)/SIEM (Security Information and Event Management)
- Decommissioned the on-premise Mail server, meaning all mail is handled exclusively in the Microsoft 365 cloud.

- Completed a cleanup of the IT Server Room and Storage room.
- 80 PC hard drives that had been removed from circulation were donated to local schools following re-imaging, contributing to the circular economy and promoting technology in primary and secondary schools in the city.
- After the Local Elections all councillors received new laptops and had additional security measures applied to their O365 accounts

Enterprise Applications Team Projects Delivered

- Power Apps Development:
 - FOI Admin & Decision Maker – streamlining Freedom of Information requests
 - Contracts Register – Centralized management of contracts and agreements
 - Employee Vaccine Register – Securely tracking employee vaccination status
 - Contractor Competency Assessment – Efficiently assessing and managing contractor qualifications.
- Power BI Reporting
 - Blended Working Approvers – Insights into remote work approval
 - Legacy Helpdesk reports analysing support tickets from the legacy helpdesk in preparation for new Helpdesk configuration
 - FOI Legacy – a historical analysis of FOI requests
 - Housing Section – Modernised reporting of Housing Data
- IDocs integration with iHouse, setting up indexes, document types and role-based access for housing staff. Migration of 40,000 Housing files and 90,000 scanned images from legacy system to iDocs
- Migration of several databases from legacy OS to new servers: Choice-Based Letting; Papervision and Reporting services
- Other:
 - Integration with HR system and Active Directory enabling automatic generation of Org charts
 - Traffic Flow Data Analysis using TomTom Route' s real time traffic data
 - Choice Based Letting Housing Waiting List – provision of waiting list status in real time

- LGMA Application Deployment – latest versions of iHouse, iReg & Travel Claims applications deployed
- Staff Search – added functionality to display the users current status within the Staff Search app (Remote Working, Business Absence, Clocked in, on leave etc)
- Collaboration & Partnerships
 - Payzone Integration – Supporting the implementation of PaybyApp solution
 - Central Broker - Piloting data transfer process with other local authorities (Monaghan & Offaly)
 - Supporting implementation of Planning Compliance and Enforcements System (APAS)
 - Played an integral part in the 2024 Local Election count, managing the eCount database and providing next step verification.
 - Property Asset Management – Housing property data integration with AddJust

Web & G.I.S. Projects Delivered

2024 saw the consolidation of the Web and GIS teams to reflect the increasing overlap in digital services expected by the public.

The most significant project delivered by this team was the launch of the new GalwayCity.ie website which uses the LocalGov Drupal platform, an initiative to provide common services to local government customers in an intuitive and consistent manner. The project required collaboration, training and upskilling of 70 content editors from all departments to ensure each department can take ownership of their website content

In addition to this project multiple services, grants and consultations were made available to the public online, with integration to back-end functions, in line with our Digital Transformation roadmap and implementation plan. All new applications & consultations will now be digital by design.

The Online Planning System was moved to the national PACE system and has been integrated with all internal and external resources.

A significant Map and Spatial Data audit took place as a precursor to our move to the ArcGIS Online cloud platform and an increased Open Data presence.

13.8 Commercial Services

Procurement within GCC is to promote excellence and modernisation in all aspects of our procurement practice, to support the efficient and effective achievement of corporate priorities and the delivery of improved services to our customers. Our focus will be on the work we need to do to achieve savings, meet our legal obligations and deliver wider local economic, environmental, and social benefits in communities. The creation of innovative ways of securing goods, works and services that best meet the needs of users and the local community in its widest sense. Procurement has a pivotal role in ensuring the GCC delivers high quality services and wider social economic benefits, by working in partnership, collaboration and the wider public sector generally.

The Procurement Unit continued to promote, guide, and support all procurement activities in Galway City Council. The unit regularly provides training and guidance to staff and supports strong corporate governance by conducting regular procurement and budgetary compliance checks. This training and guidance will continue throughout 2025. In 2024: GCC procured €71 million, paid 1,500 different suppliers and published 130 tenders through eTenders and Supplygov.

Appendix 1 –

Council Membership of Committees

Committee	Councillors
AILG (Association of Irish Local Government)	Jan – June 2024 – Cllrs. Terry O’Flaherty, Colette Connolly, Ollie Crowe June – Dec 2024 – Cllrs. Terry O’Flaherty, Declan McDonnell, Alan Cheevers
Northern and Western Regional Assembly	Jan – June 2024 - Cllrs. Donal Lyons, Declan McDonnell June – Dec 2024 – Cllrs. Aisling Burke, Níall McNelis
Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board	Jan – June 2024 – Cllrs. Michael J Crowe, Terry O’Flaherty, Noel Larkin June – Dec 2024 – Cllrs. Helen Ogbu, Josie Forde, Eibhlín Seoighthe
Corporate Policy Committee	Jan – June 2024 – Cllrs. Eddie Hoare (Chair), Donal Lyons, Níall McNelis, Frank Fahy, Martina O’Connor, Peter Keane June – December 2024 – Cllrs. Peter Keane (Chair), Declan McDonnell, Mike Cubbard, Donal Lyons, Clodagh Higgins, Níall McNelis, John Connolly replaced by Mike Crowe 20.12.24
Galway City Council Audit Committee	Jan – May 2024 – Cllrs. Declan McDonnell, Martina O’Connor June – Dec 2024 – Cllrs. Mike Cubbard, Peter Keane
Galway City Joint Policing Committee (Jan-June 2024)	Jan – June 2024 – Cllrs. Terry O’Flaherty, Michael J Crowe, Eddie Hoare, Noel Larkin, Donal Lyons, Níall McNelis, Alan Cheevers, Mike Cubbard, Franks Fahy, Alan Curran, Niall Murphy

Galway/Salthill Fáilte Company CLG	Jan – June 2024 – Cllrs. Donal Lyons, Noel Larkin, Neil McNelis, Alan Curran, P O'Reilly June – Dec 2024 – Cllrs. Peter Keane, Aisling Burke, Declan McDonnell, Níall McNelis, Josie Forde
Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd	Jan – June 2024 – Cllr. Declan McDonnell June – Dec 2024 – Cllr. Eddie Hoare
Local Authority Members Association	Jan – June 2024 – Cllr Níall McNelis June – Dec 2024 – Cllr. Níall McNelis
Local Community Development Committee	Jan – June 2024 – Cllrs. Alan Curran, Martina O'Connor June – Dec 2024 - Cllrs. Josie Forde, Helen Ogbu
Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee	Jan – June 2024 – Cllrs. Martina O'Connor, Owen Hanley, Declan McDonnell, Noel Larkin, John Connolly June – Dec 2024 – Cllrs. Eibhlín Seoighthe, Alan Curran, Helen Ogbu, Alan Cheevers, John Connolly, Aisling Burke
Lough Corrib Navigation Trustees	Jan – June 2024 – Cllrs. Alan Curran, Colette Connolly, Frank Fahy, June – Dec 2024 – Cllrs. Frank Fahy, John Connolly, John McDonagh

Regional Health Forum West	Jan – June 2024 – Cllrs. John Connolly, Noel Larkin, Declan McDonnell June – Dec 2024 – Cllrs. Shane Forde, John Connolly, Aisling Burke
Galway Sports Partnership: Steering Group Member	Jan – June 2024 – Cllr Declan McDonnell June – Dec 2024 – Cllr. Mike Cubbard
Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs)	Jan – June 2024 – Cllrs. Níall McNelis, Eddie Hoare, P O'Reilly, Peter Keane, Donal Lyons June – Dec 2024 – Cllrs. Clodagh Higgins, John Connolly, Níall McNelis, Mike Cubbard, Declan McDonnell
Appointment of Procedures Committee of City Council	Jan – June 2024 – Cllrs. Noel Larkin, Michael J Crowe, Pauline O'Reilly, Alan Curran, Níall McNelis, Frank Fahy June – Dec 2024 –
Ballinfoile/Castlegar Neighbourhood Centre Advisory Group	Jan – June 2024 – Cllrs. Alan Curran, Colette Connolly June – Dec 2024 – Cllrs. Mike Cubbard, Helen Ogbu
Civic Commemoration Committee	Jan – June 2024 – Cllrs. Terry O'Flaherty, Níall McNelis, Martina O'Connor June – Dec 2024 – Cllrs. John Connolly, John McDonagh, Terry O'Flaherty
Western Intercounty Railway Committee	Jan – June 2024 – Cllrs. Colette Connolly, Frank Fahy, Donal Lyons, Declan McDonnell June – Dec 2024 – Cllrs. Clodagh Higgins, John McDonagh, Aisling Burke, Frank Fahy
Nighttime Economy Working Group Forum	June – Dec 2024 – Cllrs. Mike Cubbard (Central LEA), Níall McNelis (West LEA), Shane Forde (East LEA)

2. Area Committees

East Area Committee	Jan – June 2024 – Cllr. Michael J. Crowe (Chair), Cllr. Alan Cheevers, Cllr. Alan Curran, Cllr. Declan McDonnell, Cllr. Noel Larkin, Cllr. Terry O’Flaherty May – Dec 2024 – Cllr. Shane Forde (Chair), Cllr. Aisling Burke, Cllr. Alan Cheevers, Cllr. Declan McDonnell, Cllr. Terry O’Flaherty, Cllr. Helen Ogbu
West Area Committee	Jan – May 2024 – Cllr. Niall Murphy (Chair), Cllr. John Connolly, Cllr. Clodagh Higgins, Cllr. Peter Keane, Cllr. Donal Lyons, Cllr. Níall McNelis June – Dec 2024 – Cllr. Donal Lyons (Chair), Cllr. Níall McNelis, Cllr. Clodagh Higgins, Cllr. Alan Curran, Cllr. Peter Keane Cllr. John Connolly/Cllr. Michael J. Crowe (Coopted).
Central Area Committee	Jan – May 2024 – Cllrs. Colette Connolly (Chair), Cllr. Imelda Byrne, Cllr. Mike Cubbard, Cllr. Frank Fahy, Cllr. Eddie Hoare, Cllr. Martina O’Connor June – Dec 2024 – Cllrs. Frank Fahy (Chair), Cllr. Mike Cubbard, Cllr. John McDonagh, Cllr. Eddie Hoare, Cllr. Eibhlin Seoighthe, Cllr. Josie Forde

3. Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)

Housing & Social SPC Members	Jan – Dec 2024 – Cllr. Donal Lyons (Chair) Cllr. Declan McDonnell, Cllr. Terry O’Flaherty, Cllr. Mike Cubbard, Cllr. Martina O’Connor, Cllr. Imelda Byrne, Cllr. Eddie Hoare, Cllr. Alan Cheevers, Mr. Mark Lohan, Ms. Marcella Conneely, Ms. Karen Golden, Mr. Walter King.
Planning SPC Members	Jan – Dec 2024 - Cllr. Peter Keane (Chair), Cllr. Michael J. Crowe, Cllr. Alan Curran, Cllr. Níall McNelis, Cllr. Imelda Byrne, Cllr. Frank Fahy, Cllr. Clodagh Higgins, Cllr. Noel Larkin, Mr. B. Mulligan, Mr. D. Hambleton,
Climate Action, Environment, Recreation & Amenity SPC Members	Jan – Dec 2024 -Cllr. Níall McNelis (Chair), Cllr. Donal Lyons, Cllr. Eddie. Hoare, Cllr. Noel. Larkin, Cllr. John Connolly, Cllr. Clodagh Higgins, Cllr. Michael J. Crowe, Cllr. Declan McDonnell, Ms. Geri Slevin, Mr. Dominick Whelan, Ms. Megs Morley, Mr. Dave Hickey.
Transportation SPC Members	Jan – Dec 2024 - Cllr. Frank Fahy (Chair), Cllr. Peter Keane, Cllr. Noel Larkin, Cllr. Niall Murphy, Cllr. Mike Cubbard, Cllr. Clodagh Higgins, Cllr. Alan Cheevers, Cllr. Catherine Connolly, Mr. Pat Hardiman, Mr. Paul O’Donnell, Mr. Shane Foran, Mr. Kenny Deery.
Climate Action, Environment, Recreation & Amenity SPC Members	Jan – Dec 2024 - Cllr. Martina O’Connor (Chair), Cllr. Donal Lyons, Cllr. Declan McDonnell, Cllr. Terry O’Flaherty, Cllr. Alan Curran, Cllr. John Connolly, Cllr. Noel Murphy, Cllr. Catherine Connolly, Ms. Caroline Stanley, Mr. Brendan Smith, Ms. Eleanor Hough, Mr. Colm Ryan
Corporate Development SPC Members	Dec 2024 - Cllr. Clodagh Higgins (Chair), Cllr. Alan Curran, Cllr. Frank Fahy, Cllr. Aisling Burke, Cllr. Shane Forde, Cllr. Michael J. Crowe, Ms. Lisa Cooley, Mr. Paul O’ Donnell, Ms. Marion Maloney, Mr. Pat Hardiman

Appendix 2 –

Conferences attended by Elected Members 2024

Event	No of Attendees
AILG Annual Conference	3
AILG Autumn Seminar	2
AILG Module 1	2
AILG Module 3	1
AILG Overview of Planning System	2
Lama Community Engagement Ireland	1
LAMA Spring Seminar	1
Lama Autumn Seminar	1

Appendix 3

Performance Indicator Report 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023 – Galway City Council

Topic	Indicator	Value
Housing: H1, H2 & H4	A. Number of dwellings in the ownership of the local authority at 1/1/2023	2437
	B. Number of dwellings added to the local authority owned stock during 2023 (whether constructed or acquired)	83
	C. Number of local authority owned dwellings sold in 2023	18
	D. Number of local authority owned dwellings demolished in 2023	0
	E. Number of dwellings in the ownership of the local authority at 31/12/2023	2502
	F. Number of local authority owned dwellings planned for demolition under a DHLGH approved scheme at 31/12/2023	2
	A. The percentage of the total number of local authority owned dwellings that were vacant on 31/12/2023	2.72 %
	The number of dwellings within their overall stock that were not tenanted on 31/12/2023	68
	A. Expenditure during 2023 on the maintenance of local authority housing compiled from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023, divided by the no. of dwellings in the local authority stock at 31/12/2023, i.e. the H1E less H1F indicator figure	€1875.06
	Expenditure on maintenance of local authority stock compiled from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023, including planned maintenance and expenditure that qualified for grants, such as Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) grants for energy efficient retro-fitting works but excluding expenditure on vacant properties and expenditure under approved major refurbishment schemes (i.e. approved Regeneration or under the Remedial Works Schemes).	€4687650.08

Appendix 3

Performance Indicator Report 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023 – Galway City Council

Topic	Indicator	Value
Housing: H3 & H5	A. The time taken from the date of vacation of a dwelling to the date in 2023 when the dwelling is re-tenanted, averaged across all dwellings re-let during 2023	49.61 wk
	B. The cost expended on getting the dwellings re-tenanted in 2023, averaged across all dwellings re-let in 2023	€41264.84
	The number of dwellings that were re-tenanted on any date in 2023 (but excluding all those that had been vacant due to an estate-wide refurbishment scheme)	71
	The number of weeks from the date of vacation to the date the dwelling is re-tenanted	3522 wk
	Total expenditure on works necessary to enable re-letting of the dwellings	€2929803.53
	A. Total number of registered tenancies in the LA area at the end of June 2023	11785
	B. Number of rented dwellings inspected in 2023	337
	C. Percentage of inspected dwellings in 2023 not compliant with the Standards Regulations	95.71 %
	D. Number of dwellings deemed compliant in 2023 (including those originally deemed non-compliant)	17
	E. The number of inspections (including reinspections) undertaken by the local authority in 2023	337
Housing: H6	A. Number of adult individuals in emergency accommodation that are long-term (i.e. 6 months or more within the previous year) homeless as a percentage of the total number of homeless adult individuals in emergency accommodation at the end of 2023	41.48 %
	The number of adult individuals classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on the night of 31 December 2023 as recorded on the PASS system	229
	The number out of those individuals who, on 31/12/2023, had been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously, or for 6 months cumulatively within the previous 12 months	95

Appendix 3

Performance Indicator Report 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023 – Galway City Council

Topic	Indicator	Value
Housing: H7	A. (1) Total number of houses retrofitted between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme	33
	A. (2) Number of houses that achieved a BER rating of B2 or above between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme	33
	A. (3) Number of heat pumps installed in those houses between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme	32
	B. Total annual energy savings in MWh from houses retrofitted between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme	708.7 MWh
	C. Total carbon emission reduction tCo2 from houses retrofitted between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme	228.1
Roads: R1 & R2	A. (a) The percentage of Regional roads that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	96.06 %
	A. (b) The percentage of Local Primary roads that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	98.36 %
	A. (c) The percentage of Local Secondary roads that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	95.82 %
	A. (d) The percentage of Local Tertiary roads that received a PSCI rating in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2023	98.22 %
	B. (a.1) The percentage length of Regional roads that received a PSCI rating of 1-4 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	0.09 %
	B. (a.2) The percentage length of Regional roads that received a PSCI rating of 5-6 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	4.62 %

Appendix 3

Performance Indicator Report 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023 – Galway City Council

Topic	Indicator	Value
Roads: R1 & R2	B. (a.3) The percentage length of Regional roads that received a PSCI rating of 7-8 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	46.72 %
	B. (a.4) The percentage length of Regional roads that received a PSCI rating of 9-10 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	44.62 %
	B. (b.1) The percentage length of Local Primary roads that received a PSCI rating of 1-4 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	1.89 %
	B. (b.2) The percentage length of Local Primary roads that received a PSCI rating of 5-6 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	25.33 %
	B. (b.3) The percentage length of Local Primary roads that received a PSCI rating of 7-8 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	48.30 %
	B. (b.4) The percentage length of Local Primary roads that received a PSCI rating of 9-10 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	22.84 %
	B. (c.1) The percentage length of Local Secondary roads that received a PSCI rating of 1-4 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	2.37 %
	B. (c.2) The percentage length of Local Secondary roads that received a PSCI rating of 5-6 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	20.80 %
	B. (c.3) The percentage length of Local Secondary roads that received a PSCI rating of 7-8 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	49.89 %
	B. (c.4) The percentage length of Local Secondary roads that received a PSCI rating of 9-10 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	22.77 %
	B. (d.1) The percentage length of Local Tertiary roads that received a PSCI rating of 1-4 in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2023	3.80 %
	B. (d.2) The percentage length of Local Tertiary roads that received a PSCI rating of 5-6 in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2023	30.28 %
	B. (d.3) The percentage length of Local Tertiary roads that received a PSCI rating of 7-8 in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2023	48.18 %

Appendix 3

Performance Indicator Report 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023 – Galway City Council

Topic	Indicator	Value
Roads: R1 & R2	B. (d.4) The percentage length of Local Tertiary roads that received a PSCI rating of 9-10 in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2023	15.96 %
	A.1 Kilometres of regional road strengthened during 2023	2.7 km
	A.2 The amount expended on regional roads strengthening work during 2023	€792591.00
	A.3 The average unit cost of regional road strengthening works per square metre (€/m2)	€40.50
	B.1 Kilometres of regional road resealed during 2023	0.0 km
	B.2 The amount expended on regional road resealing work during 2023	€0.00
	B.3 The average unit cost of regional road resealing works per square metre (€/m2)	€0.00
	C.1 Kilometres of local road strengthened during 2023	4.2 km
	C2. The amount expended on local road strengthening work during 2023	€1213981.00
	C.3 The average unit cost of local road strengthening works per square metre (€/m2)	€42.99
	D.1 Kilometres of local road resealed during 2023	0.0 km
	D.2 The amount expended on local road resealing work during 2023	€0.00
	D.3 The average unit cost of local road resealing works per square metre (€/m2)	€0.00
Motor Tax: R3	A. The percentage of motor tax transactions which were dealt with online (i.e. transaction is processed and the tax disc is issued) in 2023	N/A

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Performance Indicator Report 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023 – Galway City Council

Topic	Indicator	Value
Water: W1 & W2	Percentage of drinking water in private schemes in compliance with statutory requirements	N/A
	The number of registered schemes monitored by each local authority as a percentage of total schemes registered	N/A
	How many local authority registered schemes were monitored in 2023	0
	Total number of registered schemes in 2023	0
Waste: E1	A. The number of households which availed of a 3-bin service offered by a licensed operator at 31/12/2023	29468
	B. The percentage of households within the local authority that the number at A represents (based on agglomerations of more than 500)	100.53 %
Environmental Pollution: E2	A. Total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2023	1335
	A. Number of pollution cases closed from 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023	1307
	A. Total number of pollution cases on hands at 31/12/2023	45
	The opening number of pollution cases carried forward from the year end 2022	17

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Performance Indicator Report 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023 – Galway City Council

Topic	Indicator	Value
Litter Pollution: E3	A1. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2023 was unpolluted or litter free	8 %
	A2. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2023 was slightly polluted	68 %
	A3. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2023 was moderately polluted	18 %
	A4. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2023 was significantly polluted	5 %
	A5. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2023 was grossly polluted	1 %
Green Flag Status: E4	A. The percentage of schools that have been awarded/renewed green flag status in the two years to 31 December 2023	51.28 %
	Schools which attained a Green Flag for the first time in 2023	1
	Schools which renewed their Green Flag in 2023	15
	Schools which held a Green Flag from 2022 and therefore do not require renewal until 2024	4
Energy Efficiency: E5	A. The cumulative percentage of energy savings achieved by 31/12/2023 relative to baseline year (2009)	-35.70 %

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Performance Indicator Report 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023 – Galway City Council

Topic	Indicator	Value
Public Lighting: E6	A. Total annual consumption of the public lighting system	2163.00 MWh
	B. Average wattage of each public light	59.96 W
	C. Percentage of the total system that LED lights represent	97.04 %
	Number of LED lights in the public lighting system	9581
	Number of non-LED lights in the public lighting system	250
Climate Change: E7	1 a) Does the local authority have a designated (FTE) Climate Action Coordinator?	Yes
	1 b) Does the local authority have a designated (FTE) Climate Action Officer?	Yes
	2. Does the local authority have a climate action team?	Yes
Planning: P1	A. Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	19.19 %
	Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority i.e. buildings where a valid Commencement Notice was served in the period 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023 by a builder or developer on the local authority	172
	Number of new buildings notified to the local authority in 2023 that were the subject of at least one on-site inspection during 2023 undertaken by the local authority	33

Appendix 3

Performance Indicator Report 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023 – Galway City Council

Topic	Indicator	Value
Planning: P2 & P3	A. Number of local authority planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanála that were determined by the Board on any date in 2023	35
	B. Percentage of the determinations at A which confirmed (either with or without variation of the plan) the decision made by the local authority	68.57 %
	Number of determinations confirming the local authority's decision (either with or without variation)	24
	A. Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority in the period 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023 that were investigated	145
	B. Total number of investigated cases that were closed during 2023	213
	C. Percentage of the cases at B that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development	30.99 %
	D. Percentage of the cases at B that were resolved to the local authority's satisfaction through negotiations	33.80 %
	E. Percentage of the cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	35.21 %
	F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2023	366
	Number of cases at B that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development	66
	Number of cases at B that were resolved to the local authority's satisfaction through negotiations	72
	Number of cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	75

Topic	Indicator	Value
Planning: P4 & P5	A. The 2023 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme D data divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2022 Census	€45.51
	AFS Programme D data consisting of D01 - Forward Planning, D02 - Development Management, D03 - Enforcement (inclusive of the relevant Programme D proportion of the central management charge) for 2023	€3841270
	A. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2023 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of their receipt	71.15 %
	B. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2023 that were decided (granted or refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant	28.85 %
	The total number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2023 that were not withdrawn by the applicant	52
	The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2023 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of the date of receipt of the application	37
	The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2023 that were decided (granted or refused) within an agreed extended time period	15
Youth and Community: Y1 & Y2	A. Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/ Comhairle na nÓg scheme	80.0 %
	Total number of second level schools in the local authority area at 31/12/2023	10
	Number of second level schools in the local authority area from which representatives attended the local Comhairle na nÓg AGM held in 2023	8
	A. The number of organisations included in the County Register at 31/12/2023 and the proportion of those organisations that opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN	29.24
	Total number of organisations included in the County Register (maintained in accordance with section 128 of the Local Government Act 2001) for the local authority area as at 31/12/2023	171
	Total number of those organisations that registered for the first time in 2023	9
	Number of organisations that opted to join the Social Inclusion Electoral College on whatever date they registered for the PPN	50

Appendix 3

Performance Indicator Report 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023 – Galway City Council

Topic	Indicator	Value
Corporate: C1, C2, C4 & C5	A. The wholetime equivalent staffing number as at 31 December 2023	552.27
	A. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2023	3.55 %
	B. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2023	0.23 %
	Total number of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2023	5411.5 day
	Total number of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2023	291 day
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of self-certified sick leave days in 2023	0 day
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of medically certified sick leave days in 2023	960 day
	If any staff are on long-term sick leave (i.e. a continuous period of more than 4 weeks), include a text note of the number of staff on long-term sick leave	44
	A. All ICT expenditure in the period from 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023, divided by the WTE no.	€4492.49
	Total ICT expenditure in 2023	€2481064.89
	A. All ICT expenditure calculated in C4 as a proportion of Revenue expenditure	2.25
	Total Revenue expenditure from 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023 before transfers to or from reserves	110029225

Appendix 3

Performance Indicator Report 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023 – Galway City Council

Topic	Indicator	Value
Corporate: C3	A. The per capita total page views of the local authority's websites in 2023	13.34
	B. The per capita total number of followers at end 2023 of the local authority's social media accounts (if any)	0.54
	The cumulative total page views of all websites operated by the local authority for the period from 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023 obtained from a page tagging on-site web analytics service or equivalent	1126444
	The total number of social media users who, at 31/12/2023, were following the local authority on any social media sites	45573
	The number of social media accounts operated by the local authority	6
	Indicate if there was a change to the cookie policies on the local authority sites and the date this came into effect	
Finance: M1 to M4	A. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2019 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€2343703
	B. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2020 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€2509228
	C. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2021 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€67765
	D. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2022 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€2646046
	E. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2023 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€2693758
	F. Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2023 as a percentage of Total Income in 2023 from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	2.40 %
	G. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2023	€1303.45

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Performance Indicator Report 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023 – Galway City Council

Topic	Indicator	Value
Finance: M1 to M4	H. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2023 excluding significant out of county/shared service expenditure	Not Applicable
	The 2023 Total Income figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€112098655
	The 2023 Total Expenditure figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€110029225
	The 2023 Revenue expenditure excluding county/shared service expenditure for the service providers of HAP, MyPay, DRHE and Dublin Fire Services and is only applicable to Dublin City, Laois and Limerick	Not Applicable
	A. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2019	83.0 %
	A. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2019	80.0 %
	A. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2019	86.0 %
	B. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2020	61.0 %
	B. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2020	79.0 %
	B. c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2020	86.0 %
	C. a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2021	67.0 %
	C. b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2021	80.0 %
	C. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2021	88.0 %
	D. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2022	84.0 %
	D. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2022	80.0 %
	D. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2022	88.0 %
	E. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2023	86 %

Appendix 3

Performance Indicator Report 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023 – Galway City Council

Topic	Indicator	Value
Corporate: C3	E. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2023	80 %
	E. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2023	88 %
	E. (d) Collection level of HAP SSC for 2023	
	A. Per capita total cost of settled claims for 2023	€8.69
	IPB Insurance: Number of notified claims for 2023	62
	IPB Insurance: Number of settled claims for 2023	33
	IPB Insurance: Total cost of settled claims for 2023	€733957.69
	Total cost of claims settled under excess for 2023	€0
	Self-insured: Number of notified claims for 2023	0
	Self-insured: Number of settled claims for 2023	0
	Self-insured: Total cost of settled claims for 2023	€0
	A. Overall central management charge as a percentage of total expenditure on revenue account	13.16 %
	B. Total payroll costs as a percentage of revenue expenditure	31.11 %
	Overall central management charge from the Local Authority FMS and defined in the Annual Budget	€14474742
	Total payroll costs from Appendix 1 of the AFS for 2023 (including Salaries, Wages and Pensions)	€34230313

Appendix 3

Performance Indicator Report 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023 – Galway City Council

Topic	Indicator	Value
Economic Development: J1 to J5	A. The number of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023 per 100,000 of population	Not Applicable
	The number of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023	Not Applicable
	A. The number of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2023 per 100,000 of population	Not Applicable
	B. The number of trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2023 per 100,000 of population	Not Applicable
	The number of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2023	Not Applicable
	The number of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2023	Not Applicable
	A. The number of participants who received mentoring during the period 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023 per 100,000 of population	Not Applicable
	The number of participants who received mentoring during the period 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023	Not Applicable
	A. Does the local authority have a current tourism strategy?	Yes
	B. Does the local authority have a designated Tourism Officer?	Yes
	The spend on local economic development by the local authority in 2023 per head of population	€238.62
	The spend on local economic development by the local authority in 2023	€20142742

Appendix 4 - Progress Report on Galway City Council's Corporate Plan 2020–2024

This progress report summarises the developments, achievements, and areas of ongoing work related to the objectives set out in Galway City Council's Corporate Plan 2020–2024. The plan defines the strategic priorities and desired outcomes for the organisation and its stakeholders, centering on the delivery of inclusive, sustainable, and community-focused services across the city.

1. Our Services and Resources

Objective: To provide support services and resources to Elected Members to fulfill their democratic mandate and to staff to effectively undertake their executive function so that we can deliver efficient and effective quality services to all.

Progress:

- ➔ The integration of digital tools to streamline internal operations has improved the efficiency for both council staff and elected members.
- ➔ Monthly Management Report and Information Briefings provide regular updates and briefings to Elected Members to ensure that members are well-informed and can engage with their constituents effectively.
- ➔ Ongoing provision of training and development for Staff and Elected Members with a focus on legislation, policy updates, and strategic planning.
- ➔ Improved information sharing via digital platforms, allowing Elected Members easy access to reports and council documents.

Objective: To deliver economies and efficiencies through working with other local authorities and agencies on shared services initiatives.

Progress:

- ➔ Ongoing projects with neighbouring councils to share functions reducing overhead costs.
- ➔ Collaborative efforts with other local authorities on waste management and road and transport services resulting in cost savings.

Appendix 4

2. Transport

Objective: To work in partnership with the Department of Tourism, Transport and Sport, key funding agencies and other stakeholders to implement the Galway Transport Strategy.

Progress:

- ➔ Several bus routes have been revamped and new services introduced to improve connectivity between Galway City and surrounding areas. The partnership with Bus Éireann has facilitated the expansion of bus corridors and enhanced scheduling for increased ridership.
- ➔ Development of a new central bus hub to improve connectivity, reduce congestion, and enhance the passenger experience. Construction is progressing with expected completion within the next 18 months.
- ➔ Significant progress has been made on the construction of new dedicated cycling lanes and bike-sharing schemes aimed at promoting sustainable transportation. Local government and funding agencies have provided financial support to expand cycling networks, including safer routes for both commuters and tourists.
- ➔ The installation of EV charging stations in key areas of Galway City is underway, supported by funding from national transport schemes and the Department of Transport.
- ➔ The council has rolled out several pedestrian-focused initiatives. These initiatives aim to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, and make Galway a more walkable city.
- ➔ The N6 Galway City Ring Road and related transport corridors are a major focus. The project has secured funding through DTTAS and the National Roads Authority (NRA). Work is ongoing, with significant progress made on bypass sections intended to ease congestion and improve travel time across the region.
- ➔ Collaboration with private stakeholders and contractors has allowed for the acceleration of road and bridge upgrades in key areas, contributing to smoother traffic flows in the city and surrounding areas.
- ➔ The securing of vital funds has enabled the implementation of several high-impact initiatives outlined in the transport strategy.

3. Climate Action, Environment and Recreation & amenity

Objective: To protect, enhance and conserve the natural environment of our city, to provide leadership in climate action and to develop and promote high quality recreational, leisure and amenity facilities to improve quality of life.

Progress:

- ➔ Ongoing efforts to enhance and protect public parks and green spaces within Galway City. Projects aimed at improving biodiversity in areas such as Renmore Park, Galway Bay, and the River Corrib have been prioritised, with new native species planted and habitat restoration undertaken.
- ➔ Planning and development controls are being enforced to ensure that new buildings, parks, and urban developments adhere to environmental sustainability standards, minimising their impact on the local ecosystem.
- ➔ Efforts to enhance the green infrastructure of the city, such as green roofs, sustainable drainage systems, and tree planting initiatives, have been undertaken to support natural flood management and air quality improvement.
- ➔ The Waste Management Strategy has seen the introduction of new measures to reduce waste and improve recycling. Public waste bins have been redesigned to encourage recycling, and there have been outreach programs to promote waste reduction in communities.
- ➔ A composting program has been launched for residents to help reduce food waste and improve soil health in local parks and gardens.
- ➔ Galway City Council is working toward becoming carbon-neutral by 2030, with several initiatives already in place to reduce carbon emissions, including the transition to electric vehicles for city fleets, and a program to retrofit energy-efficient buildings across public sector properties.
- ➔ The Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) is being implemented, focusing on renewable energy generation, including solar panels on council buildings and partnerships with local wind energy providers.

Appendix 4

3. Climate Action, Environment and Recreation & amenity

Progress:

- ➔ The council launched a climate awareness campaign to engage the public in sustainability practices, such as reducing carbon footprints and conserving water. Educational programs in schools and communities aim to raise awareness about the impacts of climate change and ways to mitigate them.
- ➔ Collaborative initiatives with local universities and research institutions continue to inform and develop actionable climate policies that can be implemented at the local level.
- ➔ Investment in green infrastructure, including solar energy systems, energy-efficient lighting, and electric vehicle charging points across the city, has expanded. The council has also invested in sustainable transport infrastructure such as electric buses and bike-sharing programs to encourage greener alternatives for commuters.
- ➔ Several new recreational spaces have been developed, with ongoing projects to enhance public parks like Barna Woods and the Salthill Promenade, ensuring access to high-quality green spaces for all residents.
- ➔ The development of all-weather sports facilities and community gardens has provided more accessible leisure options for all demographics, including underrepresented groups.
- ➔ The council has expanded inclusive recreation programs, ensuring that individuals of all abilities can access leisure and sports facilities. Special focus has been placed on providing accessible playgrounds and fitness equipment for people with disabilities.
- ➔ The expansion of pedestrian pathways and cycling lanes across the city has been a major initiative to encourage active lifestyles while also improving accessibility for all citizens.
- ➔ Projects to connect park networks with the city's urban areas through safe walking and cycling routes are ongoing, helping to reduce car dependency and improve air quality.

4. Economic Development, Community and Culture

Objective: To facilitate a strong sustainable economic ecosystem in Galway which will support a good quality of life for its residents and will ensure the sustainable development of the region.

Progress:

- ➔ The council has fostered collaboration between universities, local businesses, and research institutions to drive innovation and job creation, particularly in high-tech, digital, and sustainable industries.
- ➔ The Galway Economic Development Plan is being implemented, focusing on supporting local businesses, attracting foreign investment, and building an environment conducive to entrepreneurship.
- ➔ The City Council has invested in green infrastructure and energy-efficient buildings, aiming to make the city's growth aligned with sustainability principles. Clean energy projects and smart city initiatives have been promoted to ensure that future development is environmentally responsible.
- ➔ Efforts to encourage sustainable tourism are ongoing, particularly through initiatives that promote Galway City's natural beauty and heritage in ways that minimise environmental impact and support local communities.
- ➔ Several employment programs and skills development initiatives have been launched, particularly in digital skills, green technologies, and creative industries. These programs aim to future-proof the workforce by aligning skills with emerging sectors.
- ➔ Partnerships with local Chambers of Commerce and national agencies have bolstered job creation efforts and improved access to funding for small businesses.

4. Economic Development, Community and Culture

Objective: To deliver a transformative strategy which makes Galway a working model of cultural sustainability, community participation, best practice and world class cultural and creative experiences.

Progress:

- ➔ The City Council has been implementing the Galway Cultural Strategy, which focuses on creating a thriving, sustainable cultural ecosystem that balances growth with preservation. This includes support for local artists, cultural venues, and festivals that celebrate Galway's heritage while integrating innovative cultural experiences.
- ➔ Green Cultural Spaces have been prioritised in the development of public areas, ensuring that art installations, festivals, and cultural spaces have minimal environmental impact while contributing to the city's cultural vibrancy.
- ➔ There has been significant community involvement in cultural events through the Community Arts Program, which encourages local residents to engage in artistic creation, performances, and public exhibitions. The city is also fostering creative collaborations between different sectors, including businesses, schools, and cultural institutions, making the creative economy more inclusive and widely accessible.
- ➔ Galway has maintained its status as a UNESCO City of Film, with increased investment in the film and media sectors. New film production hubs and creative spaces have been developed to foster creative industries and attract international talent. The Galway International Arts Festival, Galway Film Fleadh, and other major cultural events continue to position Galway as a global destination for arts and culture, attracting both local and international tourists.

Appendix 4

4. Economic Development, Community and Culture

Objective: To ensure all our communities can achieve their full potential and take an active formal role in policy making and oversight through targeted engagement and collaboration.

Progress:

- ➔ The council has expanded its public engagement platforms, including digital forums, town halls, and community meetings, to ensure residents can actively participate in decision-making processes.
- ➔ Community-based initiatives have been implemented to address the needs of diverse groups, ensuring that all residents, regardless of their socio-economic status or background, have an opportunity to contribute to shaping policy.
- ➔ Community representatives and local organizations have been integrated into policy-making bodies, ensuring that decisions reflect the diverse needs of the city's communities. Advisory committees and focus groups are regularly consulted on key issues such as urban planning, housing, and climate action

5. Housing & Social Inclusion

Objective: To accelerate the delivery of good quality social and affordable housing in an equitable manner and in appropriate locations in order to develop sustainable balanced communities.

Progress:

- ➔ Galway City Council has accelerated the construction and acquisition of social and affordable housing units through a mix of direct builds, turnkey developments, long-term leasing, and Part V delivery under the planning system.
- ➔ Over the past year, hundreds of new homes have been delivered or are in active development stages, with a focus on areas with high demand and existing infrastructure. New housing schemes increasingly reflect a mix of social, affordable, and private housing, which promotes social inclusion, avoids segregation, and supports community cohesion.
- ➔ The council has launched affordable purchase initiatives under national schemes such as the Affordable Housing Fund, supporting first-time buyers in accessing home ownership.
- ➔ Galway City Council has also begun implementing Cost Rental Housing projects, offering long-term rental options below market rates, providing a crucial middle-ground between social housing and private rental.
- ➔ Housing projects are being delivered in strategically identified areas with proximity to services, schools, public transport, and employment opportunities—ensuring developments are integrated into existing communities and contribute to balanced urban development.
- ➔ The council is working in coordination with transport and infrastructure agencies to ensure new housing developments are serviced appropriately, reducing pressure on existing facilities and avoiding urban sprawl.
- ➔ Work has been ongoing on regeneration programs in older estates to improve housing stock quality, reduce vacancy, and enhance public spaces—strengthening community ties and raising the overall standard of living. Upgrades include energy retrofitting, improved public lighting, and enhanced community facilities.

Appendix 4

5. Housing & Social Inclusion

- ➔ Galway City Council has deepened its partnerships with Approved Housing Bodies to scale up delivery, particularly in complex or mixed-tenure developments.
- ➔ Continued collaboration with the Land Development Agency (LDA) and Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has been vital in unlocking land for development and streamlining project approvals.
- ➔ Enhanced Homeless HAP (Housing Assistance Payment) and Housing First programs continue to support vulnerable individuals and families in transitioning to long-term housing.
- ➔ The council has also invested in wraparound supports, including tenancy sustainment services, mental health partnerships, and social inclusion supports.

6. Planning

Objective: To have in place a system of effective proper planning capable of meeting the sustainable economic, environmental and social development objectives of the city.

Progress:

- ➔ Galway City Council has adopted a new City Development Plan (CDP 2023-2029) that aligns with national and regional planning policy (including the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Region). The plan sets out a clear vision for compact, connected, climate-resilient growth, with an emphasis on urban regeneration, sustainable transport, housing delivery, and high-quality design.
- ➔ Updated Local Area Plans (LAPs) for key growth areas such as Ardaun, Ceannt Station, and the Inner Harbour are being progressed or implemented, facilitating mixed-use, sustainable development.
- ➔ Urban regeneration strategies for brownfield and infill sites promote reuse of land, smart growth, and resilience to climate change.

Appendix 4

6. Planning

- ➔ New planning decisions are subject to climate resilience and biodiversity considerations, including flood risk assessment, green infrastructure requirements, and promotion of renewable energy integration. The council has incorporated climate adaptation and mitigation objectives directly into the planning system, supporting the City Council's ambition to be a climate leader among Irish cities.
- ➔ Planning processes emphasise inclusive design, accessibility, and the provision of community infrastructure ensuring new development supports quality of life.
- ➔ Public participation in planning has been enhanced through improved consultation processes and digital engagement platforms.
- ➔ The council continues to work toward improved planning decision timelines, while balancing the need for thorough environmental and infrastructure assessments.
- ➔ Inter-departmental coordination has improved, streamlining the review process across housing, transportation, heritage, and environmental departments.
- ➔ Strategic use of Section 48 development contributions is enabling the funding of essential infrastructure (roads, drainage, parks) to support sustainable growth.
- ➔ The council is proactively engaging with utility providers and agencies to ensure infrastructure is in place ahead of development, avoiding delays and ensuring timely delivery.
- ➔ Focus on regenerating underused and brownfield lands in central Galway is helping to reduce urban sprawl and strengthen the city core. Key projects include the redevelopment of Ceannt Station lands, improvements in the public realm, and activation of vacant properties.
- ➔ Enhancements to the public realm (streetscapes, plazas, parks) and investment in active travel infrastructure support liveability, walkability, and community well-being.
- ➔ Heritage-led regeneration projects ensure that growth is culturally sensitive and respectful of Galway's unique identity

Appendix 4

Key Challenges

Despite the significant progress made, Galway City Council continues to face several ongoing challenges. Housing demand consistently exceeds supply, particularly for lower-income households and single-person units, placing pressure on both delivery timelines and available resources. Infrastructure development such as transport, utilities, and social services must keep pace with rapid urban growth to ensure new communities are adequately supported. Capacity constraints within the planning system, including staffing shortages, can affect the speed and efficiency of processing applications and delivering key projects. Balancing economic and population growth with the need to protect Galway's natural environment and cultural heritage presents complex planning and regulatory considerations. In addition, delivering major initiatives often requires close coordination with multiple agencies, where differing priorities or delays in funding and approvals can impact progress. Finally, ensuring truly equitable and inclusive community engagement remains a priority, particularly in reaching underrepresented groups and enabling meaningful participation in decision-making processes.

Conclusion

Galway City Council has demonstrated strong and consistent progress across its strategic objectives, with achievements in housing delivery, sustainable planning, economic development, and cultural vibrancy. The Council's focus on sustainability, inclusivity, and innovation is creating a solid foundation for long-term success.

While there are challenges, particularly around housing supply, infrastructure, and capacity constraints, the Council is actively addressing these through strategic partnerships, policy alignment, and community engagement. Continued investment in collaborative planning, climate action, and digital innovation will be essential to achieving Galway's vision of a thriving, equitable, and resilient city.

Appendix 5 -

Draft Statement of Internal Financial Control 2024

Introduction

I, Leonard Cleary, Chief Executive (CE) of Galway City Council am responsible for the annual financial statement (AFS), prepared by the Director of Finance, in accordance with the accounting code of practice issued by the Minister under section 107 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

I certify that the financial statements of Galway City Council for the year ended 31 December 2024, are in agreement with the books of account and have been prepared in accordance with the accounting requirements of the Minister of Housing Local Government and Heritage.

The AFS is subject to external audit, by an auditor of the Local Government Audit Service, whose purpose is to form an independent opinion of the accounts and state whether the annual financial statement presents **fairly the financial position** of the local authority and of its income and expenditure for the period in question, and whether the transactions of the audited body conform with the statutory or other authorisation under which they purport to have been carried out.

The AFS reports on the day-to-day activity of Galway City Council in the form of the Statement of Comprehensive Income & Expenditure, summarised by Division. The Statement of Financial Position outlines the Galway City Council overall financial position as of the 31st of December 2024.

The **Statement of Comprehensive Income** represents expenditure and income on the day-to-day running of the Galway City Council.

The key sources of income for Galway City Council are as follows:

	Current Year €	Previous Year €
Goods & Services	€28,187,964	27,188,795
Grants & Subsidies	63,072,340	40,639,733
Other Contributions (as appropriate)	529,262	453,859
Rates	41,389,648	39,297,836
Local Property Tax	6,116,487	4,518,431

Activity on the Income and Expenditure account for 2024 is as follows:

Total income has increased by €27m since 2023 mainly due to a 55% increase in grant and subsidies, owing to the increased cost of business grant funded by the Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment, and an increase in LPT due to a €1.5m increase in the baseline funding.

The increase in income has been met with a corresponding increase in expenditure of €26.9m to €136,940,974 before transfers. Despite the budgetary pressure on expenditure, Galway City Council has maintained a surplus for the year of €27,915 which increases the accumulated revenue reserve to €2.72m.

Payroll continues to be the most significant cost, with a total payroll cost of €38m. The uplift in payroll costs from 2023 of €4.9m is mainly due increased staff numbers together with national pay increases.

	Current Year €	Previous Year €
Income	139,295,701	112,098,654
Expenditure	136,940,974	110,029,225
Transfers to Capital	2,354,727	2,021,718
Surplus for Year	27,915	47,712
Opening Revenue Reserve	2,693,757	2,646,045
Closing Revenue Reserve	2,721,672	2,693,757

The **Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)** represents the total financial activity of the council for the year together with comparative year figures as appropriate.

The statement includes assets and liabilities as follows:

- Assets both recently constructed/purchased and historical assets.
- Work in progress and preliminary schemes- mainly roads and housing.
- Long Term Debtors – housing loans.
- Current Assets- including Stock, Debtors, Cash at bank.
- Current and long-term liabilities- mortgage and non-mortgage loan borrowings.
- Various Reserves/Balances.

The Net Assets of Galway City Council at the end of 2024 amount to € 1,392 m and are as follows:

	Current Year €	Previous Year €
Fixed Assets	1,332,991,702	1,294,144,564
Works in Progress	39,329,569	31,669,171
Long Term debtors	112,652,131	68,294,790
Current Assets	68,173,999	71,538,218
Current Liabilities	(23,128,702)	(19,026,692)
Net Current Assets/ (Liabilities)	45,045,297	52,511,526
Creditors (Amounts greater than 1 year)	(137,190,825)	(135,327,991)
Net Assets/(Liabilities)	1,392,827,874	1,311,292,060

A **Statement of Funds Flow** was introduced as part of AFS 2011. While the guidance of International Accounting Standard 7 Statement of Cash Flows has been followed, the business of local authorities is substantially different to most private sector organisations and therefore some minor changes to the format have been agreed to ensure the data displayed is meaningful and useful within the local government sector.

System of Internal Financial Controls

As CE of Galway City Council, I acknowledge my responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial control is maintained and operated by the Galway City Council. This responsibility is exercised in the context of the resources available to Galway City Council.

Also, any system of internal financial control can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely manner.

Maintaining the system of internal financial controls is a continuous process and the system and its effectiveness are kept under ongoing review.

Financial control environment

As CE of Galway City Council, I confirm that a financial control environment containing the following elements is in place:

- Financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability.
- Reporting arrangements have been established at all levels where responsibility for financial management has been assigned.
- Formal procedures have been established for reporting significant control failures and ensuring appropriate corrective action.
- There is an Audit Committee which as part of its work programme regularly review the internal financial control system.
- Procedures for all key business processes have been documented.
- There are systems in place to safeguard the assets.

Administrative Controls and Management Reporting

As CE of Galway City Council, I confirm that a framework of administrative procedures and regular management reporting is in place including segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability and, in particular, that:

- procedures for key business processes have been documented;
- there are systems aimed at ensuring the security of the ICT systems;
- there are systems in place to safeguard the assets of the local authority; and
- there are appropriate capital investment control guidelines and formal project management disciplines in operation.

Procurement compliance

Galway City Council ensures that there is an appropriate and ongoing focus on good practice in tendering and purchasing and that procedures are in place to ensure compliance with all relevant procurement guidelines.

Internal Audit and Audit Committee

As CE, I can confirm that Galway City Council has an internal audit function with appropriately trained personnel, which operates in accordance with a written charter. Its work is informed by analysis of the financial risks to which Galway City Council is exposed and its annual internal audit plans are based on this analysis. I am satisfied that there are procedures in place to ensure that the reports of the internal audit function are followed up.

I can confirm that Galway City has an effective audit committee. I can also confirm that an Audit Committee is in place in accordance with the requirements of Section 122 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

The statutory functions of audit committees as set out in section 59 and 60 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 are as follows:

1. to review financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within the local authority that has established it;
2. to foster the development of best practice in the performance by the local authority of its internal audit function;
3. to review any audited financial statement, auditor's report or auditor's special report in relation to the local authority and assess any actions taken within that authority by its CE in response to such a statement or report and to report to that authority on its findings;
4. to assess and promote efficiency and value for money with respect to the local authority's performance of its functions; and
5. to review systems that are operated by the local authority for the management of risks.

I recognise that the audit committee plays a crucial role in the governance framework of local authorities, particularly in the context of increased public sector accountability. They have an independent role in advising the Council on financial reporting processes, internal control, risk management and audit matters as part of the systematic review of the control environment and governance procedures of the local authority.

I acknowledge the Audit Committee's role in the risk management process and in the continuing review of the control environment and governance procedures in Galway City Council.

Risk and Control Framework

Galway City Council has implemented a risk management system which identifies and reports key risks and the management actions being taken to address and, to the extent possible, mitigate those risks.

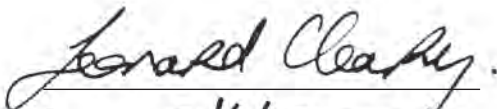
A corporate risk register is in place which identifies the key risks and evaluates and grades them according to their significance. The register is reviewed and updated by the Management Team on a regular basis. There is also a risk register in place for each service division and these are also reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

The outcome of these assessments is used to plan and allocate resources to ensure risks are managed to an acceptable level. The risk register details the controls and actions needed to mitigate risks and responsibilities for the operation of controls are assigned to specific staff.

As CE, I confirm that key risks and related controls have been identified and processes have been put in place to monitor the operation of those key controls and report any identified deficiencies.

The Statement of Internal Financial Control will be included in the draft Annual Report submitted to Council members by 30 April 2025 and thereafter included in the published Annual Report prepared and adopted by the Council by 30 June 2025.

Leonard Cleary
Chief Executive


Date 9/6/2025!

Draft Governance Statement

Purpose

The purpose of this governance statement is to provide relevant information on the governance structures and governance arrangements within the local authority including on council, committees, senior management and related areas.

It demonstrates our commitment to effective governance, recognises key legislative and good governance requirements and affirms the Council's compliance with the Local Government Code of Governance obligations.

Good Governance

Fundamentally, good governance in the local government sector and wider public sector is about delivering priorities, achieving objectives, behaving with integrity and acting in the public interest, in ways that are consistent with legal, regulatory and government policy obligations. Governance refers to the framework of rules, relationships, systems and processes by which the local authority is directed, controlled and held to account and whereby authority within an organisation is exercised and maintained. It encompasses authority, accountability, stewardship and leadership, direction and control.

Good Governance Principles

CORE PRINCIPLE 1 - Good governance means focusing on the purpose of the authority, on outcomes that deliver sustainable economic, community and wider societal benefits and on implementing a vision for the local authority.

CORE PRINCIPLE 2 - Good governance means promoting and demonstrating public service values through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour.

CORE PRINCIPLE 3 - Good governance means members and officials working together to achieve a common purpose within a framework of clearly defined functions and roles.

CORE PRINCIPLE 4 - Good governance means developing the organisational capacity and the leadership capability and competencies of members and officials to operate effectively and fulfil the purpose of the organization.

CORE PRINCIPLE 5 - Good governance means taking well-informed and transparent decisions and managing risks and performance.

CORE PRINCIPLE 6 - Good governance means engaging openly and comprehensively with local people, citizens and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability.

CORE PRINCIPLE 7 - Good governance means actively contributing to the furtherance and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by delivering on the priorities and actions within the Climate Action Plan and the provisions of the Climate Act.

Our Commitment to Good Governance

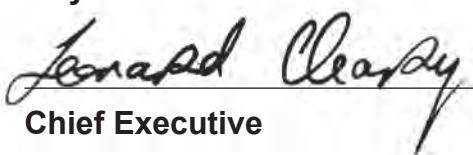
As the Mayor and Chief Executive of the council, and on behalf of the elected members, management and staff we confirm that;

1. We have implemented the governance principles as the fundamental bedrock and philosophy on how we operate as a governing body and as an executive
2. The Local Government Code of Governance has been implemented and the extent to which the Council is in compliance with the Code has been reviewed and assessed.
3. The Statement of Internal Financial Control is submitted by the Chief Executive to the Elected Members and to the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee reviews the SIFC and provides an assurance on an annual basis to the Elected Members. Mechanisms are available to the Audit Committee to notify the Elected Members of any issues that arise outside of the normal annual reporting.
4. Compliance with legal and regulatory obligations are acknowledged and adhered to.
5. There is clarity of roles and responsibilities based on the reserved and executive functions and based on committee terms of reference.
6. Codes of Conduct and ethics declarations for members and employees are in place.
7. Procedures are in place for the making of protected disclosures in accordance with section 21(1) of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 and confirmation that the annual report required under section 22(1) of the Act has been published.
8. The Council and Committees review their own performance on a periodic basis.
9. We have instituted appropriate governance oversight arrangements in respect of subsidiary, associated and related companies.
10. As part of our commitment to effective oversight and accountability, we have developed and continue to enhance our overall assurance framework utilising external and internal assurance sources to ensure good performance as part of our governance culture.



Mayor

Date 09 may 2025



Chief Executive

Date 9/6/2025.

Appendix 6 Local Elections 2024

Results sheet for Galway City Central LEA

Local Election CONSTITUENCY OF Galway City Central LEA- Galway City Council 07-Jun-2024	TOTAL ELECTORATE	18,206	CANDIDATE(S) ELECTED	
	INVALID BALLOT PAPERS	127	MIKE CUBBARD	EIDHLIN SEOIGHTHE
	VALID POLL	7,606	EDDIE HOARE	JOSIE FORDE
	NUMBER OF SEATS	6	FRANK FAHY	JOHN MCDONAGH
	QUOTA	1,087		

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		Transfer of CUBBARD votes and result	Transfer of HOARE votes and result	Transfer of FEENEY, O'FLAHER TY votes and result	Transfer of COMER votes and result	Transfer of RIDGE votes and result	Transfer of D'ARCY votes and result	Transfer of CUMMINS votes and result	Transfer of O'CONNOR votes and result	Transfer of CURRAN votes and result	Transfer of LENIHAN votes and result
COMER, SEAN (TIP)	79	+9 88	+2 90	+15 105	-105 -	-	-	-	-	-	-
* CUBBARD, MIKE (Non-P)	1,486	-399 1,087	1,087	1,087	1,087	1,087	1,087	1,087	1,087	1,087	1,087
CUMMINS, MARY (IFP)	169	+12 181	+1 182	+7 189	+53 242	+28 270	+11 281	-281 -	-	-	-
CURRAN, ADRIAN (PBP)	304	+23 327	+3 330	330	+2 332	+4 336	+44 380	+14 394	+19 413	-413 -	-
D'ARCY, MARGARETTA (Non-P)	175	+16 191	+3 194	+11 205	+6 211	+7 218	-218 -	-	-	-	-
* FAHY, FRANK (FG)	882	+63 945	+91 1,036	+1 1,037	+1 1,038	+4 1,042	+10 1,052	+12 1,064	+48 1,112	1,112	1,112
FEENEY, PATRICK (Non-P)	8	+5 13	13	-13 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FORDE, JOSIE (FF)	732	+73 805	+43 848	+3 851	+4 855	+7 862	+13 875	+12 887	+22 909	+23 932	+85 1,017
* HOARE, EDDIE (FG)	1,282	1,282	-195 1,087	1,087	1,087	1,087	1,087	1,087	1,087	1,087	1,087
LENIHAN, PÁDRAIG (Ant)	307	+14 321	+7 328	+4 332	+7 339	+27 366	+16 382	+95 477	+14 491	+12 503	-503 -
LOHAN, MARK (SF)	498	+43 541	+4 545	+2 547	+3 550	+7 557	+14 571	+16 587	+19 606	+83 689	+50 739
MCDONAGH, JOHN (Lab)	643	+67 710	+16 726	+3 729	+2 731	+3 734	+24 758	+9 767	+84 851	+51 902	+63 965
* O'CONNOR, MARTINA (Gm)	319	+24 343	+14 357	357	+1 358	+1 359	+23 382	+5 387	-387 -	-	-
O'FLAHERTY, DARA (Non-P)	49	+2 51	51	-51 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RIDGE, SHAUNA (Indl)	98	+16 114	+1 115	+3 118	+11 129	-129 -	-	-	-	-	-
SEOIGHTHE, EIBHLÍN (SD)	575	+32 607	+10 617	+1 618	+1 619	+11 630	+36 666	+9 675	+134 809	+183 992	+36 1,028

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Non-Transferable not effective				14 14	14 28	30 58	27 85	109 194	47 241	61 302	269 571
Total	7,606	7,606	7,606	7,606	7,606	7,606	7,606	7,606	7,606	7,606	7,606

Local Election CONSTITUENCY OF Galway City West LEA- Galway City Council 07-Jun-2024	TOTAL ELECTORATE		18,770	CANDIDATE(S) ELECTED	
	INVALID BALLOT PAPERS		117	DONAL LYONS	JOHN CONNOLLY
	VALID POLL		8,747	CLODAGH HIGGINS	NÍALL MCNELIS
	NUMBER OF SEATS		0	ALAN CURRAN	PETER KEANE
	QUOTA		1.250		

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		Transfer of LYONS votes and result	Transfer of NEALIS votes and result	Transfer of Ó BEIRN votes and result	Transfer of MCMASTE R votes and result	Transfer of CHOWDHU RY votes and result	Transfer of CAHILL votes and result	Transfer of CONCHÚIR votes and result	Transfer of FEENEY votes and result	Transfer of OSAYIMWE N votes and result	Transfer of HIGGINS votes and result	Transfer of CURRAN votes and result	Transfer of DEERY votes and result	Transfer of CONNOLLY votes and result
CAHILL, A.J. (TIP)	229	+2 231	+2 233	+97 330	+2 332	+2 334	-334 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CHOWDHURY, ASRAF (FG)	272	+5 277	+3 280		+2 282	-282 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CONCHÚIR, CATHAL Ó (SF)	347	+4 351	+1 352	+7 359	+22 381	+9 390	+19 409	-409 -	-	-	-	-	-	-
* CONNOLLY, JOHN (FF)	981	+23 1,004	+1 1,005	+8 1,013		+30 1,043	+42 1,085	+47 1,132	+52 1,184	+40 1,224	+8 1,232	+4 1,236	+89 1,325	-75 1,250
* CURRAN, ALAN (SD)	884	+13 897	+5 902		+81 983	+16 999	+11 1,010	+112 1,122	+46 1,168	+121 1,289	1,289	-39 1,250	1,250	1,250
DEERY, KENNY (Non-P)	400	+8 408	+3 411	+7 418	+1 419	+7 426	+50 476	+22 498	+87 585	+39 624	+5 629	+8 637	-637 -	-
FEENEY, JARLATH (Non-P)	346	+15 361	+6 367	+10 377	+3 380	+8 388	+46 434	+32 466	-466 -	-	-	-	-	-
* HIGGINS, CLODAGH (FG)	1,074	+32 1,106	+2 1,108	+3 1,111	+1 1,112	+109 1,221	+11 1,232	+15 1,247	+62 1,309	1,309	-59 1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250
* KEANE, PETER (FF)	768	+21 789	+2 791	+3 794	+1 795	+11 806	+14 820	+3 823	+33 856	+12 868	+9 877		+87 964	+31 995
* LYONS, DONAL (Non-P)	1,415	-165 1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250
MCMASTER, MAISIE (PBP)	190	+1 191	+4 195	+3 198	-198 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
* MCNELIS, NÍALL (Lab)	673	+28 701	+2 703	+3 706	+17 723	+18 741	+17 758	+50 808	+62 870	+106 976	+22 998	+12 1,010	+146 1,156	+25 1,181
* MURPHY, NIALL (Grn)	600	+6 606	+4 610	+2 612	+25 637	+15 652	+5 657	+21 678	+27 705	+79 784	+6 790	+15 805	+95 900	+5 905
NEALIS, DENIS (Non-P)	39	+2 41	-41 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ó BEIRN, RORY (IFP)	162	+2 164	+2 166	-166 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
OSAYIMWEN, ESTHER OGHOMWFENRIF (Non-P)	367	+3 370		+5 375	+36 411	+40 451	+11 462	+27 489	+22 511	-511 -	-	-	-	-

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Non-Transferable not effective			4 4	18 22	7 29	17 46	108 154	80 234	75 309	114 423	9 432	432	220 652	14 666
Total	8,747	8,747	8,747	8,747	8,747	8,747	8,747	8,747	8,747	8,747	8,747	8,747	8,747	8,747

Appendix 6 Local Elections 2024

Local Election CONSTITUENCY OF Galway City East LEA- Galway City Council 07-Jun-2024	TOTAL ELECTORATE		18.110	CANDIDATE(S) ELECTED	
	INVALID BALLOT PAPERS		101	ALAN CHEEVERS HELEN OGBU	
	VALID POLL		8.001	DECLAN MCDONNELL AISLING BURKE	
	NUMBER OF SEATS		8	TERRY O'FLAHERTY SHANE FORDE	
	QUOTA		1,144		

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		Transfer of DOWD, WOZNAK votes and result	Transfer of LYNCH votes and result	Transfer of ROOKE votes and result	Transfer of FEENEY votes and result	Transfer of CORCORÁN N votes and result	Transfer of BURKE votes and result	Transfer of GIBBONS votes and result	Transfer of MATHIAS votes and result	Transfer of KEOGH votes and result	Transfer of TULLY votes and result	Transfer of DELANEY HEASLIP votes and result	Transfer of LARKIN votes and result	Transfer of CHEEVER S votes and result
BURKE, AISLING (SF)	624	+4 628	+8 636	+9 645	+5 650	+6 656	+37 693	+9 702	+34 736	+11 747	+43 790	+105 895	+90 985	+3 988
BURKE, CONOR (PBP)	129	+4 133	+4 137	+44 181	+4 185	+1 186	-186 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
* CHEEVERS, ALAN (FF)	1,031	+2 1,033	+7 1,040	1,040	+3 1,043	+6 1,049	+4 1,053	+4 1,057	+13 1,070	+56 1,126	+30 1,156	1,156	1,156	-12 1,144
CORCORÁIN, CORMAC Ó (Ant)	154	154	+4 158	158	+11 169	-169 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
* CROWE, MICHAEL .JOHN (FF)	736	+4 740	+2 742	742	+1 743	+8 751	+3 754	+5 759	+2 761	+21 782	+20 802	+19 821	+97 918	+2 920
DELANEY HEASLIP, JUSTINE (SD)	303	+6 309	+2 311	+13 324	324	+2 326	+46 372	+2 374	+51 425	+18 443	+19 462	-462 -	-	-
DOWD, CONOR (Non-P.)	58	-58 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FEENEY, SUSAN (IFP)	113	+4 117	+1 118	+2 120	-120 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FORDE, SHANE (FG)	665	+2 667	667	667	667	+5 672	+3 675	+2 677	+7 684	+104 788	+29 817	+26 843	+89 932	+4 936
GIBBONS, JACINTA (TIP)	127	+3 130	+3 133	133	+50 183	+42 225	+6 231	-231 -	-	-	-	-	-	-
KEOGH, AISLING (FG)	332	+2 334	+4 338	+2 340	+2 342	+2 344	+5 349	+3 352	+10 362	-362 -	-	-	-	-
* LARKIN, NOEL (IndI)	413	+5 418	+4 422	+2 424	+12 436	+28 464	+7 471	+72 543	+7 550	+22 572	+51 623	+22 645	-645 -	-
LYNCH, DAVID (Non-P)	70	+2 72	-72 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MATHIAS, JOYCE (Gm)	287	+5 292	+3 295	+3 298	298	+3 301	+21 322	+4 326	-326 -	-	-	-	-	-
* MCDONNELL, DECLAN (Non-P)	1,009	+3 1,012	+5 1,017	+1 1,018	+6 1,024	+13 1,037	+5 1,042	+21 1,063	+10 1,073	+14 1,087	+61 1,148	1,148	1,148	1,148
* O'FLAHERTY, TERRY (Non-P)	916	+8 924	+4 928	+1 929	+1 930	+15 945	+7 952	+12 964	+17 981	+39 1,020	+75 1,095	+49 1,144	1,144	1,144
OGBU, HELEN (Lab)	585	+3 588	+8 596	+11 607	+1 608	+3 611	+23 634	+3 637	+140 777	+38 815	+42 857	+188 1,045	+57 1,102	+3 1,105
ROOKE, DENMAN (PBP)	87	+3 90	+1 91	-91 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TULLY, MICHAEL (Non-P)	352	+4 356	+9 365	+2 367	+3 370	+9 379	+5 384	+26 410	+6 416	+20 436	-436 -	-	-	-
WOZNAK, ARKADIUSZ (Non-P)	10	-10 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Non-Transferable not effective		4 4	3 7	1 8	21 29	26 55	14 69	68 137	29 166	19 185	66 251	53 304	312 616	616
Total	8,001	8,001	8,001	8,001	8,001	8,001	8,001	8,001	8,001	8,001	8,001	8,001	8,001	8,001

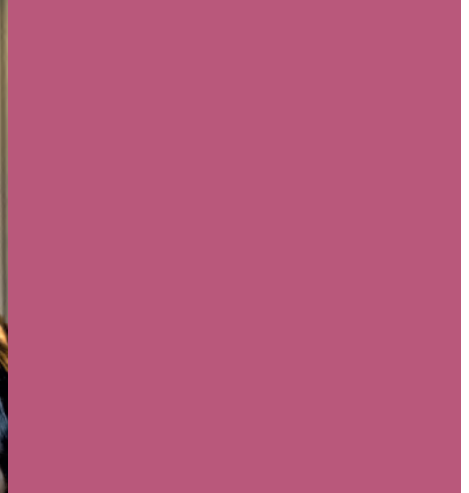
Appendix 6

Details of Election Expenses and Donation Statements

In accordance with Section 19 of the Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure) Act, 1999 as amended, details of the aggregate Local Election expenditure incurred by each candidate and details of any donations received by the candidates must be included in the Annual Report. The relevant information is set out hereunder.

Name of Candidate	Local Electoral Area	Aggregate Expenses	Donations Received
Mike Cubbard	CENTRAL	€1,725.11	nil
Mark Lohan	CENTRAL	€7,212.03	nil
John McDonagh	CENTRAL	€7,426.95	nil
Adrian Curran	CENTRAL	€2,052.03	nil
Martina O'Connor	CENTRAL	€1,459.63	nil
Frank Fahy	CENTRAL	€9,929.69	nil
Eddie Hoare	CENTRAL	€5,916.50	nil
Pádraig Lenihan	CENTRAL	€2,779.44	nil
Shauna Ridge	CENTRAL	€1,125.52	nil
Margaretta D'arcy	CENTRAL	€110.00	nil
Sean Comer	CENTRAL	€349.25	nil
Eibhlin Seoighthe	CENTRAL	€2,313.20	nil
Josie Forde	CENTRAL	€861.00	nil
Dara O'Flaherty	CENTRAL	No return submitted	No return submitted
Patrick Feeney	CENTRAL	€ -	nil
Mary Cummins	CENTRAL	€ -	nil
Helen Ogbu	EAST	€6,157.67	nil
Denman Rooke	EAST	€714.17	nil
Declan McDonnell	EAST	€4,905.00	nil
Joyce Mathias	EAST	€1,734.42	nil
Aisling Keogh	EAST	€3,219.06	nil
Shane Forde	EAST	€2,639.00	nil
Cormac Ó Corcoráin	EAST	€281.00	nil
Noel Larkin	EAST	€3,999.64	nil

Name of Candidate	Local Electoral Area	Aggregate Expenses	Donations Received
Terry O'Flaherty	EAST	€3,308.16	nil
Jacinta Gibbons	EAST	€374.25	nil
Conor Burke	EAST	€1,768.15	nil
Conor Dowd	EAST	€558.00	nil
Aisling Burke	EAST	€3,466.62	nil
Justine Delaney	EAST	€3,735.64	nil
Alan Cheevers	EAST	€2,978.00	nil
Michael John Crowe	EAST	€5,853.10	nil
David Lynch	EAST	No return submitted	No return submitted
Susan Feeney	EAST	€300.00	nil
Michael Tully	EAST	€ 2,940.42	nil
Arkadiusz Wozniak	EAST	€ -	nil
Esther Oghomwenrie Osayimwen	WEST	€3,310.00	nil
Cathal O'Conchúir	WEST	€1,200.00	nil
Maisie McMaster	WEST	€222.94	nil
Donal Lyons	WEST	€3,205.22	nil
Níall McNelis	WEST	€10,474.56	nil
Niall Murphy	WEST	€6,439.57	nil
Asraf Chowdhury	WEST	€2,878.80	nil
Clodagh Higgins	WEST	€7,385.70	nil
Kenny Deery	WEST	€12,103.79	nil
Denis Nealis	WEST	€110.50	nil
Jarlath Feeney	WEST	€7,001.83	nil
AJ Cahill	WEST	€1,622.00	nil
Cllr. Alan Curran	WEST	€4,022.98	nil
Peter Keane	WEST	€7,078.48	nil
John Connolly	WEST	€6,652.00	nil
Rory Ó Beirn	WEST	€417.00	nil





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**Comhairle Cathrach
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