



# Local Economic and Community Plan Implementation Plan 2026–2027

**Galway City** — a changing place



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**Galway City** — a changing place



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# Implementation Plan 2026 – 2027

This is the second Implementation Plan of the Galway City Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024 - 2029. It outlines the actions to be delivered for the two-year period from 2026 - 2027.

This Implementation Plan covers both community and economic elements across the 5 High-Level Goals and 17 Objectives of the LECP. Delivery structures and mechanisms have been identified for each action. Implementation Plans set out the agreed actions to be implemented that should contribute to the achievement of the Objectives and High-Level Goals outlined in the Framework LECP. The actions have been developed based on the Framework LECP, context and experience and resources both human and financial available to implement the actions in this 2-year period.

The Galway City Local Economic and Community Framework Plan operates over a six-year period from 2024.

Implementation Plans, of which this is the second, are developed every two years. These Implementation Plans contain clear and measurable actions based on the High-Level Goals and Objectives in the Framework Plan and reflect the submissions received through consultation and current policy positions. The Implementation Plans are approved by the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and Galway City Council's Urban Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC). Responsibility for driving implementation, monitoring and reviewing the LECP rests with members of the LCDC, the SPC and Galway City Council.

# High Level Goal 1 — a world class creative city region



# High Level Goal 1 — a world class creative city region



Sustainable Development Objective	Action	Action Outcome	Lead Partner	Collaboration Structure	
1.1	Continue to support the development of the cultural sector, to further enhance Galway City's role as an innovative, inclusive and collaborative world-class city of renown	Implement actions in "New Directions - Strategic Plan for the Arts 2021 - 2026"	Embedding the arts in communities via place-based programming, artist residencies, and community-led initiatives that foster participation and engagement. Advancing professional arts development in Galway City through targeted support and investment. Proactively implement initiatives aligned with national policies on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and Pay the Artist ensuring fair representation, equitable access, and sustainable support for creative practitioners and arts organisations across all communities in Galway City. Implementation and delivery of specific projects and funding schemes including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grants offered under the 'Arts Act 2003' that stimulate public interest in the arts, promote knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts or improve the standards of the arts within its functional area for Creative Practitioners and Organisations.</li> <li>• Artist in Residence opportunities and partnership with national organisations, including potential residencies at ATU's School of Creative Industries.</li> <li>• Arts Office led programmes e.g. Culture Night with opportunities for student and graduate involvement.</li> <li>• UNESCO City of Film and other lens-based arts initiatives.</li> <li>• Public Art Programmes / Percent for Art Schemes</li> </ul>	Galway City Council	Tourism Development SPC / Cultural Partnership Programme

Sustainable Development Objective	Action	Action Outcome	Lead Partner	Collaboration Structure
		<p>Further develop Cultural Partnership Scheme with long-standing arts and culture partners including Galway International Arts Festival, Macnas, Druid Theatre, Baboró, Galway Arts Centre.</p> <p>Explore collaborative opportunities with ATU such as hosting cultural events and summer schools at the Wellpark campus, supporting visibility of creative talent emerging from third-level programmes.</p>		
1.2	<p>Deliver and expand actions in Galway City Council's Culture &amp; Creativity Strategy 2023 - 2027 to local communities and communities of interest across the city, with a focus on inclusive engagement, creative health, and education.</p>	<p>Allocate Creative Ireland funding to projects aligned with strategic priorities: creative communities, economy, climate action awareness, health and wellbeing, older people, and youth.</p> <p>Deliver Creative Health &amp; Wellbeing programmes in partnership with Creative Ireland and Healthy Galway. Integrate ATU's 'Radius Project' to support creative engagement and research-led initiatives with community organisations on the east side of the city, including Brothers of Charity, Galway Hospice, and SVP. Collaborate with CREW, Údarás na Gaeltachta, TG4, and Galway LEO to develop accredited creative industry courses that support skills development and employment pathways.</p>	Galway City Council	GCC Culture & Creativity Team / Creative Ireland / Ardán / Healthy Galway City
1.3	<p>Advance priority cultural projects outlined in the Galway City Council Capital Programme 2024-2026</p>	<p>Complete construction and fit out of extension to Galway City Museum.</p> <p>Complete refurbishment of Manse House / Nuns' Island Theatre.</p> <p>Commence works and advance fit out of Merchants Rd. cultural space.</p> <p>Advance refurbishment of 47 Dominick St Arts centre.</p> <p>Progress feasibility study for the future of Lenaboy Castle.</p> <p>Progress refurbishment and energy retrofit of Town Hall Theatre.</p>	Galway City Council	Fáilte Ireland / DCCS / DHLGH

Sustainable Development Objective	Action	Action Outcome	Lead Partner	Collaboration Structure
1.4	Implement actions under the Night Time Economy Action Plan and EU INTERREG Project NITIES (2025 – 2029)	<p>Galway’s night-time cultural landscape is enhanced through inclusive programming, creative placemaking, and support for local artists and performers.</p> <p>Increased public engagement in cultural activities during night-time hours contributing to a more vibrant and safer city centre.</p> <p>Strengthened international collaboration through the NITIES project fostering innovation in night-time urban development and cultural policy.</p> <p>Galway’s reputation as a creative and collaborative city is reinforced through the integration of night-time economy strategies into local planning and cultural development frameworks.</p>	Galway City Council	INTERREG Europe / Galway Night Time Economy Advisory Forum
1.5	Embed and support our status as a bilingual city and continue to recognise the importance of the Irish language as a cultural, community and economic resource	<p>Support the implementation of the Galway City Language Plan by promoting Irish in public life, cultural expression, and bilingual spaces.</p> <p>Increased Irish language engagement across all age groups and fluency levels through expanded events such as Aon Scéal?, Pop-Up Gaeltacht, student volunteering and conversation groups.</p> <p>Development of Tonnta as a flagship Irish language festival supported by sustainable funding and strategic partnerships.</p> <p>Enhanced visibility and recognition of Irish Language services via continued promotion of An tEolaire Gnó and the #SerbhísTríGaeilge campaign among Galway’s business community.</p> <p>Establishment of Establishment of SPÁS as a multifunctional Irish Language Cultural Centre, offering space for cultural, artistic, entrepreneurial, and community activities, supported by the completed feasibility study.</p> <p>Improved public awareness and visibility of Irish language use through targeted communications campaigns, bilingual signage, and collaboration with developers and Galway City Council on placenames and public signage standards.</p>	Gaillimh Le Gaeilge	An Coiste Polasaí Straitéiseach don Ghaeilge / DCCS / University of Galway

Sustainable Development Objective	Action	Action Outcome	Lead Partner	Collaboration Structure
1.6	Deliver Irish Language Scheme and Official Language Act actions to promote daily use of Gaeilge in Galway City	<p>Maintain a fully bilingual Galway City Council website and ensure all public communications and advertising include Irish language elements.</p> <p>Deliver high-quality Irish Language services through approved translation providers and increased use of Irish in council meetings where appropriate.</p> <p>Provide Irish language training to staff and elected members, including customer service modules to improve frontline engagement.</p> <p>Increased the number of Irish-speaking staff to meet Gaeltacht City and Service Town commitments.</p> <p>Progress towards 20% Irish language proficiency across the organization by 2030, supporting the daily use of Gaeilge in civic and public life.</p>	Galway City Council	An Coiste Polasaí Straitéiseach don Ghaeilge / Gaillimh Le Gaeilge
1.7	Strengthen and harness the cultural, creative and educational sectors to attract new investment, commercialisation and collaboration opportunities	<p>Galway’s designation as a UNESCO Creative City of Film leveraged to attract international partnerships and investment.</p> <p>Delivery of Fís Games Summit and Irish Games Talent Incubator to support emerging creative enterprises.</p> <p>Increased clustering and collaboration across film, immersive tech, and game development sectors.</p> <p>Galway positioned as a European creative innovation hub through participation in cross-border projects and EU network.</p> <p>Enhanced visibility and commercialisation of creative IP through events, showcases, and accelerator programmes.</p>	Ardán / Galway City Council	Screen Ireland / CREW / ATU/ WRAP/ UNESCO Creative Cities Network
1.8	Advance the objectives of the Galway City Creativity & Culture Strategy 2023-2027	Amplify the impact of “The Air We Share” by presenting project outcomes at conferences, symposia, and public events, fostering wider dialogue on creative climate action.	Galway City Council	University of Galway/ Westside Resource Centre/ Galway Arts Centre/ Galway Local Enterprise Office

Sustainable Development Objective	Action	Action Outcome	Lead Partner	Collaboration Structure
		<p>Deliver legacy initiatives in Westside that build on the strategic objectives of “The Air We Share”, embedding creative climate responses into local community development and placemaking.</p> <p>Establish a dedicated networking platform for the creative and cultural sector to foster collaboration and identify new opportunities.</p>		
1.9	Deliver on agreed objectives as local partners under “Shared Island” national and cross - border project	GCC cultural programmes successfully aligned with the Shared Island initiative, delivering inclusive cross-border collaborations that celebrated shared heritage, engaged youth, and strengthened community connections through creative projects.	Galway City Council	Dept. of An Taoiseach / Creative Ireland
1.10	Increase the visibility of Galway’s creative talent pipeline and strengthen third level and industry collaboration to support investment and innovation	<p>Enhance visibility of creative talent emerging from third-level programmes and increased awareness of collaborative initiatives with industry.</p> <p>Funding allocated to third-level initiatives that promote investments, commercialization, and cross-sector collaboration.</p> <p>Coordinate adjacent development in east side of the city to develop an integrated suite of education/ training and research facilities, resources, programmes and initiatives for the creative sector.</p>	ATU Galway	GRETB / CREW
1.11	Establish a formal partnership with the Western Development Commission (WDC) to support investment in Galway’s creative enterprises	<p>Strategic collaboration with WDC to leverage its investment fund and resources for the benefit of Galway’s creative sector.</p> <p>Identification and investment in a targeted number of creative enterprises in Galway City.</p> <p>Strengthen regional innovation ecosystem through coordinated funding and support for creative entrepreneurship.</p>	Western Development Commission	Galway City Council / CREW / Galway Local Enterprise Office



# High Level Goal 2 — an innovative city



## High Level Goal 2 — an innovative city



Sustainable Development Objective		Action	Action Outcome	Lead Partner	Collaboration Structure
2.1	Develop, encourage and create an ecosystem for innovation, enterprise and entrepreneurship, including community/ social enterprise that is environmentally sustainable	Support the development of the next West Regional Enterprise Plan through active engagement, strategic input. And alignment with Galway City's innovation, enterprise, and sustainability priorities	Galway City Council contributes to the design and prioritization of actions in the West Regional Enterprise Plan. Local innovation and enterprise needs are reflected in regional strategy, including creative industries, social enterprise, and green economy initiatives. Strengthened collaboration with regional stakeholders. Enhanced alignment between LECP actions and REP priorities, enabling access to funding streams such as Smart Regions, InterTradeIreland and Horizon Europe. Increased visibility of Galway City's role in regional economic development and innovation leadership.	Galway City Council	West Regional Enterprise Plan Steering Committee
2.2		Support the development of innovation-driven enterprises in Galway City through Enterprise Ireland programmes and associated initiatives	Support the development of innovative start-ups in Galway City through programmes such as New Frontiers, commercialisation funding, and accelerators with a focus on sectors like AI, Health Tech and Digital Creative industries. Enable capability building in Galway enterprises including scaling through opportunities provided by regional funding programmes including the Smart Regions programme. Strengthen Galway's role in the national innovation ecosystem by supporting access to Innovation Vouchers and Innovation Partnership funding and fostering industry academic collaboration and cluster development.	Enterprise Ireland	WE 2 Ecosystem

Sustainable Development Objective	Action	Action Outcome	Lead Partner	Collaboration Structure
		Strengthen Galway's role in the national innovation ecosystem by expanding access to Innovation Vouchers and Innovation Partnership funding and fostering industry-academic collaboration and cluster development.		
2.3	Support the development of social and circular economy	<p>Stimulate circular economy adaptation by fostering collaboration between enterprises, public bodies, industry, and higher education institutions, and increasing access to business networks for social innovation and entrepreneurship.</p> <p>Establish a dedicated incubation hub for start-up and scaling businesses focused on the social economy, providing tailored supports and space for innovation and growth.</p> <p>Expand mentoring and training support through the development of Bizmentor.</p> <p>Advance digital transformation in the social economy through the rollout of a Digital Strategy for Social Enterprises, enabling adoption of digital tools for operations, marketing, and service delivery.</p> <p>WDC led initiatives to secure EU funding and promote circular economy innovation integrated into regional collaboration efforts, supporting enterprise development and sustainability goals.</p>	Galway City Partnership / SCCUL Enterprise Centre	Galway City Council / LCDC / WDC
2.4	Expand and scale the "Innovatex" platform by implementing the 'Pathway to Innovate' programme	<p>'Pathway to Innovate' programme activated as a regional innovation catalyst, offering SMEs access to expert-led workshops, diagnostics, and ecosystem support.</p> <p>Platform94 and regional partners will deliver mentoring, funding guidance, and R&amp;D training to build innovation capacity.</p> <p>SCALE by Platform94, in partnership with Enterprise Ireland, connects scaling leaders across the west and northwest with international supports, peer to peer collaboration opportunities, global partners and innovation-building resources.</p>	Platform 94	Skillnet Innovation Exchange

Sustainable Development Objective	Action	Action Outcome	Lead Partner	Collaboration Structure
		<p>Innovation funding identified and pursued to support further phases of ecosystem development, leveraging national programmes such as Skillnet Innovation Exchange.</p> <p>SME innovation capacity strengthened through collaboration with business experts and access to real-world insights and practical tools.</p>		
2.5	Prepare and implement a Joint Economic Development Strategy for the Galway City and County administrative areas	<p>Strengthened regional collaboration and shared economic vision across Galway City and County. Enhanced alignment of enterprise supports, infrastructure investment, and innovation initiatives.</p> <p>Increased capacity to attract funding, talent, and investment through a unified regional approach. Industrial capacity in Galway City is sustained and expanded through strategic development of key sites and coordinated planning with Galway County Council, supporting regional economic growth and investment.</p>	Galway City Council / Galway County Council	Joint City & County SPC
2.6	Complete the Joint Retail Strategy for Galway city and MASP area	<p>A coordinated retail development framework that supports sustainable economic growth, placemaking, and future planning.</p> <p>Work with Galway County Council to present a draft to the Joint SPC and ensure adoption by both Councils.</p> <p>Work with the Night Time Economy Officer to ensure the planning related actions of the Night Time Economy action plan are implemented.</p>	Galway City Council / Galway County Council	Joint City & County SPC
2.7	Strengthen strategic collaboration with the University of Galway to advance Urban Innovation, Climate Action and Inclusive Growth	<p>Advance Urban Innovation through joint development of the Nuns' Island Innovation District and cultural infrastructure.</p> <p>Accelerate Climate Action via collaborative projects like Waterway and renewable energy pilots like SH2AMROCK.</p> <p>Promote Inclusive Growth by using university research to address social challenges.</p> <p>Enhance Public engagement in long-term planning through initiatives like the Greater Galway Charter.</p>	University of Galway / Galway City Council	Urban Development SPC / Greater Galway Forum

Sustainable Development Objective		Action	Action Outcome	Lead Partner	Collaboration Structure
2.8	Foster a spirit of creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship	Continue to support CREW in developing Galway's creative cluster and innovation ecosystem, with a focus on commercialisation, internationalisation and inclusive talent development	<p>Delivery of targeted programmes (e.g. CLIMB, Irish Games Talent Incubator, and Creative Export Showcases) to support scaling, commercialisation and international market access.</p> <p>Increased investment in creative IP through initiatives like WRAP Fund, FÍS Summits, and UNESCO City of film events.</p> <p>Inclusive innovation pathways for underrepresented creators, including bilingual content labs and micro grants.</p> <p>Strengthened partnerships between education, enterprise, and cultural stakeholders to foster innovation and improve talent retention.</p> <p>Continued participation in EU-funded projects and international creative partnerships.</p> <p>Support CREW through initiatives like EDGE26 – Ireland's Creative Economy Summit, which positions Galway and the wider West and North-West region as engines of creative and economic opportunity.</p>	CREW / Ardán	West Regional Enterprise Plan Steering Committee
2.9		Empower SME innovation and sustainability through the delivery of targeted programmes by Galway Local Enterprise Office	<p>Delivery of 'Design Mingle' and similar networking platforms to foster collaboration among craft, design, and creative entrepreneurs.</p> <p>Implement a pilot programme to assist local businesses in adopting lean techniques and digital processes to improve competitiveness and profitability.</p> <p>Launch a 'Green &amp; Digital Transformation Fund' for micro and small enterprises to help them transition to a low-carbon economy.</p>	Local Enterprise Office	Urban Development SPC / Creative Ireland

Sustainable Development Objective	Action	Action Outcome	Lead Partner	Collaboration Structure
		<p>Expansion of supports for social enterprises working in creative and cultural sectors, with access to mainstream LEO programmes and targeted capacity-building initiatives.</p> <p>Enable creative businesses to access funding, investor networks, and export development supports through structured LEO engagements and collaboration with partners.</p>		
2.10	Advance AEC initiatives in Galway City by expanding Connected Hubs, supporting enterprise development, and promoting innovation and talent attraction in collaboration with WDC and AECO	<p>Increase engagement with Galway-based hubs through events, mentoring, and enterprise support aligned with the National Hubs Strategy.</p> <p>Collaborate with WDC to digitally map Galway's enterprise supports and identify gaps and opportunities for SMEs.</p> <p>Promote Galway as a destination for innovation and remote work through campaigns like "Local Living, Global Opportunities".</p> <p>Work with Broadband Officer to deliver digital skills programmes and support smart place initiatives.</p> <p>Engage with WDC's European Engagement Programme to identify EU funding and co-develop green digital project.</p> <p>Further develop and expand the 'Innovative City' Programme to foster innovation, creativity, and sustainable economic development in Galway City.</p>	Galway City Council	Atlantic Economic Corridor Network / Connected Hubs
2.11	Implement the Shopfront Enhancement Scheme consistent with policy	<p>Enhanced visual appeal of commercial areas.</p> <p>Increased footfall and business vitality.</p> <p>Support for sustainable and heritage-sensitive design.</p>	Galway City Council	Urban Development SPC

Sustainable Development Objective		Action	Action Outcome	Lead Partner	Collaboration Structure
2.12	Advance the digital and green transformation by promoting environmentally sustainable and inclusive enterprise and investment in our smart city	Advance smart specialisation in renewable energy by leveraging Galway's natural and physical assets, supporting innovation, and enabling regional collaboration	<p>Continue to progress the development of a multi-modal hydrogen transport hub in Galway as part of the SH2AMROCK consortium (University of Galway).</p> <p>Continue to progress the appropriate planning approvals and other consents required to enable the relocation and expansion of the Port of Galway.</p> <p>Continue relevant actions from within the NetZero Cities pilot project in Galway City.</p>	Galway Harbour Company	Greater Galway Forum
2.13		Implement the Destination Experience Development Plan (DEDP) for Galway City to enhance sustainable tourism infrastructure, branding, and international visibility	<p>Delivery of a new Galway City tourism website to promote the city's brand and enhance visitor engagement.</p> <p>Galway City and Galway Convention Bureau achieve Top 25 global ranking in the GDSI, reflecting leadership in sustainable tourism.</p> <p>Formation of a taskforce to strengthen Galway's international partnerships and leverage tourism diplomacy for community and economic benefit.</p> <p>Integration of smart, green, and connected tourism principles across new and existing attractions, aligned with the DEDP and GDSI goals.</p>	Fáilte Ireland	DEDP Implementation Group / Tourism Development SPC
2.14		Develop Galway City's tourism offering to deliver sustainable tourism infrastructure and visitor experiences	<p>Continued progression of design and development stages of the Waterworks Amenity Hub to support the delivery of sustainable tourism infrastructure.</p> <p>Advancement of the project development phase of Tourist Office, Eyre Square with a focus on enhancing visitor services and contributing to the city's tourism strategy.</p> <p>Delivery of key placemaking initiatives under the Destination Towns programme and the Urban Animation project, enhancing the public realm and visitor experience in Woodquay.</p>	Galway City Council	Tourism Development SPC

Sustainable Development Objective	Action	Action Outcome	Lead Partner	Collaboration Structure
		<p>Established a dedicated taskforce in collaboration with key partners across Galway City to strengthen international relations and optimise benefits for the local community.</p> <p>Number of new attractions developed, and festival and events supported.</p>		
2.15	<p>Participate in the All-Ireland Smart Cities Forum to identify collaborative opportunities and support the delivery of Smart city initiatives</p>	<p>Strengthened alignment between local digital transformation goals and national smart city initiatives.</p> <p>Enhanced capacity to deliver data-driven services through collaboration and shared learning.</p> <p>Establish a Smart City Research partnership with the University of Galway.</p> <p>Identification and implementation of pilot projects in areas such as mobility, energy efficiency, digital inclusion, and public service innovation.</p> <p>Support for the Broadband Officer in leveraging national and EU funding streams to expand digital infrastructure and connectivity.</p> <p>Develop a new digital strategy for Galway City.</p>	Galway City Council	All Ireland Smart Cities Forum / University
2.16	<p>Attract and scale inward investment in Galway across key growth sectors</p> <p>- Digitalisation, AI, Semiconductors, Health, and Sustainability</p>	<p>Enhance Galway’s position as a hub for digital and sustainable innovation by supporting existing IDA client companies to expand their site mandates through the integration of digitalisation and sustainability solution.</p> <p>Target new investment opportunities aligned with IDA Ireland’s 2025–2029 strategy and national priorities, including sectors such as health innovation, fintech, offshore wind, and green hydrogen.</p>	IDA Ireland	West Regional Enterprise Plan Steering Committee

Sustainable Development Objective	Action	Action Outcome	Lead Partner	Collaboration Structure
2.17	Establish and support Energy West as a regional advisory group to drive a just and inclusive energy transition in the West of Ireland	<p>Energy West established as a collaborative platform to amplify local voices and shape bold clean energy policy.</p> <p>Increased community engagement in clean energy planning and innovation.</p> <p>Strengthened regional energy resilience through strategic planning and insight-sharing.</p> <p>Enhanced collaboration between public, private, academic, and community stakeholders to unlock clean energy potential.</p>	Galway City Innovation District / PorterShed	WE 2 Ecosystem
2.18	Accelerate the uptake of emerging technologies and digital innovation among local businesses through joint programmes, mentoring, and funding supports	<p>Significant increase in the number of local businesses adopting digital tools and platforms.</p> <p>Expanded calendar of education events, peer- learning sessions, and networking opportunities for SMEs, start-ups, and scale-ups.</p> <p>Active engagement of Galway Chamber's member network in smart city and digital transformation initiatives.</p>	Local Enterprise Office	Galway Chamber Economic Development and Enterprise Committee

# High Level Goal 3 — an equal and inclusive city



## High Level Goal 3 — an equal and inclusive city



Sustainable Development Objective		Action	Action Outcome	Lead Partner	Collaboration Structure
3.1	Reduce poverty and alleviate disadvantage through appropriate and targeted social inclusion, community development programmes and initiatives	Continue to target initiatives and funding to disadvantaged communities identified in the SICAP programme 2024-2028	<p>Implement social inclusion actions within the SICAP Programme and delivery of agreed action plans and the achievement of agreed SICAP KPI's.</p> <p>Increased targeting of resources to disadvantaged communities and agreed target groups.</p> <p>Support the implementation of actions identified in the Ballybane Community Needs Analysis.</p>	Galway City Partnership / SCCUL Enterprises	Galway City Council / LCDC / Ballybane Taskforce
3.2		Target resources and funding to disadvantaged areas and groups to enhance local service delivery and community initiatives	<p>Delivery of targeted funding schemes including Local Enhancement Programme, CAIRDE funding.</p> <p>Maximise revenue available to support community activity and services in line with LECP objectives.</p> <p>Work in partnership with the Community and Voluntary Sector to secure long-term sustainable funding.</p>	Galway City Council	LCDC / DRCDG
3.3		Prepare for an age-friendly society by promoting community connectedness, social inclusion, accessibility and health and wellbeing	<p>Implement actions in the Galway Age Friendly Strategy 2026 - 2030.</p> <p>Continued delivery of the Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme to enable older people to continue living in their own homes or in a home more suited to their needs.</p> <p>Establishment of Galway City Age Friendly Interdepartmental Team to implement planning, infrastructural, and community development strategies and actions to future proof for an ageing population.</p>	Galway City Council	Age Friendly Ireland / Older People's Council / Age Friendly Alliance / Access for All

Sustainable Development Objective	Action	Action Outcome	Lead Partner	Collaboration Structure
3.4	Address educational disadvantage and prioritise the needs of communities experiencing exclusion	<p>Continue the provision of community education programmes and increase education opportunities for marginalised communities</p> <p>Deliver Community Leadership programmes to enhance the effectiveness of community bodies to engage with their own communities.</p> <p>Increased education opportunities for those most excluded from progressing into formal learning.</p> <p>Increased access to English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), including the roll out of QQI Level 1 &amp; 2 ESOL.</p> <p>Increased participation of under-represented groups including International protection applicants, refugees, vulnerable immigrant groups and Irish Travellers in third level education through the Universities of Sanctuary programme.</p> <p>A more integrated literacy support network, streamlined referral pathways, and increased access to literacy, numeracy, and digital skills for adults experiencing educational disadvantages, through engagement with the Regional Adult Literacy Coalition.</p> <p>Identify and address gaps in ESOL service provision, particularly during the summer months.</p>	GRETB / University of Galway / Regional Adult Literacy Coalition	GCP / Galway Volunteer Centre / ARD Family Resource Centre / Croi na Gaillimhe / Galway City Community Integration Forum
3.5	Provide additional access to education and skills training to support marginalised communities	<p>Establishment of an Interagency Network to support the needs of people living in jobless households or households where the primary income is low paid and/or precarious employment.</p> <p>Inclusive Pathways WorkAbility Programme will provide progressive pathways into employment (including self-employment) through education, training, skills development, and in-work supports for people with disabilities based on their needs, their abilities and their potential.</p>	Galway City Partnership / GRETB / Galway Childcare Committee / Ardán / Café Link Galway	Galway City Council / LCDC / Intreo / EmployAbility Galway / WorkAbility / GCP / SOLAS

Sustainable Development Objective	Action	Action Outcome	Lead Partner	Collaboration Structure
		<p>Increased uptake of courses to improve employability through SICAP.</p> <p>Increased provision of digital literacy courses and work experience programmes for migrants.</p>		
		<p>Skills based training courses, including barista training, and healthcare and cleanroom training programme targeting the Traveller Community.</p> <p>Promote the Traveller Apprenticeship Incentivisation Programme amongst the Traveller Community and proactively encourage employers to participate.</p> <p>Uptake of childcare subsidy programmes for parents who are returning to education or work.</p> <p>Enable Travellers and underrepresented communities to produce film and tv work through talent development, mentorship, and direct support.</p> <p>Providing inclusive employment opportunities and cafe skills training to people with intellectual disabilities through the Café Link Ballybane programme.</p>		
3.6	Continue to promote volunteering as a means for individuals to gain skills, experience and confidence	<p>Relocation of Galway Volunteer Centre to a larger city centre premises, with increased opportunities to assist volunteer-involving organisations.</p> <p>Utilisation of GVC premises as a community event space for non-profit and charitable organisations and local groups.</p> <p>Continue to implement Community Volunteers programme, recruiting members of socially excluded groups as participant volunteers.</p> <p>Increased third level students' volunteering across Galway City and wider communities through the ALIVE student volunteering programme.</p>	Galway Volunteer Centre / University of Galway	LCDC / Community Organisations

Sustainable Development Objective		Action	Action Outcome	Lead Partner	Collaboration Structure
3.7	Promote partnership approaches to accessibility and service and recognise and enhance the value that diversity brings to the city	Promote intercultural and anti-racism initiatives to improve community diversity and integration	<p>Delivery of actions in the Galway City Intercultural and Anti-Racism Strategy 2026-2030.</p> <p>Delivery of and participation in community festival events promoting diversity, including Africa Day events, Westside and Eastside Welcomes All Community Days, and Misleór Festival of Nomadic Cultures.</p> <p>Engage in campaigns and awareness programmes to combat rising rates of discrimination and promote social harmony.</p> <p>Implement actions from the National Action Plan Against Racism 2023-2027.</p> <p>Become a member of the ECCAR working group on Anti-Muslim Racism to facilitate exchange of knowledge and good practices between member cities, enabling peer-to-peer learning structures.</p>	Galway City Intercultural and Anti-Racism Steering Committee / Galway City Council / Local Area Integration Team	LCDC / GCP / GCCN / HSE / Tusla / Croi na Gaillimhe / SALLAM / Galway Traveller Movement / Community Groups
3.8		Raise awareness of the experiences of the LGBTI+ community and support programmes to enhance social inclusion	<p>Through a community development approach promote equality and human rights for the LGBTI+ community.</p> <p>Support programmes that enhance participation and community empowerment for LGBTI+ community members, combatting exclusion, isolation, inequality and discrimination, through a community development approach supporting community identified initiatives and responses.</p> <p>Long term secure funding for the Teach Solais LGBT+ Resource Centre as an integral tool to support and enhance social inclusion.</p>	AMACH! LGBT Galway	GTM / GCCN / HSE / Family Support / Tusla / Homeless Services / Domestic Violence Services / GCP
3.9		Ensure that disabled people are supported to participate and have their voices heard	Establishment of a Disability and Inclusion Steering Committee to achieve a multi-departmental approach to making services provided by Galway City Council accessible to all.	Galway City Council / GCP	Access for All / Housing & Disability Steering Group / Galway City Nighttime Advisory Forum

Sustainable Development Objective	Action	Action Outcome	Lead Partner	Collaboration Structure
		<p>Appointment of a Disability Access Officer to oversee accessibility initiatives and coordinate assistance and guidance to people with disabilities who want to access City Council information, services, or buildings.</p> <p>Implement Galway City Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability 2021 – 2026 and increased provision of homes for people with a disability.</p> <p>Implement the Night-Time Economy Action Plan and EU URBACT Transfer Project ‘Accessible Cities for All’.</p> <p>Promote greater independence, integration, and participation of people with disabilities through the ‘Gold Star Initiative’.</p>		
3.10	Enhance access to and outcomes from public services for the Traveller community	<p>Implement the TIG Action Plan 2025 – 2026, with particular attention to promoting implementation of the ‘Framework for Responding to Traveller Ethnicity’ and uptake of Cultural Competency and Anti-Racism Training.</p> <p>Support and strengthen the Joint Galway City and County Interagency Group ensuring the implementation of local actions identified in the Traveller and Roma Education Strategy 2024-2030, the National Traveller Health Action Plan 2022-2027 and the NITRIS 2024-2028.</p> <p>Implementation of the Galway City Council Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 – 2026, with consideration to the provision of culturally appropriate accommodation.</p>	Galway City & County Traveller Interagency Group	Galway City Council

Sustainable Development Objective		Action	Action Outcome	Lead Partner	Collaboration Structure
3.11	Demonstrate a commitment to human rights, equality, integration and anti-discrimination, aligned to our responsibilities under the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty	Continue to coordinate supports for refugees, asylum seekers and new communities	<p>Conduct Support Clinics to deliver personalised, non-directive supports to IPA's and BOTP's.</p> <p>Offer bespoke trainings through the integration teams 'Open training initiative' to those working with asylum seekers and refugees.</p> <p>Continue to host the Galway City Community Integration Forum.</p>	Galway City Local Area Integration Team	GCP / Galway City Community Integration Forum
3.12		Further embed human rights and equality principles across Galway City Council	<p>Provision of training and awareness for staff and elected representatives including public sector duty; intercultural competence; LGBTI+ cultural competence, Traveller awareness and anti-bias, anti-racism, disability awareness, and trauma informed practice.</p> <p>Embed Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty responsibilities across all functions of Galway City Council ensuring staff and elected representatives are aware of their roles in promoting equality, preventing discrimination, and upholding human rights in service delivery and decision-making.</p> <p>Establish a Public Sector Duty Committee to support the development and implementation of the Duty.</p> <p>Support community initiatives to empower girls and women to use public parks and facilities through the implementation of the objectives set out in the 'National Strategy for Women &amp; Girls 2025-30', and the findings of the 'Green Spaces Strategy'.</p>	Galway City Council	LCDC / Galway Childcare Committee / Immigrant Council of Ireland / SALLAM / Community Organisations / Comhairle na nÓg / Civil Society Panel



# High Level Goal 4 — a sustainable resilient city



## High Level Goal 4 — a sustainable resilient city



Sustainable Development Objective		Action	Action Outcome	Lead Partner	Collaboration Structure
4.1	Ensure our city and infrastructure is resilient and adaptive to a changing climate	Implement Galway City Council Climate Action Plan	<p>Develop a baseline of emissions as a priority upon which to base KPIs to measure and deliver on the 51% reduction in emissions target.</p> <p>Update climate action risk assessment on an annual basis.</p> <p>Implement the Decarbonisation Zone Plan.</p>	Galway City Council	Climate Action Regional Office / Project Development SPC
4.2		Continue relevant legacy actions from within the Net Zero pilot city project	<p>Develop the region as a 'Living Lab' to address challenges associated with Digital and Green transformation and a shared regional enterprise strategy to harness the potential of Decarbonising Zones.</p> <p>Continue the work commenced by the Net Zero pilot city project in supporting the uptake of retrofits within the city.</p> <p>Improved BER rating of housing within the Decarbonisation Zone of Galway City.</p>	Galway City Council	Community Groups/SEAI
4.3		Support and empower communities through the climate action fund and development of energy masterplans	<p>Agree funding process and support communities.</p> <p>Promote and encourage participation in the Sustainable Energy Community programme.</p> <p>Energy masterplans in place and provision of bridge funding.</p>	Galway City Council	Climate Action Regional Office / SEAI / Third level Institutions

Sustainable Development Objective	Action	Action Outcome	Lead Partner	Collaboration Structure
4.4	Establish a Reuse & Regeneration Working Group and implement a pilot project to champion adaptive reuse	<p>Framework developed for embedding adaptive reuse as a delivery mechanism within the LECP.</p> <p>Identification and implementation of a pilot adaptive reuse project.</p> <p>Annual reporting and tracking of infrastructure delivery aligned with LECP growth priorities.</p>	Galway Chamber	Galway Chamber Infrastructure Committee
4.5	Increase investment in the circular and green economy and support new and existing business and enterprise in the transition to a net zero economy and to take advantage of emerging green business opportunities	<p>Increased number of projects and collaborations that promote sustainability and circular economy principles.</p> <p>Enhanced business engagement in climate action and decarbonisation initiatives.</p> <p>Develop a mentorship and training programme focused on circular economy business models for existing enterprises.</p> <p>Delivery of the MODUS Circular Economy Workshop for SMEs to increase awareness and peer-learning around circular economy practices.</p> <p>Increase in the number of businesses participating in circular economy workshops and awareness campaigns.</p> <p>More enterprises adopting low-carbon practices through mentoring, grants, and accelerator supports.</p> <p>Delivery of green finance sessions for Galway Chamber members to support sustainable investment decisions.</p>	Galway City Council / Local Enterprise Office	Galway Chamber Sustainability Committee / Regional Waste Management Planning Office
4.6	Deliver accelerator programmes to boost sustainability innovation, including targeted supports for SMEs and entrepreneurs to adopt circular economy business models, green technologies, and digital transformation tools	<p>Provide access to Green for Business consultancy and Energy Efficiency Grants to help enterprises reduce carbon emissions and improve resource efficiency.</p> <p>Launch Green &amp; Digital Transformation Fund to support micro and small enterprises in adopting low-carbon and digital solutions.</p> <p>Facilitate mentoring and accelerator bootcamps focused on sustainability innovation and circular economy entrepreneurship.</p> <p>Support business owners' and employees' knowledge and awareness of circular/green economy challenges and opportunities by information events and signposting them to relevant employee training programmes.</p>	Local Enterprise Office	Urban Development SPC / Regional Skills West

Sustainable Development Objective	Action	Action Outcome	Lead Partner	Collaboration Structure
		Develop a mentorship and training programme focused on circular economy business models for existing enterprises.		
4.7	Develop a climate change awareness plan and campaign for business and startups to inform how climate action measures can be integrated into business activities	Raise awareness amongst households, businesses and individuals about the circular economy and how it can improve their lives. Implement initiatives that promote Galway nationally and internationally as a sustainable business location.	Galway City Council	Climate Action Team
4.8	Provide, maintain and enhance our green spaces, biodiversity and public realm	Value and protect nature through appropriate management and design of green spaces and wildlife refuges	Implement the Galway City Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 – 2030 to protect and raise awareness of biodiversity and to encourage the involvement of all stakeholders to protect and enhance it for future generations. Continued expansion of the Healthy Green Spaces programme, ‘no mow’ and pollinator friendly areas Develop management plans for green areas including urban woodlands and create new amenity woodlands in partnership with Coillte. Prevent loss of biodiversity by creating connected corridors and buffer zones to increase opportunities for wildlife dispersal across the landscape and to connect people to biodiversity.	Galway City Council  Local communities and residents’ associations
4.9	Implement rejuvenation projects in the Galway City Public Realm Strategy 2019	Strategy and associated projects are delivered under the stewardship of a cross department working group. Promotion of high-quality public realm that is durable, sustainable, accessible and inclusive.	Galway City Council	National Transport Authority / Active Travel Team /



Sustainable Development Objective	Action	Action Outcome	Lead Partner	Collaboration Structure
		<p>Inclusion of measures to ensure connections to the green network and ensure biodiversity gain within urban rejuvenation sites.</p> <p>Implement Public Realm Strategy initiatives supported by URDF funding including Woodquay regeneration project; Fishmarket rejuvenation project and city centre streets project.</p> <p>Progression of the Cross Street and Lombard Street Rejuvenation Public Realm projects.</p>		Urban Regeneration and Development Fund / DHLGH
4.10	Develop a Green Blue Infrastructure Plan for Galway City	<p>Implement the findings of the Green Spaces Strategy and Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 – 2030 and develop a Green Blue Infrastructure Plan to strengthen the quality and function of the ‘Green Network’ and provide resilient ecological corridors for wildlife and people to enjoy.</p> <p>Establish and strengthen ecological connections across the city, including Green Blue Infrastructure GB11 Barna – Roscam, including measures such as Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS), Rain Gardens, Planters and others.</p> <p>Establish and strengthen ecological connections across the city, including Green Blue Infrastructure GB11 Barna – Roscam, including measures such as Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS), Rain Gardens, Planters and others.</p> <p>Advance the development of the Watersports Recreational Hub at the Waterworks Building in Terryland by initiating phase 1 of the construction works.</p>	Galway City Council	GCP / Nationals Parks and Wildlife Services

Sustainable Development Objective	Action	Action Outcome	Lead Partner	Collaboration Structure
4.11	Progress the Salthill Village and Seafront Framework, taking a shared decision-making approach to creating a community-informed vision	Address key issues including improvements to public spaces and facilities, greater accessibility, sustainability and climate action through the enhancement, management, use and development of Salthill and the seafront, running from Blackrock to Grattan Beach and including the village itself, the park and Leisureland. Enhance the public realm, tourism, biodiversity and amenity value of Salthill.	Galway City Council	The Village Salthill Business Community
4.12	Enable sustainable development that improves the natural environment, reduces resource consumption, encourages modal shift to sustainable travel and provides for all housing needs	Expansion of the social housing stock energy efficiency programme to increase average BER ratings. Enhance the energy efficiency of existing buildings and develop policies to deliver zero-emission new builds and continue to expand the retrofitting programme. Promotion of renewable energies and the renewable energy sector in line with the GCC Climate Action Plan 2024-2029.	Galway City Council	SEAI / Sustainable Energy Communities
4.13	Implement the Galway Transport Strategy to encourage modal shift to sustainable and active travel	Further development of an integrated cycle network for the city and development of a core primary cycle network combining good segregation from traffic where practical. Reallocate road space for pedestrian, cycle and public transport use and further development of the Bus Connects and Cross City Link, an east/west bus priority route through the city centre.	Galway City Council	National Transport Authority / Active Travel Team



Sustainable Development Objective	Action	Action Outcome	Lead Partner	Collaboration Structure
4.14	Plan for the sustainable and effective management of flood risk in the city	<p>Progress design and development of the Corrib go C6sta Galway City Flood Relief Scheme.</p> <p>Design of creative landscape and architectural solutions, which can, in addition to addressing flood risk management, enhance the urban landscape and public realm amenity.</p>	Galway City Council	Office of Public Works / Interagency Co-ordination Team
4.15	Expand the delivery of social and affordable housing under the Galway City Housing Delivery Action Plan 2026 - 2030 and plan for the effective use of lands	<p>Expanded the range of Affordable housing options and tenures including development of Cost Rental Housing schemes.</p> <p>Progress the masterplans for the redevelopment of sites at Sandy Road and Dyke Road with the Land Development Agency.</p> <p>Reduce vacancy and dereliction and bring homes back into use through the vacant homes grant scheme and utilise vacant and derelict houses or sites compulsorily acquired under the Derelict Sites Act.</p> <p>Plan for effective use of lands that are not currently sufficiently serviced but have potential to become fully serviced for sustainable development.</p> <p>Explore a joint Galway City / County map of serviceable land to inform zoning decisions.</p> <p>Estimate and account for future housing requirements through use of existing Census data, Housing Need &amp; Demand Assessment 2023-2029, and predicted population growth.</p>	Galway City Council / Galway Chamber / Construct Innovate	Office of Public Works / Interagency Co-ordination Team / DHLGH / AHBs / LDA / Galway Chamber Infrastructure Committee

# High Level Goal 5 — a city that promotes health and wellbeing



## High Level Goal 5 — a city that promotes health and wellbeing



Sustainable Development Objective		Action	Action Outcome	Lead Partner	Collaboration Structure
5.1	Reduce health inequality and improve health outcomes through implementation of programmes targeting physical, mental health and wellbeing and nutrition	Implement of health and wellbeing actions across programmes, plans and strategies.	<p>Develop a Healthy Galway City Strategy 2027 -2031 to improve the mental and physical health and wellbeing of residents.</p> <p>Provision of Healthy Galway City Community Grants to support community groups and voluntary organisations to address health inequality.</p> <p>Delivery of actions through appropriate local and national strategies.</p> <p>Continued delivery of the Galway City Social Prescribing Service, connecting individuals with community-based supports to enhance health, wellbeing and social inclusion.</p> <p>Promote the health and wellbeing of parents and 0-3-year-olds and promote and support new and existing Parent &amp; Toddler groups.</p> <p>Support Early Learning and Care services to promote Beach School experiences for young children and families to increase children's physical activity, while promoting positive mental health and environmental awareness.</p> <p>Explore the feasibility of implementing Act-Belong-Commit, a community based mental wellbeing programme, in Galway City.</p>	Galway City Council / Healthy Galway City Steering Committee / GCP / Galway City Early Years Subcommittee of Galway CYPSC / Galway Childcare Committee / University of Galway Health Promotion Research Centre	LCDC / Galway Sports Partnership / GCP / WRDTF / GCCN / Age Friendly Alliance / Traveller Interagency Group / Galway City Alcohol Forum / Sexual Health West
5.2		Support the development of youth services to enhance young people's health and wellbeing	<p>Planet Youth surveys conducted in all post-primary schools and centres.</p> <p>Planet Youth Guidelines for Parents booklets distributed annually to parents.</p> <p>First-year parent information evenings in all schools communicating the key messages in the Planet Youth Guidelines for Parents booklet.</p>	Planet Youth Galway / GRETB / Western Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force	Galway City Council / Planet Youth Leisure Time subgroup

Sustainable Development Objective	Action	Action Outcome	Lead Partner	Collaboration Structure
		Map of extracurricular leisure and social activities available to young people in Galway City, accompanied by a communication plan.		
5.3	Implement of health and wellbeing actions across programmes, plans and strategies	Provision of age-appropriate youth services with access to qualified youth workers providing group work and one-to-one support to young people ages 10-25 years. Continued development of the dedicated youth support service for ages in Ballinfoile, with a specific focus on services for children ages 6 - 12 years. Coordinate the Galway City Comhairle na nÓg Youth Council.	Youth Work Ireland Galway / GCP / CYPSC	GRETB / DCEDIY HSE / Tusla / Galway City Council / Sauti Youth Project / CFSN / Local Community Safety Partnership / YWI Youth Access Group
5.4	Provide a dedicated Youth Centre for the provision of universal and targeted Youth Work opportunities for young people	Fully accessible youth centre with a dedicated space for programmes with access to counselling, one-to-one support, group work, and youth information. Increased opportunities for young people to engage in youth work and more effective service delivery to young people. Work with youth work sector to secure long term sustainable funding for youth services.	GRETB / Youth Work Ireland Galway / CYPSC	Galway City Council / LCDC
5.5	Develop and support the structures and partnerships which underpin safety and wellbeing of all people in Galway City	Ensure the Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) convenes regularly with a focus on collaborative planning, monitoring, and review of community safety initiatives. Develop the Galway City Community Safety Plan in consultation with LCSP members and other stakeholders, informed by policy and best practice. Improved coordination and information-sharing between agencies, community groups, and residents.	Galway City LCSP / Galway City Council	National Office for Community Safety / An Garda Síochána / Galway City Tourism Taskforce



Sustainable Development Objective	Action	Action Outcome	Lead Partner	Collaboration Structure
		<p>Reduction in anti-social behaviour, crime, or other safety concerns as measured by local data and community surveys.</p> <p>Improved perceptions of safety and wellbeing among all population groups in Galway City.</p> <p>Implement actions, including improving safety at specific locations of concern, in line with the 'Preventing suicide in public places: A best practice toolkit'.</p> <p>Continue to secure Purple Flag accreditation and implement actions under the Night-time Economy Action Plan Programme.</p>		
5.6	Prevention and reduction of alcohol related harm	<p>Implement Galway City Strategy to Prevent and Reduce Alcohol Related Harm</p> <p>Support the ongoing development and sustainability of the Galway Recovery Hub and city-wide implementation of the Inclusive Recovery City model through cross-sectoral collaboration and community engagement.</p> <p>Enhanced visibility and accessibility of recovery supports city-wide, demonstrated by increased participation in recovery events, peer-led initiatives, and community awareness campaigns.</p> <p>Ongoing delivery of the Recovery CE Scheme to help individuals in recovery rebuild their lives through physical, mental, and social well-being initiatives.</p>	HSE Health Promotion & Improvement / WRDATF / GCP	Galway City Alcohol Forum / Galway City Council / Galway City LCSP
5.7	Support communities to recover from adverse situations, including severe weather events, flooding, and other crises	<p>Develop a Community Resilience and Preparedness plan and toolkit for Galway City.</p> <p>Clear communication protocols to ensure accurate, accessible information during crises</p> <p>Comprehensive mapping of community supports and infrastructure.</p> <p>Investment in community resilience training and local emergency hubs</p>	Galway City Council	Galway City Community Network / Local Community Safety Partnership / Local Organisations

Sustainable Development Objective		Action	Action Outcome	Lead Partner	Collaboration Structure
5.8	Enhance healthy lifestyles through the development of local sport and physical activity programmes and facilities	Encourage and facilitate walking, running and cycling as a mode of transport and as an alternative to the car	New walking, wheeling and cycling facilities developed and Front of Schools / School Streets delivered Progress initiatives including active travel plans, cycle parking, shared mobility, community engagement including School Cycle Bus, Bike to Work Scheme, public transport integration, pedestrian areas.	Galway City Council / National Transport Authority	Galway City Council Active Travel Team
5.9		Implement the Green Spaces Strategy and progress the development of additional community and recreational facilities	Increased outdoor facilities for younger and older people to access healthy activities, to socialise and promote wellbeing and personal development. Enhance outdoor playgrounds and activity areas for children, teens, and specifically, girls and young women, to include fully accessible facilities. Complete the development of Newcastle Community Centre, Woodquay community park, feasibility study on tidal pool in Salthill and teen park / pump track, Castlepark all-weather pitch, and Kingston, South Park and Renmore Master Plans. Improvement and expansion of allotment facilities and Community Gardens across the city.	Galway City Council	Youth Services / Comhairle na nÓg / Older Persons Council/ Active Cities Galway
5.10		Increased participation for people of all abilities in sports and physical activity through implementation of the Active Cities Galway Programme	Develop a Galway City Local Sports Plan 2026 - 2031 Support the ongoing provision of the Ballybane & Doughiska Community Sports Hub. Development, delivery and coordination of a programme of work that leads to an increase in participation in sport, physical activity, improved mental health and wellbeing, and active lifestyles with a particular focus on disadvantaged communities.	Galway City Council	Galway Sports Partnership / Sport Ireland







Comhairle Cathrach  
na Gaillimhe  
Galway City Council



Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil  
Chathair na Gaillimhe  
Galway City Local Community Development  
Committee