

# Local Enhancement Programme 2026



An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe  
agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta  
Department of Rural and Community  
Development and the Gaeltacht



# Local Enhancement Programme 2026

- Online applications for funding invited from interested Community / Voluntary Groups / Organisations / Clubs within the Galway City administrative area.
- The Local Enhancement Programme 2026 is **funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht (DRCDG)** and administered by Galway City Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) in Galway City.
- The LEP aims to support and enhance Community / Voluntary Groups / Organisations / Clubs facilities in **disadvantaged areas**.
- The Department has recommended that **LCDCs ring-fence a proportion of funding to provide small capital grants of €1,000 or less**. Ring-fencing funding at this level will allow a larger volume of those with limited resources to receive some funding.
- Applications should be made to Galway City LCDC online at **<https://submit.link/4y5>**
- **Open Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025 at 9.00am and close Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 4pm.**
- The total amount allocated to Galway City is as follows:
  - **€141,688.31 in Capital funding** for use towards carrying out necessary repairs and improvements to facilities, energy efficiency type projects, purchase of equipment for e.g. such as tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies and training equipment etc.
  - **No Current funding under this iteration of the programme.**

# Local Enhancement Programme 2026

## Who is eligible to apply?

Any not-for-profit community or voluntary or sports group that is based and operates within the Galway City LCDC administrative area can apply.

Commercial organisations and individuals are not eligible for funding.

## What projects are eligible for funding?

The Local Enhancement Programme will support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas

- Groups will be able to use the funding to carry out **small - scale** necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities, purchase equipment for e.g. such as tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies and training equipment etc.
- The funds will **NOT** cover current spending such as rent, wages, utility bills, insurance etc.

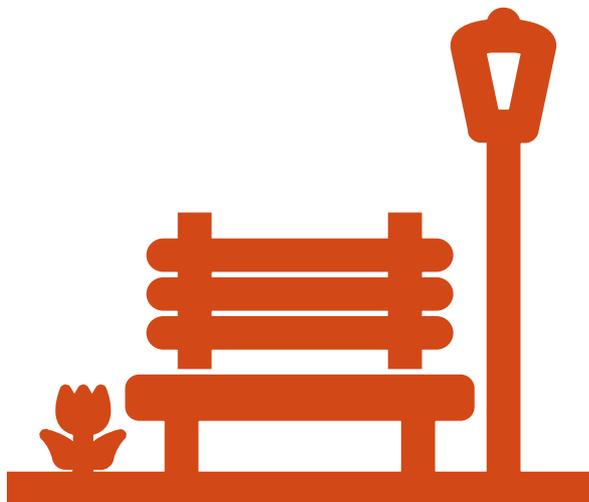
This funding is targeted towards supporting communities that are impacted by disadvantage as identified in the Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP).

Applications should relate to one or more key priority areas identified in the Galway City Local Economic & Community Plan 2024 – 2029 which can be viewed online [here](#).

## Costs eligible for Capital funding

The following provides a non-exhaustive list of capital projects that could receive funding under the programme:

- Development/renovation of community centres
- Accessibility improvements
- Community amenities
- Development of youth clubs or facilities
- Development of sports/recreation facilities
- Improvements to town parks and common areas and spaces
- Public realm improvements
- Street-scaping
- Development of play/recreation spaces
- Improving energy efficiency of community facilities to reduce ongoing costs
- Purchase of equipment,
- Purchase of laptops, tablets
- Maintenance of premises, including painting and repairs
- Capital work to increase biodiversity, or to reduce the carbon footprint of a facility



# Not eligible for funding

The following expenditure is **not** eligible for funding:

- Any project not in keeping with the ethos of the Programme
- Employment costs
- Legal fees
- Project management fees
- Purchase of lands or buildings
- Feasibility studies
- Current Expenditure such as rent, wages, insurance utility bills etc.
- Costs incurred before the Department announces successful projects
- Private or commercial operations
- Costs which are being paid for by another funder or department

## Online Application

- The online application form is detailed and is designed to ensure that it has the necessary information to evaluate each proposal accurately and fairly. **Please ensure that you complete the application form online in full and that any documentation in support of your application is submitted with your online application e.g quotations, permissions etc.**
- Only projects that meet the criteria as outlined will be considered eligible.
- Copy of the guidelines, including the terms and conditions are available to view online / assist with your online application.
- Applications should be made to Galway City Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) online by **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 4.00pm** .
- For any queries, please contact your local Urban & Community Development Officer, contact details at the end of presentation.

# Programme Requirements

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- **Quotations - Important note:** Please ensure that you submit estimates/quotes for all aspects of the project you are seeking funding for.
  - *1 quotation for the project elements that are under €5,000.*
  - *3 quotations from different suppliers for the project elements that are between €5,000 - €25,000 along with confirmation of which quotation you wish to proceed with and rationale for same*
- **Statutory Consents** - Applicants must ensure that all necessary statutory permissions or consents have been obtained before any works commence. This includes but is not confined to planning permission.
- **Governance** - Successful applications for funding under this programme will only be paid to the group/organisation's Bank Account.
- **Acknowledgment of funding** - Due to the value of some of these grants, it would not be cost-effective to require signage acknowledging the Department, Local Authority or LCDC. Other suitable acknowledgements will suffice e.g. on a group/organisation's website or social media platforms. Where signage is developed it should acknowledge the contribution of the Department.
- **Match-funding** - this is not a requirement under this programme.

# Programme Requirements

- **Evidence of expenditure** – Receipts & Invoices marked paid, for **vouched expenditure** (i.e. amount invoice has been paid) for all items purchased or work undertaken and bank statements must be retained and provided to Galway City Council, and must relate to and be in line with the purpose of the grant approved.
- For audit purposes it will be required that bank statements are provided as evidence the invoices were paid. Expenditure must be incurred through the group bank account and not individual members bank accounts.
- Invoices should not be paid for in cash.
- It is recommended to Shop Local and use local suppliers.
- Projects must be complete by the **end of October 2026** and grant funding must be drawn down by the **end of November 2026**.
- Applications online only.

# Key Points

- The maximum grant that groups can apply for is **€8,000**.
- On a case-by-case basis payments can be released in two 50% instalments as follows:
  - First instalment once the grant offer is accepted and a Form A – Acceptance of Grant Terms & Conditions is returned.
  - Second instalment when the project is complete & a Form B including invoices, bank statements, photos and a written report is submitted, and the project has been verified by GCC staff member from Community Department.
  - Where possible we encourage groups to drawdown the funding in one full instalment on completion of project.
- Successful groups will be notified by email with a letter of offer which will detail what exactly the grant is to be used towards.
- Any variations from this **will not be** covered by the grant unless permission is sought from GCC beforehand and approved by the DRCDG in advance of works taking place
- Payments are EFT only. Successful applicants will have to be set up as a supplier with GCC Finance section if not already done so & must have a group bank account for this.

# Key Points

- Groups cannot proceed with works/purchases until they receive confirmation from Galway City Council of the outcome of their grant application. This will not be until **May/ June 2026** until after the Ministers Press Release.
- Costs incurred prior to the Department announcing the list of successful projects are not eligible for payment under the Programme. This includes works that were completed or equipment that was bought where the invoice date pre-dates DRCDG's announcement of successful projects.
- If a group received funding towards laptops for example under LEP 25 they will not receive funding towards laptops through this fund.
- Please ensure your group only applies for a level of funding that can be drawn down. No underspends where possible.

**For More Information:**

Contact your local  
Urban & Community  
Development Officer:

Officer	Area	Mobile	Email
Deirdre Keaney Cunningham	Galway City West	087 146 5006	<a href="mailto:deirdre.keaneycunningham@galwaycity.ie">deirdre.keaneycunningham@galwaycity.ie</a>
Oliver Lydon	Galway City East	087 609 1460	<a href="mailto:oliver.lydon@galwaycity.ie">oliver.lydon@galwaycity.ie</a>
Natalie Coen	Galway City Central	087 110 3209	<a href="mailto:natalie.coen@galwaycity.ie">natalie.coen@galwaycity.ie</a>

# Thank You

- Online applications will go live on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 at 9.00am.
- Applications may be made online until Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 4.00pm. No late applications will be accepted.
- Further information on the LEP 26 scheme is available at [here](#) .
- Thank you for listening. Any questions ?



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