

Comhairle Cathrach
na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council

Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe Turascáil Bhliantúil

Galway City Council Annual Report

2025



**Comhairle Cathrach
na Gaillimhe**
Galway City Council



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Welcome

By Mayor

It is my great pleasure to present this Annual Report, reflecting a year of significant progress for our city. This year has been one of shared leadership and continuous delivery on the ambitions set out in our Corporate Plan 2024-2029.

The successes of 2025 are a testament to the work of the entire Council, and I wish to pay tribute to my predecessor, Councillor Peter Keane, who served as Mayor from January to June. Under his leadership, the city reached major milestones, including the 50th Anniversary of our twinning with Lorient, France, and a historic Plenary Council meeting conducted as Gaeilge. Mayor Keane also presided over the 22nd Annual Mayor's Awards, where we honoured over 90 individuals and groups for their selfless voluntary contributions to our community.

Building on that momentum, the latter half of the year saw Galway continue to excel as a world-class city. A primary focus of this Council has been the accelerated delivery of high-quality social and affordable housing, Active Travel and our commitment to Sustainability, 2025 marked major milestones in climate action. Galway remains a global leader in culture and creativity, with economic resilience and our community focus has never been stronger.

I want to thank the Chief Executive, the staff of Galway City Council, and my fellow Elected Members for their dedication. Most importantly, I thank the people of Galway for your ongoing engagement as we work together to build a sustainable, inclusive, and vibrant city.

His Worship, Mayor of the City of Galway, Councillor Mike Cubbard.



Introduction

by Chief Executive Leonard Cleary

Tá áthas orm, mar Phríomhfheidhmeannach, Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2025 Chomhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe a chur i láthair. Is léiriú í an tuarascáil seo ar an obair dhícheallach atá á déanamh againn chun ár bhfís don chathair a fhíorú, mar atá leagtha amach inár bPlean Corparáideach 2024–2029. Oibrímid i gcomhar le chéile — na baill tofa, an fhoireann thiomanta, agus muintir na cathrach — chun Gaillimh a fhorbairt mar chathair atá inbhuanaithe, cuimsitheach agus bríomhar do chách.



The Annual Report 2025 presents our collective efforts to ensure Galway remains a vibrant place to live, work, study and invest. Throughout 2025, our progress has been guided by the strategic goals of our Corporate Plan, ensuring that every project and service contributes to a more resilient and inclusive future for Galway.

Building a city where everyone has a place to call home remains our most vital priority. In 2025, we progressed applications for housing support and new households to our social housing list. Our work goes beyond construction, with a strong focus on homeless services and helping people build secure futures.

We worked closely with our new communities through the Local Authority Integration Team, offering personalised support to people seeking protection and a new beginning here in Galway and successfully transition households from homeless services into permanent social housing tenancies.

Galway is working hard to lead on climate action, in 2025 we made progress by switching much of our vehicle fleet to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO). This year also marked the 25th anniversary of Terryland Forest Park. With the adoption of the Green Spaces Strategy a clear plan is now in place to protect and improve our parks, nature, and biodiversity for the years ahead.

In 2025, we worked closely with the County Council to introduce a Joint Retail Strategy, giving us a shared vision for a strong and vibrant city centre. We also marked 50 years of friendship with our twin city of Lorient in France. Support was provided to arts organisations

for cultural activities. Through the Shopfront Enhancement Scheme and major improvement works on Cross Street and Lombard Street, we continued to invest in the appearance of our city's streets.

In November 2025, the first meeting of the Local Community Safety Partnership, was held bringing residents and local agencies together to work towards a safer city for all. A new Community Participatory Scheme in Galway City East was introduced. Projects like the Mervue Playground were chosen by the community, ensuring that our budget reflects local needs and priorities. Our commitment to Active Travel continued with new cycle routes and pedestrian-friendly rain gardens that help manage flooding.

To deliver on these ambitious goals, we must be an efficient and accessible organisation. We are currently undergoing a digital transformation, moving 90% of our services online by 2030. Work on a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system is well underway, designed to streamline interactions with the Council.

Alongside the day to day operations of the local authority, Galway City Council continues to progress twelve 'priority projects' to unlock housing potential, improve access and mobility, respond to climate risks, and ensure appropriate resourcing of services and infrastructure, in the only city in the Northern and Western region.

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 projects have been submitted to the national programme for government and form the basis of engagement with our Oireachtas representatives, to ensure national investment and support for Galway City.

I want to extend my sincere gratitude to Mayor Mike Cubbard, to his predecessor Cllr. Peter Keane, and to all our Elected Members for their leadership. My thanks also go to our dedicated staff members whose work across every department makes these achievements possible. I welcome to the new staff who joined Galway City Council in 2025 and congratulate all those retiring or progressing in their career in other organisations.

Most importantly, I want to thank the people of Galway. Your energy, involvement, and pride in the city guide the work.

Elected Members of Galway City Council

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



Cllr. Alan Curran



Cllr. Clodagh Higgins



Cllr. Donal Lyons



Cllr. Niall McNelis



Cllr. Michael J. Crowe

Senior Management Team



Patrica Philbin, Director of Services, Urban Development Directorate

Patrick Greene, Director of Services, Operational Development Directorate

Helen Kilroy, Director of Finance and Corporate Development Directorate

Derek Pender, Director of Services, Project Development Directorate

Elizabeth Fanning, Acting Director of Services, Social Development Directorate

Our Mission

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.

Members and Activities of the Corporate Policy Group, Strategic Policy Committees, Area Committees and Policing Committee.

Corporate Policy Group

List of Members

Chairperson: Councillor Peter Keane / Mayor Mike Cubbard

Cllr. Declan McDonnell - Social Development

Cllr. Mike Crowe - Operational Development

Cllr. Mike Cubbard - Project Development

Cllr. Donal Lyons - Urban Development

Cllr. Clodagh Higgins - Corporate Development

Cllr. Níall McNelis - Tourism Development

Meeting Dates

Theme/Policy Issues Addressed

6 January 2025

4 February 2025

3 March 2025

7 April 2025

6 May 2025

3 June 2025

7 July 2025

1 September 2025

29 September 2025

31 October 2025

1 December 2025

16 September 2025

- Review: Standing Order for Strategic Policy Committee, Area Committees, Procedures Committee and Grants Committee – Draft Terms of Reference, Training and Development Programme for Councillors 2025.
- Presidential Election agree a date for a Special Meeting
- Progress of the Local Democracy Task Force
- Proposal from An Choiste Gaeilge for March Council meeting to be held trí Ghaeilge
- Joint CPG Meeting with Galway County Council
- International Relations
- Civic Naming, Commemorations and Heritage: Plaque in Eyre Square for C.I. O'Flynn (first City and County Manager), Seat in Eyre Square for Ronnie O'Gorman, Arthur Colohan – plaque, Naming of pitches at Laurel Park after Tommy Keane.
- Differential Rent Review
- Lands adjacent to University Hospital, Carnmore Lands.

Review Strategic Policy

Area Committees

In accordance with Section 50 of the Local Government Act 2001, Galway City Council operates Area Committees for the East, Central and West electoral areas. These committees provide Councillors with a structured forum to discuss local-scale matters and represent community concerns. Throughout 2025, the Area Committees focused on neighbourhood specific issues, engaged directly with officials on local service delivery and operational performance, and ensured that local priorities informed wider Council decision-making.

East Area Committee	
Members: Cllr. Shane Forde, Cllr. Helen Ogbu, Cllr. Terry O’Flaherty, Cllr. Aisling Burke, Cllr. Alan Burke, Cllr. Declan McDonnell.	
Meeting Dates	Theme / Policy Issues Addressed
10 January 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Improvement Scheme, Masterplans, Affordable Housing / Affordable Sites, Social Housing allocations, Housing Capital Updates.
6 March 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Light sequencing at Parkmore, Thermo King junction, Mervue, Bus stop for Roscam on South Doughiska Road. Resurfacing works and maintenance yellow box markings traffic flow, safety measures at entrance to Merlin Park Hospital, Dublin Road, school-zone speed limit
21 May 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active Travel scheme Ballybane/Castle Park Road Park and Ride ATU Christmas period
23 July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retrofit works for Bohermore Community Centre EV charger installation grants approved for sports clubs. Street Lighting Repairs
24 September 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCTV use discussed regarding illegal dumping. Cleaning of litter along dual carriageway, litter fines.
19 November 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anti-social behaviour concerns discussed. Issues raised regarding kissing gates and Dexter cows returning to Ballyloughane.

Central Area Committee

Members: Cllr. Mike Cubbard, Cllr. Frank Fahy, Cllr. Josie Forde, Cllr. Eddie Hoare, Cllr. John McDonagh, Cllr. Eibhlín Seoighthe.

Meeting Dates	Theme / Policy Issues Addressed
9 January 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Improvement Scheme, Masterplans, Compliance and enforcement, sustainable transport-linked planning, and urban regeneration strategies. Community amenities, estate upgrades, safety interventions, and support for community organisations. Climate Action Retrofit works in the Central Ward Storm-related impacts (bus shelters/public lighting/fallen trees). Transport, Mobility and Active Travel improvements, school safety, and transport capital projects. Footpath Audit Update on NTA bus stops, Traffic calming measures, Western Distributor Road (Part 8) Camper vans, Cappagh Park and Ride progress Public Realm, Cleanliness and City Presentation. 2026 Participatory Budget initiative. Community safety and Anti-social behaviour.
20 March 2025	
22 May 2025	
24 July 2025	
18 September 2025	
20 November 2025	

West Area Committee

Members: Cllr. Michael J. Crowe, Cllr. Alan Curran, Cllr. Clodagh Higgins, Cllr. Peter Keane, Cllr. Donal Lyons (Chair), Cllr. Níall McNelis

Meeting Dates	Theme / Policy Issues Addressed
7 January 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Improvement Scheme Masterplans for Kingston, Renmore, Salthill Active Travel schemes, traffic calming, Park and Ride Cappagh Road Bus Lane, Bus stop and shelter issues. Footpath, Walking audit to identify accessibility Salthill Village and Seafront Framework Plan. Old Tourist Office in Salthill. Leisureland redevelopment. Caravan and campervan parking issues in Salthill. Coastal erosion impacts and accessibility concerns at Ladies Beach. Social and Affordable Housing projects, Taking-in-Charge policy. Community Infrastructure and Public Amenities Cappagh Park Replacement/repair of infrastructure at Blackrock (tower, ladder, accessibility). Storm-related impacts (bus shelters/public lighting/fallen trees).
18 March 2025	
27 May 2025	
27 July 2025	
18 September 2025	
18 November 2025	

Strategic Policy Committees

Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) play an important role in shaping the direction of Galway City Council. Throughout 2025, the SPCs brought together Elected Members and representatives from community, business and sectoral interests to consider, develop and review policy across a wide range of areas. Their work ensured that diverse local perspectives informed the Council's strategic decisions and long-term planning. Following the establishment of the new Strategic Policy Scheme in 2024, the SPCs continued to progress key policy initiatives and provide an important forum for discussion, collaboration and oversight.

The summary below highlights the main areas of work undertaken by each SPC during the year.

Housing and Social Inclusion SPC		
Members	Cllr. Declan McDonnell Cllr. Níall McNelis Cllr. Helen Ogbu Cllr. Aisling Burke Cllr. John McDonagh Cllr. Terry O'Flaherty Olena Bratchenko Eoin Waldron Carol Baumann Alan Daly	Elected Member Elected Member Elected Member Elected Member Elected Member Elected Member Community/Voluntary Development / Construction Social Inclusion Trade Union
No. Meetings	5	31 January, 24 March, 28 May, 10 October, 19 November 2025
Themes / Policy Issues Addressed	Regional Homeless Action Plan Work Plan 2025 Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme/Policy Property Acquisition Local Community Safety Partnership Housing Delivery, Housing Capital Update, Affordable Housing, Scheme of Letting Priorities, Differential Rent Scheme, Second Hand Acquisitions	

Themes / Policy Issues Addressed	SPC Work Plan 2026 Housing Maintenance Update Housing Plan – Delivering Homes, Building Communities
Policies Adopted	

Urban Development SPC

Members	<p>Cllr. Donal Lyons Elected Member (Chair)</p> <p>Cllr. Clodagh Higgins Elected Member</p> <p>Cllr. Eddie Hoare Elected Member</p> <p>Cllr. Frank Fahy Elected Member</p> <p>Cllr. Eibhlín Seoighthe Elected Member</p> <p>Cllr. Josie Forde Elected Member</p> <p>Rachel Stewart Business/Comm. Developments</p> <p>Brendan Smith Community/Voluntary</p> <p>Helena McElmeel Development/Construction</p> <p>Reg Turner Environment/Conservation</p>
No. Meetings	<p>4</p> <p>20 February, 22 May, 25 September, 20 November 2025.</p>
Themes / Policy Issues Addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Programme and Schedule 2025 • City Development Plan implementation updates • Planning updates including the Salthill Framework and Joint Retail Strategy • THRIVE – Galway West End Integrated Urban Strategy • Galway City Port Project • Overview of the Galway Metropolitan Area Socio-Economic Profile (Census 2022) • Draft Heritage Plan 2024–2029, Galway City Heritage Plan updates • Draft Shopfront Enhancement Scheme 2025–2029 • Galway Enterprise Space Review and Report • Local Enterprise Office (LEO) updates • Galway City Local Economic and Community Implementation Plan 2026–2027 (draft actions and approval stages) • Notice of Motion: Establishment of a Galway City Business Forum (recurring discussion) • Local Community Safety Partnership update • Consideration of economic and community development actions linked to the LECF

Policies Adopted	Shopfront Enhancement Scheme 2025–2029 Heritage Plan 2025–2030
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Corporate Development SPC																					
Members	<table> <tr> <td>Cllr. Clodagh Higgins</td> <td>Elected Member (Chair)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr. Frank Fahy</td> <td>Elected Member</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr. Michael J Crowe</td> <td>Elected Member</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr. Ashling Burke</td> <td>Elected Member</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr. Alan Curran</td> <td>Elected Member</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr. Shane Forde</td> <td>Elected Member</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lisa Cooley</td> <td>Business/Commercial</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paul O'Donnell</td> <td>Community/Voluntary</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Marion Maloney</td> <td>Social Inclusion</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pat Hardiman</td> <td>Trade Union</td> </tr> </table>	Cllr. Clodagh Higgins	Elected Member (Chair)	Cllr. Frank Fahy	Elected Member	Cllr. Michael J Crowe	Elected Member	Cllr. Ashling Burke	Elected Member	Cllr. Alan Curran	Elected Member	Cllr. Shane Forde	Elected Member	Lisa Cooley	Business/Commercial	Paul O'Donnell	Community/Voluntary	Marion Maloney	Social Inclusion	Pat Hardiman	Trade Union
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Paul O'Donnell	Community/Voluntary																				
Marion Maloney	Social Inclusion																				
Pat Hardiman	Trade Union																				
No. Meetings	4 8 May, 15 July, 23 September, 2 December 2025.																				
Themes / Policy Issues Addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaeilge Subcommittee • Galway City Council Customer Service Action Plan and Customer Charter 2025–2029. • Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. • General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). • Financial Planning and Corporate Programmes Multi-Annual Work Programme, Annual Budget Process and 3-Year Capital Programme update. • Public Spending Code updates for NOAC requirements. • Update on income collection processes, Rates Waiver Scheme. • Digital Transformation and Innovation through Project Nexus and Artificial Intelligence and its organisational applications. 																				
Policies Adopted	Galway City Council Customer Service Action Plan and Customer Charter 2025–2029.																				

Operational Development SPC																					
Members	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Cllr. Michael J Crowe</td> <td>Elected Member</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr. Alan Cheevers</td> <td>Elected Member</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr. Donal Lyons</td> <td>Elected Member</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr. Alan Curran</td> <td>Elected Member</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr. Declan McDonnell</td> <td>Elected Member</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr. Terry O’Flaherty</td> <td>Elected Member</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deirdre Mac Loughlin</td> <td>Bus./Commercial Sector</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kevin Jennings</td> <td>Community/Voluntary Sector</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Patrick Thornton</td> <td>SIPTU (Trade Union Rep)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Caroline Stanley</td> <td>Environment/Conservation Sector</td> </tr> </table>	Cllr. Michael J Crowe	Elected Member	Cllr. Alan Cheevers	Elected Member	Cllr. Donal Lyons	Elected Member	Cllr. Alan Curran	Elected Member	Cllr. Declan McDonnell	Elected Member	Cllr. Terry O’Flaherty	Elected Member	Deirdre Mac Loughlin	Bus./Commercial Sector	Kevin Jennings	Community/Voluntary Sector	Patrick Thornton	SIPTU (Trade Union Rep)	Caroline Stanley	Environment/Conservation Sector
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Kevin Jennings	Community/Voluntary Sector																				
Patrick Thornton	SIPTU (Trade Union Rep)																				
Caroline Stanley	Environment/Conservation Sector																				
No. Meetings	<p>4</p> <p>21 January, 21 May, 17 September, 3 October, 26 November, 2025.</p>																				
Themes / Policy Issues Addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic Calming Policy • Green Space Strategy • Community Salt Bins • Water Action Plan • Biodiversity Action Plan • Parking Byelaws 2025 • Invasives Species Report • Road Safety Plan • Taking in Charge Report • Winter Service Plan 2025/2026 • Silverstrand Presentation (Watersports) • Litter Management Plan 2025-2028 																				
Policies Adopted	<p>Green Space Strategy 2026 -2036</p> <p>Invasive Species Strategy 2025 - 2030</p> <p>Parking ByeLaws 2025</p>																				

Project Development SPC		
Members	Cllr. Mike Cubbard	Elected Member
	Cllr. Eddie Hoare	Elected Member
	Cllr. Shane Forde	Elected Member
	Cllr. Eibhlin Seoighthe	Elected Member
	Cllr. Josie Forde	Elected Member
	Cllr. Peter Keane	Elected Member
	Seamus Hayes	Business/Commercial
	Dominick Whelan	Community/Voluntary
	Ethan Roche	Development/Construction
	Brendan Mulligan	Environment/Conservation
No. Meetings	4	18 February, 20 May, 23 September, 25 November, 2025
Themes / Policy Issues Addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Derelict Site Draft Policy • GCC Corporate Plan 2024-2029, Annual Work Programme for PDD SPC • Presentation by GLUAS Team on Galway Light Rail Feasibility, • Parks Masterplans, GCC Active Travel Projects, LCAP 2024, Coirib Go Cósta City Flood Relief Scheme, Ardaun, Galway Airport, NTA Projects. 	
Policies Adopted		

Tourism Strategic Policy Committee

Members	Cllr. Níall McNelis	Elected Member (Chair)
	Cllr. Peter Keane	Elected Member
	Cllr. Helen Ogbu	Elected Member
	Cllr. Mike Cubbard	Elected Member
	Cllr. Alan Cheevers	Elected Member
	Cllr. John McDonagh	Elected Member
	Cáit Noone	Business / Commercial
	Megs Morley	Community / Voluntary/ Culture
	Paul Carey	Development / Construction
	Vusi Thabethe	Social Inclusion
No. Meetings	4	12 March, 14 May, 17 September, 11 December 2025.
Themes / Policy Issues Addressed	<p>Update on St Patricks Festival, Gallimh Ah - Boo Festival, Africa Day Creative Ireland Programme.</p> <p>International Relations/Twinning</p> <p>Review of Destination Experience Development Plan (DEDP) with Fáilte Ireland.</p> <p>Discussion on Notice of Motions for the establishment of office of Youth Mayor.</p> <p>Presentation on Reimagining Leisureland, Local Community Safety Partnership.</p> <p>Update on Cultural Buildings, Arts Programme, Local Sports Plan 2026 – 2031, Review of Galway City Council Sports grants funding Participatory Budgeting Review</p>	
Policies Adopted	Age Friendly Strategy 2025 – 2030	

Social Development Directorate

Housing Services and Integration

Social Housing Assessments and Allocations

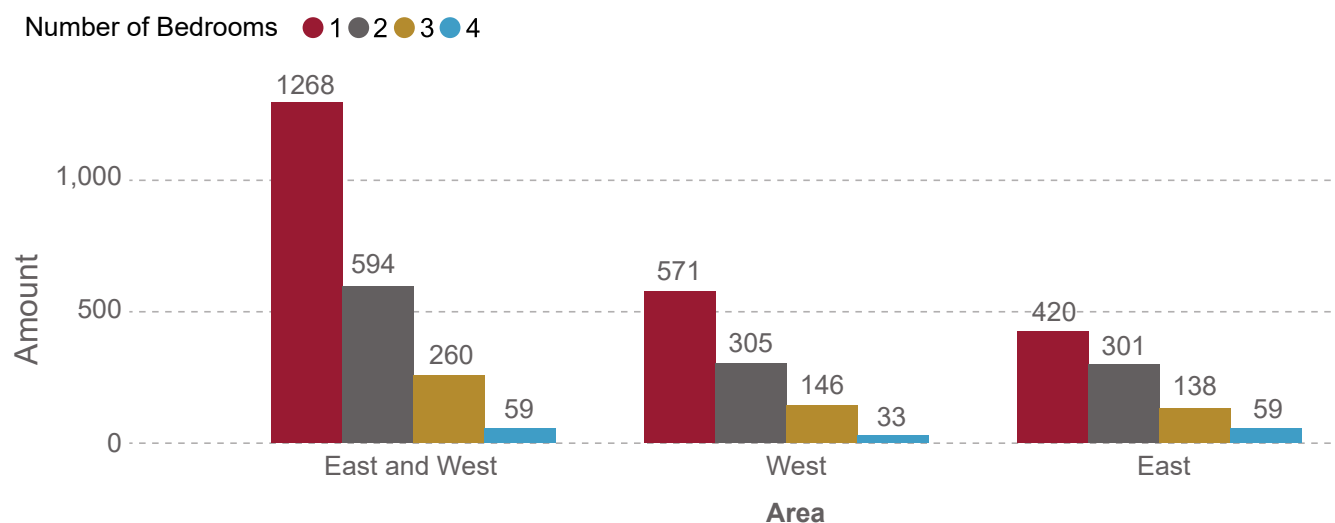
825 applications for social housing support were received in 2025. During the year, 551 applications were approved and added to the Galway City Council Social Housing Waiting List.

The Summary of Social Housing Needs Assessment (SSHA), submitted to the Department of Housing in November 2025, recorded a total of 4,095 households on Galway City Council's social housing waiting list. This figure includes transfer applicants and households currently supported through Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS) or Long-Term Leasing (LTL) tenancies.

When these categories are excluded, 2,106 households are assessed as qualified for social housing and not in receipt of any social housing support. The overall number of individuals on the waiting list is 8,109, and there have been 620 new applications approved since the previous SSHA. 189 applications were closed as part of the SSHA process.

The Social Housing Waiting List by area of choice and by number of bedrooms at 10/12/2025 is as follows:

Housing Waiting List broken down by Area of Choice and No. of Bedrooms.



356 social housing allocations were made to applicants on the housing waiting list in 2025, an increase of 22% on 2024. Of these, 232 were local authority tenancies and 124 were approved housing body tenancies. 131 properties were advertised through the Choice Based Letting system, with a total of 17,693 expressions of interest received. 58 offers of accommodation were refused during the year.

Housing Maintenance

Galway City Council's housing stock as of 31st December 2025 was 2877 units. This includes halting site bays, unsold affordable units, public private partnership units, modular hub units and community facilities.

Planned Maintenance and Upgrade works

As part of the Planned maintenance programmes, currently over 400 homes received planned works, that include, external window & door replacement, damp remediation, replacement of heating systems, minor roof repairs, electrical works, etc.

Programme	Total Homes Upgraded 2025
Windows & Doors	99
Damp / Condensation remediation	21
Heating Systems Upgrade	Gas- 87 Oil- 9
Heating System Servicing	402
Minor Roof & Gutter Repairs	316

Planned Maintenance

Condition surveys were completed across traveller specific units in 2025. Detailed reports and estimated costings for works with funding review underway.

Electrical Periodic Inspections Reports (PIR) continue to be completed.

PIR completed in 2025 = 40 units across four sites

Waste Management / Halting site clean-up:

Site	Works	Cost
Cúl Trá	Removal of old Tyres and Furniture	€3350
Tuam Road	Remedial	€3985
Tuam Road	Service Road	€4350
Carrowbrowne Transient	Service Road: removal of waste and clean-up	€24300
Carrowbrowne Transient	Playground/central area	€650
	Total:	€36,635

Radon Remediation Works

Radon Testing

254 properties have had testing carried out within 2025 review of results on going.

Identification of works based of these works will be completed in 2026.

Sump Servicing

Fan replacement carried out on 20 properties and retest monitors placed in these properties.

Energy Retrofitting & Refurbishment works of tenanted & void properties

The Energy Efficiency Programme (EERP) within 2025 received funding approval of €1,530,000 to retrofit 45 properties to a B2/Cost Optimal standard as determined by the Department of Housing.

Within 2025 GCC upgraded a total of 54 properties to B2 or greater through EERP works.

Change of tenancy / voids refurbishment

In 2025 73 properties were surrendered to GCC. 75 properties received high standard pre-tenancy works and returned for re-letting.

Minimum Standard Inspections of privately rented properties.

Total number of Minimum Standard Inspections carried out to privately rented properties in 2025	
Properties inspected	1412
Properties passed	227
Improvement letters issued	1150
Improvement notices issued	35

Housing Adaptation Grants

The capital allocation to Galway City Council from The DHLGH for the payment of the Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability scheme for private homes in 2025 was €1,920,572.

Private Housing Grant Type	Total 2025	Total payments 2025
Housing Adaptation Grant (HAG) Private	93	€974,964
Housing Aid for Older Persons (HOP)	157	€921,380
Mobility Aids Grant (MAG)	7	€23,500.00
Total	257	€1,919,844

Adaptations to local authority dwellings

LA Housing Grant Type	Total 2025	Total Payments 2025
Housing Adaptation Grant (HAG) LA	45	€562,211.19

Homeless Services

Galway City Council’s Housing Department continued to work closely with statutory and voluntary stakeholders in the provision of homeless services throughout 2025. In addition, Galway City Council continued its role as the lead authority for implementation of the Western Regional Homeless Action Plan.

Galway City Council supported the implementation of homeless accommodation programmes, including:

- **Housing First:** The aim of Housing First is to support single homeless people who are deemed long term homeless, often with complex mental health needs. 57 Housing First tenancies have been created by Galway City Council.
- **Cold Weather Response (CWR):** The CWR for rough sleepers runs annually from November to March. The service is operated by COPE Galway in a property leased by Galway City Council on the east side of the city. Street outreach and Day Centre Services continued to operate throughout the year to rough sleepers. The Day Centre on Seamus Quirke Road is currently undergoing refurbishment, with the service temporarily being provided at the modular hub in Westside.
- **Community Based and Transitional Housing:** A number of properties are used by homeless services as an alternative to emergency homeless accommodation, supporting households to transition from homelessness to stable accommodation.
- **Housing Led Family Support Scheme (Galway Pilot):** Four families are participating in this pilot programme for families with relatively complex needs. Support is provided by COPE Galway, with additional support provided by TUSLA, HSE, and Galway Traveller Movement, dependent on the needs of the families.

Despite ongoing pressure on homeless services in Galway City - and an increase in the number of individuals presenting to the Council for homeless assessment - the number of people availing of emergency homeless accommodation decreased in 2025. This reduction reflects the combined efforts of Galway City Council and service providers both to prevent homelessness and to support people in successfully exiting homeless services.

At year end, there were 178 adults availing of homeless emergency accommodation in Galway City, representing a reduction of 17% on last year's figures. The figure comprised 94 individual adults, 84 adults within families, 57 families and 100 children.

Prevention of homelessness and a focus on exits from homeless services were priorities for Galway City Council in 2025.

- 95 households in homeless services were allocated a social house in 2025.
- The Tenancy Sustainment Officer worked closely with households at risk of homelessness. At year end, there were 162 valid Notices of Termination on hand and being dealt with by the Tenancy Sustainment Office.
- HAP Homeless Place Finder. 39 HAP tenancies were created in 2025.

Social Work Support

In 2025, the Social Work Unit referral rates continued to increase, with 288 referrals received.

Positive outcomes delivered by the team in 2025 included:

- Creativity Fund for individuals in residential emergency homeless accommodation, in conjunction with Galway City Council's Arts Office
- Living my Life project, in collaboration with Ability West, Brothers of Charity and Proactive Carers and Guardians. By the end of 2025 Galway City Council's collaboration with the Living My Life Project and support for participants has ensured that 8 Living My Life Project Participants are now living independently in their own homes in tenancies and communities of their choosing.
- Housing Led for Families Pilot Project in collaboration with Cope Galway and the DHLGH has delivered two successful and supported tenancies for vulnerable families with a chronic history of homelessness.
- Social Work in collaboration with the Homeless Team and Service Providers Galway Simon Community and Cope Galway supported the progression of 13 Housing First Tenancies, more than double our target of 6 for 2025.

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Scheme

A total of 186 HAP tenancies were established in 2025, including the transfer of 8 households on long term rent supplement to HAP. Overall, 3793 households have been accommodated under HAP since its inception in Galway City, with 1722 active HAP tenancies in place at the end of 2025. A total of 138 Notices of Termination in HAP were served by landlords during 2025.

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

The number of properties in the private rented sector under the Rental Accommodation Scheme was 142 at the end of 2025. A further 337 tenancies were supported under RAS in the voluntary housing sector, representing an increase of 71 on quarter 4 last year. A total of 117 new AHB RAS tenancies were created during the year. The on-going exit of landlords from RAS in the private rented sector continued apace in 2025 with 18 properties in total leaving the RAS Scheme primarily due to landlords selling.

Housing Rents

A new differential rent scheme became effective on October 1st 2025, with rent for all new tenancies after that date calculated using the new scheme. Under the new scheme, weekly rent is calculated as 20% of assessable household income. This applies to social housing tenancies provided by Galway City Council, tenancies provided by Approved Housing Bodies and HAP tenancies. During 2026, a full review of all Galway City Council tenancies will be carried out and all rent accounts will be moved across to the new scheme.

Estate Management and Tenancy Support

Galway City Council is responsible for the management of over 2600 tenancies located across 200+ estates in the city, with the number of tenancies and new estates continually increasing. Proper management of these estates is a key aim of the Social Development Directorate and there is a Housing Estate Liaison Officer (HELO) Team in place to provide on-the-ground support to tenants. A Traveller Accommodation Officer, a Traveller Liaison Officer and a Resettlement 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 Section 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.

Tenant Incremental Purchase Scheme

14 applications were received under the Tenant Incremental Purchase Scheme in 2025. 9 properties were sold by Galway City Council in 2025, with a total market value of €2,515,000. Galway City Council received €1,168,500 from the sale of these properties.

Local Authority Home Loan

Galway City Council received approval for new lending of up to €5,470,000 in 2025. 29 applications were received in 2025 and 2 loan offers issued.

In total, 430 applications have been received by Galway City Council under the Local Authority Loan Schemes since initiation. 181 loan applications have been approved to a total value of €33,225,677. 36 of these relate to the Tenant Purchase Scheme, where tenants were approved funding to buy the property, they were renting from Galway City Council. 85 approved loans have been drawn down by the applicants, to a total value of €13,650,581 and 3 loan offers remain valid and may be drawn down.

Traveller Accommodation

The Annual Estimated Count of Traveller Families and their accommodation position in 2025 detailed an estimated figure of 633 Traveller families in Galway City on the night of the count, an increase of 36 on last year.

The Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) was adopted by Galway City Council in December 2024 and covers the time period from 2025 to 2029. The plan has projected a need for 259 units of accommodation for Traveller families in the city during the lifetime of the plan, across a mix of tenure types (halting sites, group housing schemes and standard social housing).

In 2025, 5 new Group Housing Units (Bóithrín na Saoirse, Circular Road) were delivered and 3 properties were purchased using Traveller Accommodation Unit funding. 12 allocations to standard social housing were progressed to households who had identified as Traveller on their social housing application form. 5 families received a loan through the Caravan Loan Scheme to allow for the purchase of a new caravan.

The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) met four times in 2025. There are also two LTACC sub-groups established – an estate management sub-group and an operational sub-group.

In 2025, Galway City Council secured funding through the Dormant Accounts Fund to carry out research on Tenancy Participation in Traveller Specific Accommodation. Bóithrín na Saoirse was chosen as the pilot site for the project and research was carried out by the University of Galway. The resulting report will be published in 2026 and the findings will inform future projects and tenancy participation work relating to Traveller accommodation.

Local Authority Integration Team

In 2025, the Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) delivered support clinics across 20 locations in Galway City, offering tailored assistance to 1,642 International Protection Applicants (IPAs) and 507 Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BTPs). Clinics were held on-site once a fortnight, with online clinics available for clients unable to attend in person.

Collaboration was central to LAIT's work throughout 2025. Key partnerships and initiatives included:

- » SALAAM anti-racism exhibition, a collaboration between the LAIT team and the Sustainable Alliances Against Anti-Muslim Hatred (SALAAM) project, led by the University of Limerick and funded by the European Commission, was displayed at a number of locations throughout the city, including City Hall, University Hospital Galway and ATU.
- » 'Pathways to belonging' training, in partnership with Pernet, for International Protection Applicants.
- » Co-facilitation of meetings with the Community Safety Partnership for An Garda Síochána and the IPAS Centre managers in Galway City to discuss issues pertaining to safety of residents and staff in the centres.
- » Co-hosting a bike safety workshop with the Community Safety Partnership and An Garda Síochána at the Ballybrit IPAS centre.
- » Regional Integration Support Workers meeting in December 2025.

LAIT continued its commitment to building sectoral capacity through the Open Training Initiative, a comprehensive training programme designed for partner agencies and organisations working with asylum seekers.

A total of 332 participants attended training sessions in 2025. Training topics included How to Work with Interpreters, Know Sex Trafficking, Family Reunification, the Asylum Process and Support Services for Migrants, Housing Rights and Entitlements, Working with Trauma Survivors in the Asylum Context, Psychological First Aid (Children and Adults), Anti Human Trafficking, FGM training, Cultural Competency Training, Gender Based Violence in the

Asylum Context, Suicide Awareness Training and Anti Racism Training. Training was delivered by a range of providers, including the Irish Refugee Council, Ruhama, Doras, Jane Mulcahy PhD, Red Cross, Immigrant Council of Ireland, Safetalk, INAR and AKidwa.

The Community Integration Forum was active in 2025. Forum members met to discuss emerging needs of client groups, highlight blockages or issues facing the client group and to share information and upcoming events of interest to each agency.

The Offer A Home scheme, linked to the Ukrainian response, is currently supporting 35 pledged properties across the Galway City area with 114 registered tenants.

Building Control

The Building Control function involves ensuring compliance with Building Control Regulations, Building Regulations, Construction Production Regulations and Energy Performance in new and existing Buildings. The review and examination include Fire Safety Certificate Applications, Commencement Notices, Disability Access Certificate applications and Certificate of Compliance on Completion applications issued under the Building Control Management System.

Total numbers of notices, certificates, and inspections for 2025 are summarised in the table below:

Number of valid Commencement Notices	152
Number of valid Fire Safety Certificate applications	97
Number of valid Disability Access Certificates	48
Number of Valid Certificate of Compliance on Completion applications	97
Number of Building Control inspections	44

Facilities

The Facilities section carries out all required maintenance, upgrading and development works at City Hall, to the outdoor staff depot at Sandy Road as well as the office accommodation in Fairgreen, 401 Eyre Square and the Grammar School. The section also provides assistance to other facilities in the City such as the Museum and Council-owned commercial units. The Facilities section is responsible for the maintenance of all systems in Galway City Council Office buildings and the Sandy Road Depot. These systems include intruder alarms, fire alarms, heating, ventilation, air conditioning units, canteen equipment, emergency lighting, task lighting, office space provision, and all mechanical and electrical installations.

Placemaking and Architectural Conservation and Heritage

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 was set up in October 2023 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.

Public Realm

Funding of €8.64m was awarded under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF), and supported by match funding from the National Transport Authority to advance the following projects:

- **Cross Street Rejuvenation** - Cross Street, Middle Street, Buttermilk Lane and Buttermilk Walk. In 2025 consultants completed the preparation of the Preliminary Business Case and a draft of the Preliminary Design for the project.
- **Lombard (Market) Street Rejuvenation** – Lombard/Market Street, Churchyard Street, Church Lane. In Q4 2025 a tender for professional services was published to eTenders to commence the design of the project.

Transport Connectivity

The Urbanism Team also published a professional services tender for the Ardaun Access Phase 2 project, which secured €10.95m under the URDF and supported by Development Contributions.

Architectural Conservation and Heritage

The Architectural Conservation Section was set up in April 2024, with its key functions relating to the management, protection, and promotion of Galway City's Built Heritage. The section's core activities relate to the statutory protection afforded Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas through planning, enforcement and supports to the public.

Key items undertaken in 2025 included

- Hosting Discovering Buildings Archaeology (in partnership with the NBHS, NMS and IWTN); commissioning of the Ballindooley Vernacular Heritage Survey;
- Hosting the 2nd Galway City Architectural Conservation Gathering - Working back Moving Forward – Adaptive Reuse event (in partnership with the NBHS);
- Administration of the Built Heritage Investment Scheme grants,
- Application and completion of the Built Heritage Stocktake;
- Supporting the roll out of the 2026 Shopfront Enhancement Scheme;
- Undertaking of traditional building skills training and engagement at Fahy's Farm;
- Supporting the Thrive Integrated Urban Strategy for the West Area, including coordinating the preparation of a Conservation Management Plan for No.47 Dominick Street Lower (Galway Arts Centre);
- Application and development of Wonder Wander Walking Trails for Eyre Square and City Core Architectural Conservation Areas;
- Participation in Architecture at the Edge festival Tithe ón Seansaol / Lost Houses exhibition; hosting of free Conservation Clinics for owners / occupiers of building in Architectural Conservation Areas;
- Various other talks and online promotion.

In 2025, the Heritage Office actively promoted Galway city's heritage through advice, guidance, and public engagement. Supported by the Heritage Council, it published Galway's Heritage in Stone, Catalogue no. 11 - Heraldic Panels. The 15th Annual Galway City Heritage Conference was held – New Discoveries and Research in Irish Rivers, Lakes and Seas and was well received.

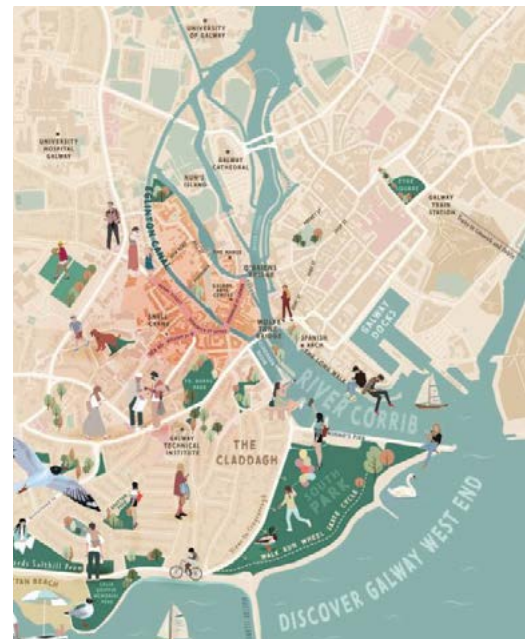
The Heritage Plan 2025-2030 was adopted in March 2025. Heritage Week in August featured guided tours and workshops, enhancing public engagement. Ongoing partnerships were maintained through participation in the Heritage Officer Network and Irish Walled Town Network meetings.

Forward Planning

The Forward Planning section deals with the preparation of the planning policy documents, strategies and statutory/non-statutory land use plans for Galway city. These seek to deliver proper planning and sustainable development of the city, promote and facilitate the development of sustainable communities and enterprise, and ensure the protection of the natural and built heritage and amenity of the area, in a manner consistent with the vision and strategic outcomes underpinning the Galway City Development Plan 2023 – 2029.

Thrive

An Integrated Urban Strategy for west area of Galway City Centre was formally adopted at the Plenary Meeting of Galway City Council held on Monday 8 December 2025. The strategy aims to regenerate historic buildings and urban spaces through a visioned, communitydriven process. Supported by THRIVE funding, it promotes sustainable, inclusive and culturally rich placemaking aligned with New European Bauhaus principles. The strategy identifies a number of key projects and opportunities for renewal, addresses vacancy and dereliction and identifies practical interventions to enhance streets, public spaces, cultural assets and accessibility, ensuring the West Area becomes a vibrant, attractive urban quarter.



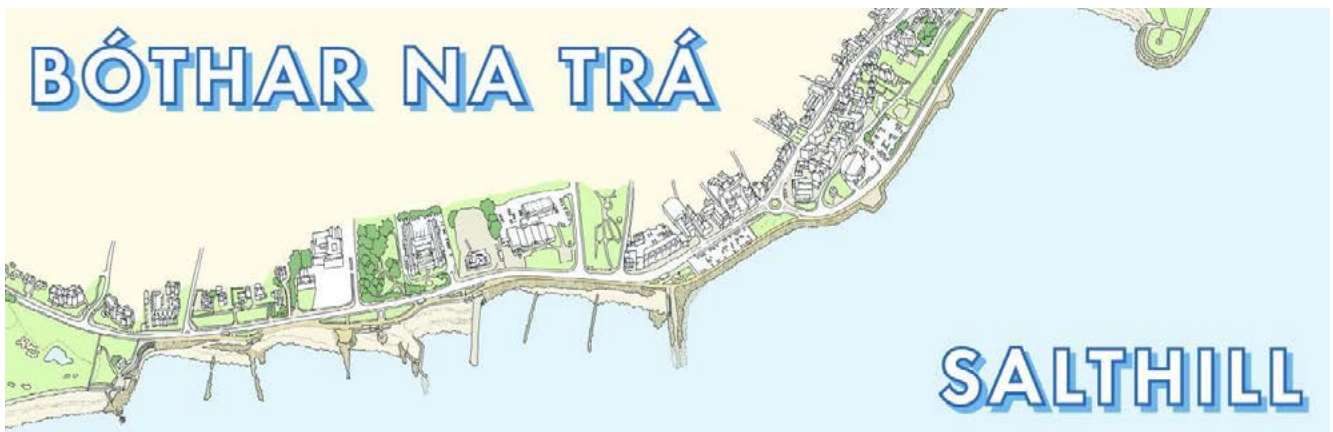
Graphic illustration of the West Area of Galway City



View of the Thrive study area from the Canal

The Salthill Village and Seafront Framework Plan

The Salthill Village and Seafront Framework Plan is being progressed to deliver a longterm vision for Salthill in line with Galway City Development Plan 2023–2029 Policy 10.3. During 2024–2025 the project has focused on the “Listening and Learning” and early “Visioning” stages, with a programme of workshops, walkabouts and design sessions involving internal departments, local stakeholders and the wider public, structured around three themes: COAST (including Blackrock, tidal pool concepts and links to Coirib go Cósta and Toft Park), PROM (Beach Street, Promenade East and the former Tourist Office site) and VILLAGE (Salthill Park and Leisureland).



Initial reports and artist’s impressions have helped communicate options for climateresilient public realm, improved accessibility, and enhanced recreation, and have generally been well received as an ambitious but realistic basis for phased change.

The next phase will refine these ideas into a sequenced project portfolio, distinguishing between earlywin and pilot interventions, mediumterm schemes requiring policy or designation changes and longerterm transformative proposals for the promenade, village core, and coastal parklands. In addition, a draft Framework Plan will be prepared for formal public consultation.

Joint Retail Strategy for Galway City and County Metropolitan Area

In 2025, Galway City Council and Galway County Council commenced the preparation of a Joint Retail Strategy (JRS) for the Galway City and County Metropolitan Area. The strategy was subsequently adopted by both Councils in early 2026. The JRS provides a comprehensive analysis of all aspects of retail activity within the Metropolitan Area and is informed by extensive engagement with the public and key retail stakeholders, including local businesses.

The JRS sets out a shared vision to create a dynamic, sustainable and resilient retail environment for the Galway Metropolitan Area, strengthening Galway City Centre as the primary retail destination. It aims to support compact growth, revitalise key centres, reduce vacancy and enable a diverse mix of retail, cultural, community, and local enterprise uses to enhance vitality and serve a growing population.

Variations to the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029

Two proposed variations to the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029 commenced in 2025. The Elected Members voted by resolution to make Variation No. 1 at the Plenary meeting held on 9 February 2026. This variation seek the re-zoning of lands in Roscam, from Residential (R2) to Agricultural (A), following submissions made by the landowners in response to the publication of the RZLT map in January 2025. Variation no. 2 proposes to apply a land use zoning objective to lands across the City previously 'unzoned' by Ministerial Direction.

Planning Development Management

Development Management

Development Management is the term used to describe the broad range of processes by which development is approved and managed by the planning authority.

Throughout 2025 the Planning Development Management (DM) Section, continued a customer focused approach to the delivery of its services which includes processing and validating planning applications, providing pre-planning advice, conducting site inspections, ensuring compliance with permissions granted and enforcing planning regulations.

2025 was another busy year for the Development Management Section

Pre-planning applications

Section 247 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) provides for pre-planning consultations for applicants seeking to identify issues relevant to a future planning application. In 2025 a total of 173 Pre-planning meeting requests were made to Galway City Council.

Planning Applications

454 Planning applications were received and 324 decisions issued to applicants.

Of the decisions issued, 277 were decisions to grant, 75 were requests for further information and 47 were decisions to refuse.

43 decisions were appealed to An Coimisiún Pleanála of which 33 were upheld.

RED III Developments

The Renewable Energy Directive (RED III) has been transposed into Irish legislation by way of European Union (Planning and Development) (Renewable Energy) Regulations 2025 (SI 274 of 2025). The majority of the provisions under RED III came into effect on 7 August 2025, with the exception of the EIA opinion provisions which will come into force on 1 May 2026.

Galway City Council processed one planning application under this legislation 2025.

This application was for the development of an energy centre building, heat network pipeline, and roof mounted solar PV. This represents the first large scale district heating system for the city.

Large Scale Residential Developments (LRDs)

LRD applications relate to developments of 100 or more houses or 200 or more bed spaces where it relates to student accommodation. An LRD must go through 3 stages of the planning process: a section 247 pre-planning consultation, an application for an LRD meeting and an opinion report, and a full planning application under 34 of the Act. These consultations require the Development Management section to extensively consult with other internal sections of the city council such as environment, drainage, infrastructure, parks, planning policy, roads etc.

During 2025, 2 LRD meetings were held, totalling a potential of 733 residential units, student bedspaces and other facilities such as 2 creches and community amenities.

4 planning applications for LRD's were received. Two application was granted for a total of 168 residential units and 84 student bed spaces. Both decisions were upheld on appeal to An Coimisiún Pleanála

Two applications are pending a response to a request for further information.

Part 8 and Part X

Certain development carried out by a local authority must go through Part 8 planning process. The Development Management section supports this process through preparation of a planning reports for consideration by the Elected Members. During 2025, the Development Management section provided 6 planning reports on proposed development around the city.

Where a local authority development requires an Environmental Impact Assessment, the application is required to be made directly to An Coimisiun Pleanála. The Planning Department facilitated 2 Part X Developments during 2025 which included a residential development on the Dyke Road for 219 units.

Section 5 Applications

Under section 5 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, if a question arises as to whether a development is or is not exempted development, a person can apply to the planning authority for a declaration on that question. 28 Applications for Declarations of Exempted Development under Section 5 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 were processed in 2025.

Section 254 Street Furniture and Scaffolding Licences

Under Section 254 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, Local Authorities are tasked with the issuing of licences for the placement of appliances, cables, signs, and/or other items on public road or footpath.

Cafés/restaurants/pubs who wish to place outdoor furniture such as tables and chairs on the public road or footpath must apply for a licence under section 254 of the planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. Galway City Council processed 48 Tables and Chairs applications in 2025.

Licences are also required under this section for the erection of hoarding or scaffolding on the public road or footpath. Galway City Council processed 51 Scaffolding/Hoarding Licences were issued in 2025.

Event Licences

The Planning Development Management section issued 4 Outdoor Event Licences during 2025. These included: St Patrick's day 2025, GIAF Street Spectacle 2025, Macnas 2025 and Christmas market 2025.

Planning Compliance

Planning permissions usually have conditions attached to them that must be adhered to. Some conditions require approval prior to commencement of development from the planning authority. The developer is required to make a submission for a written agreement and this is assessed by the relevant section. These conditions include Part V agreements, construction, demolition and waste management plans; Section 47 Agreements; Landscaping and public realm compliance among others.

A total of 478 compliance submissions were received during 2025.

Bonds

The provision of financial securities is required by Galway City Council for certain developments, to provide safeguards in the event of a default by the developer, or of the failure or refusal of the developer to complete the development in accordance with the planning permission (or any extension thereof). The provision of surety, i.e. a bond, is to ensure the satisfactory completion of essential infrastructure of a shared or public nature, especially as regards infrastructure that may be taken in charge by the local authority and maintained into the future by that authority.

4 Insurance Bonds and 3 cash deposit agreements were processed in 2025

Development Contribution Scheme

Section 48(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, enables a planning authority, when granting a permission under Section 34 of the Act, to include conditions requiring the payment of a contribution in respect of public infrastructure and facilities benefiting development in the area of Galway City Council.

Arising from the Housing for All Action Plan a Temporary Development Contribution Waiver was introduced to incentivise the activation of increased housing supply, and extended into 2025, for developments which would be fully completed no later than 31st December 2026.

Under the waiver scheme, instead of developers/project promoters having to pay the relevant development contributions, the local authority could recoup the contribution owing from the Department.

Galway City Council collected €10,048,492 in development contribution levies in 2025, of which €8,820,462.30 was recouped through the Temporary Development Contribution Waiver Scheme though €6,195,413 relates to claims submitted in 2024.

Planning Enforcement

Planning enforcement is the process by which local authorities ensure developments comply with planning permissions, conditions, and laws, taking action against unauthorized development or breaches. It involves investigating complaints, issuing warning letters or formal enforcement notices, and potentially prosecuting offenders. In this regard Planning authorities operate under Part VIII of the Planning and Development Act 2000. The carrying out of unauthorised development is an offence.

2025 saw a 39% increase on the previous year in the number of complaints received with 392 complaints investigated. The table provides a breakdown of activity carried out during the year.

Complaints received	398
Warning letters Issued	290
Enforcement Notices Issued	83
Legal Proceedings Initiated	4
Cases Withdrawn / Closed	96

Architects

The Architects Department was established in 2025 to bring together architectural expertise across Galway City Council and apply its impact citywide. As a cross-Directorate unit, it supports all five Directorates, working closely with Housing Capital, Placemaking and Planning, and Project Management and Capital Delivery. The department provides services from project planning and brief writing to procurement and architect-led design, operating as a shared resource. It comprises the Housing Capital Architects Team, Community Architects Team and Quantity Surveying Team.

Several new members of staff were added to the Architects Department in 2025 including a Senior Executive Architect, Executive Architect, Assistant Architect and Senior Staff Officer.

Capital Architects Team

Merchants 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/gallery space, 12 no. Social Housing units are proposed, to be accessed by stairs and a lift. A resubmission of the Stage 2 funding was requested given the effect of the planning delay and inflation over that period. That was submitted in March 2025 and caused a significant delay. The revised Stage 2 Social Housing funding application was granted in November 2025. Work is progressing on the detail design with a view to tendering for a main contractor in 2026.

Clybaun Road Additional Site:

A house and curtilage adjacent to the Clybaun Road site was purchased in 2025. It is proposed this will seek planning as a separate project but be subsumed into the construction of Clybaun Road site as a phase 2. Early feasibilities indicate 13 no. additional Affordable Housing units will be achieved. Request for quotes for Design Team members has been sought to progress detailed design.

Munster Avenue Social Development:

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 no. new 1 bed residential units forming a strong urban form. The Project successfully gained planning in Q3 2025. The project has progressed to tender documentation and working and is awaiting Stage 3 Social Housing funding approval. The Aim is for a contractor to be appointed in late Q2 2026.

Cappagh Road Social and Affordable Development:

The Cappagh development is a proposed residential scheme of 38 no. units consisting of 16 no. Social Housing units and 22 no. Affordable Housing units. This scheme also includes 2 no. universally designed own door units and an innovative landscape design nature-based surface water attenuation solution. The Stage 2 Social Housing funding has been approved by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on 9 September 2025. A portion of adjacent land was purchased that will ensure the proposed drainage will be as economical as possible given the high rock level in the area. Part VIII shall be submitted in Q1 2026.

Terryland Waterworks Residential development:

The Terryland development accessed off Dyke Road and north of the existing waterworks is a proposal of 102 no. housing units consisting of 77 no. Affordable units and 25 no. Social units and a creche. The design has been developed, and a planning pack is nearing completion. The Stage 2 Social Housing funding application has been submitted and depending on its approval it is aimed to submit for Planning in late Q2 2026.

Keeraun Social and Traveller Accommodation Development:

The Keeraun residential development was initially refused by An Bord Pleanala on the 17th of January 2023. This scheme of 71 residential units consisted of 63 Social Housing units and 8 no. Traveller Accommodation units. In 2025, efforts have continued to deal with the reasons for refusal on these zoned residential lands. This has included positive discussions with adjoining landowners on a road widening design and the NTA on a bus terminus which would be aligned with the proposed Bus Connects scheme. Discussions are ongoing with NRPO and the Galway N6 City Ring-road Design Office.



Figure 1 - Cappagh Road



Figure 2 - Merchants Road Lower

Community Architects Team

Infill Strategy Project:

In 2025, the Architects Department made substantial progress on the Infill Strategy to identify development opportunity sites to build a strong long-term pipeline of residential sites.

The Architects Department also collaborated with our European partners from Norway, Bulgaria, Belgium, Italy and Lithuania with project representatives participating in workshops hosted by European partners throughout the year through an European Funded NEBA project.

In October, the Architects Department hosted a two-day NEBA event for a forty-person EU delegation. The two-day programme included site visits, presentations, and a collaborative workshop.

Galway Charter:

The Architects Department hosted the third annual Galway Charter Update during the Architecture at the Edge festival (AATE), featuring a panel discussion on the future of Galway City, with the Chief Executive, the Mayor, the State Architect, and other expert speakers in attendance.

Following the October events, the OPW invited the Architects Department to exhibit at the European Conference on Architectural Policy (ECAP) during Ireland's EU Presidency in November 2026. To this end, concept design work is underway and combines the NEBA infill strategy with physical models of exemplar housing projects. Building on the ECAP exhibition work.

The Architects Department strengthened engagement with local stakeholders built with the Galway Charter/NEBA stakeholder meeting in October, which included representatives from the RIAI, NUIG, ATU, Galway Chamber, Galway Culture Company, and the OPW.



Figure 3 - Galway Charter Event - Sub Urban as part of AATE Festival 7 Oct 2025



Figure 4 - NEBA European Partner delegation at Partner Gathering event 27-28 Oct 2025

Quantity Surveying Team

- Reviewed and finalised Part V agreements for schemes including Timecore Ltd. (Clybaun Road), Maolchnoc (Ballymoneen), St Brendan's Avenue (Woodquay), Cul Gharrai (Rahoon), Crown Square, Cuan An Rois (Rosshill), Tobair Sheamais (Letteragh Road) and Garraí na Sailí.
- Affordable Housing Fund applications completed and grants awarded: Merlin Woods and Clybaun Road.
- Funding applications completed and awarded: Ballyburke, Terryland, Ballinfoile Infill, Clybaun Road.
- External Design Team document reviews completed for Merchants Road, Munster Avenue, Terryland and Circular Road.
- Tenders prepared for Design Team Condition Surveys and Framework for Design Team Services for D and B Contracts.
- Tender reviews completed, informing awards for Ballyburke Design Team and Circular Road Main Contract.
- Supported delivery of Crown Square Local Authority offices, including fitout tender advice, cost plan reviews and LEED scoring review.
- Quantity Surveying services contributed to judging panel for Community Climate Action Fund.

Economic Development

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 2025, the City Council continued to deliver initiatives in the city working through the Night Time Stakeholder Advisory Forum. 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. Successful initiatives included Cafe Lates, Youth Lates, Cruinniu Late, Culture Night Late, Improvements to Fr Burke Park as an event space, Night Out Access In' disability awareness initiative, Safe and Sound Media campaign, participation in the Interreg funded project NITIES and URBACT project and the New Years Eve Family Events. Both Galway City and Salthill retained their Purple Flag designation for a high-quality, well-managed night-time experience.



New Year's Eve Family Festive Féile

In 2025 Galway City Council further developed the New Year's Eve Family Festive Féile and expanded the inclusive and family-friendly celebrations first trialled in 2024. The event featured live music performances at St. Nicholas Collegiate Church, along with roaming entertainment on the pedestrian streets in the City. This created an engaging safe 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.



Galway Local Enterprise Office

The Galway Local Enterprise Office (LEO) a shared service of Galway City Council continued to act as the one stop shop for start up enterprise in the city offering a range of services and supports to help start or grow a business including mentoring and training to financial supports.

In 2025, 76 jobs were created in companies supported by the Galway LEO. Across all schemes, approvals covered 131 clients/projects with a combined approved funding of €1.188 million. A total of 76 training programmes were delivered, supporting 1,423 participants overall. In addition, 882 mentoring sessions delivered to local businesses.

In 2025, the Local Food and Craft Gift Fair marked its most ambitious edition to date, expanding from its traditional two-day format to a six-day showcase at the Black Box Theatre from 27 November to 2 December. Organised by LEO Galway, the fair attracted up to 15,000 shoppers and featured over 50–60 local designers, makers, and artisan food producers, reflecting unprecedented demand from exhibitors. Visitors enjoyed a broad range of high-quality, locally produced crafts, jewellery, skincare, art, and gourmet food, alongside outdoor food vendors and family-friendly entertainment.

Westside and Sandy Road Enterprise Centre

Galway City Council's Economic Development Unit continued to operate enterprise facilities at Sandy Road and Westside Enterprise Centres. The Unit worked with enterprises based there and advised them of the business supports available to them. In response to major positive developments across Galway's incubation and enterprise ecosystem—driven by sustained public investment Galway City Council commissioned the Galway City Enterprise Space Review to provide a modern, evidence-based assessment of the city's enterprise infrastructure. The review examined the type, scale, quality, and capacity of publicly supported incubation and enterprise spaces, including Platform94, PorterShed, the University of Galway Business Innovation Centre, ATU iHub, CREW, SCCUL Enterprises, the Westside and Sandy Road Enterprise Centres, and others.

Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC)

In 2025, Galway City Council played a key role in advancing the Atlantic Economic Corridor initiative, supporting key regional projects and finalising a revised strategy aimed at promoting balanced economic growth along Ireland's western seaboard. This work placed particular emphasis on Galway City's long-term sustainability, ensuring that future development aligns with both regional priorities and the city's ambition to grow as a resilient, innovative and economically vibrant urban centre.

Local Economic and Community Plan 2025

In 2025, Galway City Council continued implementing the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024–2029, the statutory six-year framework guiding economic, social, and community development in the city. The LECP sets out five high-level goals and 17

Sustainable Community and Economic Objectives, ensuring that local actions align with national and regional policy, including the Galway City Development Plan 2023–2029 and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020–2032.

In 2025, Galway City Council advanced its LECP High Level Goal 2 – An Innovative City by delivering a targeted grants programme to strengthen innovation, creativity, and sustainable economic development across the city. Through an open call for partnership proposals, three organisations were approved for funding, with a total of €32,940 awarded to projects that promote the social and circular economy, foster entrepreneurship and creative innovation, and develop Galway’s wider innovation ecosystem.

Supported initiatives included programmes to build capacity within social enterprises, deliver future-focused masterclasses for the creative sector, and provide AI-driven entrepreneurship and skills development opportunities for young people. Collectively, these projects reinforce Galway’s commitment to nurturing a dynamic, future-ready innovation landscape and ensuring the city remains a competitive and supportive environment for startups, SMEs, and creative talent.

Shopfront Enhancement Scheme 2025

In 2025, Galway City Council delivered the first year of its multi-annual Shopfront Enhancement Scheme, allocating €200,000 to support 51 businesses across the City Core, Lower Dominick Street, and Eyre Square Architectural Conservation Areas. The scheme attracted strong demand, with 59 applications received, reflecting over €609,000 in proposed works and supported a wide range of high-quality improvements, including facade restoration, bilingual and heritage-sensitive signage, accessibility upgrades, decluttering, and artistic collaborations with local creatives. The 2025 approvals demonstrate the scheme’s impact in revitalising Galway’s commercial areas while supporting independent retailers and hospitality businesses.





Freeneys before and after.

Shop Local Campaign 2025

Think, Spend and Support Local

In 2025, Galway City Council once again championed the “Think, Spend and Support Local” campaign to encourage residents and visitors to shop within their own community and back local businesses. The campaign focused on reminding people to consider local options first, spend locally, and actively recommend local enterprises to others. Funding was provided to business and community groups across the city, including Galway Westend, Galway Chamber, Salthill Village, the Latin Quarter, Woodquay, and Eyre Square/Shop Street to deliver a series of promotional initiatives. These ranged from video campaigns and Christmas markets to social media promotions and seasonal giveaways. A particular emphasis was placed on boosting the city’s night-time economy, with live music events, evening workshops, and cultural activities showcasing Galway’s vibrant community spirit, especially during the festive period.



Galway's Best Dressed Business

In 2025, Galway City Council, in partnership with Galway Chamber and Gaillimh le Gaeilge, proudly supported the annual 'Galway's Best Dressed Business' competition, celebrating the creativity and festive spirit of the city's business community. Local businesses across all sectors were invited to design imaginative Christmas window and shopfront displays, with many incorporating Irish-language elements to reflect and promote Galway's bilingual identity. The public played a central role through online voting, helping to highlight favourite displays and strengthen community engagement. Winners received promotional features, prizes, and public recognition for contributing to Galway's distinctive Christmas atmosphere.





Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2025

In 2025, Galway City Council was recognised nationally for its leadership and innovation, with four projects shortlisted in the prestigious Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards. The shortlisted initiatives included the Galway Climate Inspirations Festival, CREW Galway, Youth Lates, and Ireland's first city-centre School Street at Scoil Iognáid, reflecting the Council's broad and ambitious work across climate action, economic development, creative industries, night-time economy activation, and active travel.

With a record 259 submissions received from 26 local authorities, Galway's strong representation underscored the city's continued commitment to high-quality public service and community-focused innovation. Notably, Galway City Council went on to win the 'Festival of the Year' Award for the Galway Climate Inspirations Festival, recognising the city's creative, collaborative approach to engaging the community in positive climate action.

Tourism Development

The Galway City Destination Experience Development Plan was launched by Fáilte Ireland and Galway City Council in 2025. This plan charts the way forward for the further development of the Tourism sector in the city. Work has begun on implementing the key projects contained in the plan with the objective of creating greater revenue generation from Tourism in a sustainable manner.



Galway City Council facilitated the largest St Patrick's day parade in the city to date as part of the 2025 St Patrick's Festival with over 2,200 participants and crowds on the streets of over 40,000 people. Free music and entertainment focused towards families was organised at Eyre Square throughout the weekend.

The Water Sports Hub on Dyke Road received planning approval from an Bord Pleanála in 2025 and will now progress to construction.

A new festival was established in the City led by Galway City Council's Festivals and Events Office, Gaillimh Ah Boo!, as part of the Failte Ireland Home of Halloween programme which aims to position Ireland at the centre of Halloween celebrations worldwide. This new festival was highly successful and showcased Galway's strengths in Street Animation, Dance, Food and Music. The numbers visiting the city during the celebrations were higher than ever and plans and funding are in place to grow the festival in 2026 and 2027.

Efforts to make Galway City the Christmas destination in Ireland continued in 2025 with further investment in the Christmas Lights and illuminations and expanding Christmas experience in the city. The positive media coverage that the city is getting as a result is growing each year and this investment in lighting and activities will be further built on in 2026.

While Visitor numbers to Ireland decreased marginally by 3% in 2025, they remained largely stable in Galway City. Occupancy in hotel accommodation across Galway City increased by 2.1% to 77.2%. The ADR (Average Daily Rate – an indicator measuring the average price generated by each occupied room per day) increased by 4.7% to €165.11. A strong increase

Galway City Council

in Occupancy and Room Rate indicates a robust accommodation sector in 2025, this was supported in feedback from the accommodation industry.

The Galway Convention Bureau, which is supported by Galway City Council in conjunction with Failte Ireland, attracted 43 international events to Galway in 2025, contributing over €14 million to the local economy and creating 27,889 bed nights.

In addition, the Convention Bureau booked and confirmed 70 events for future events, with 13,916 international delegates expected that will generate over €21 million economic value.



International Relations Office

In 2025, Galway City Council established an international relations office and appointed its first international relations officer who is tasked with organising and maximising the international relations that the City is involved in through sister cities activities, twinning arrangements, interregional friendship agreements, overseas delegations and visits to Galway City by international delegations and ambassadors. Activities in 2025 included a delegation visit to Chicago and Milwaukee Irish Fest 2025, activities with Lorient in France to

recognise the 50th year since the twinning relationship was first established, visits to Galway City by numerous overseas delegations and ambassadors.

EU Projects

Galway City Council is a project partner in the projects below that secured EU funding in 2025. These projects will be implemented in 2026 and subsequent years. The Council also participated in a peer to peer learning exchange through the Interreg programme in November.

NITIES - Funded under the Interreg Europe Programme, this project will facilitate exchange of good practices between the project partners in the area of developing the night time economy.

URBACT – Funded under the URBACT IV Programme 2021 – 2027, this project will facilitate exchange of good practices between the project partners in the area of improving universal accessibility in the Night Time Economy.

SLOWTOUR – Funded under the Interreg North West programme, this project will enable the project partners to work collectively to implement initiatives to increase dwell time of visitors to their respective cities.

Arts and Culture Development

Galway City Arts Office has delivered a full programme and service in 2025. The team engaged with stakeholders and developed programmes and supports for over 80 local and national arts organisations and over 500 people involved in the local arts community. GCC Arts Office team administered over 600 payments over the course of 2025.

The Galway City Arts programme provides a practical delivery mechanism to implement arts programmes, projects, events, activities and commissions. It fulfils identified needs, particularly around communities for whom access to the arts is difficult.

The ambition is that the public enjoys and benefits from quality arts provision so that the best artistic outcomes are secured in the wider context of cultural value and the public good. This is underpinned by a commitment to social inclusion and cultural diversity – supporting artists across art forms to deliver in diverse settings.

Core programme activity is dedicated to support the development and careers of

contemporary Galway based artists, and the encouragement and facilitation of their work. The Arts Office has built a culture of support through grant awards and individual artists bursaries, as well as specific measures delivered through the City Arts Programme such as artist residencies, mentoring for individual artists and arts organisations.

The Creative Practitioner Bursary Award: In 2025 There were 21 Creative Practitioner Awardees.

Artist in Residence Programme and CPD: In 2025 Supports were offered to over 40 artists

Culture Night 2025: There were 83 separate events supported in Galway City on Culture Night.

Regional and Strategic Partnerships:

- The Western Region Audio Visual Programme (WRAP)
- The UNESCO City of Film Partnership
- The Levelling Access Arts + Disability Programme
- Arts Council Partnership fund.

Cultural Partnerships:

In 2025, the Arts Office implemented the Cultural Partnership programme to implement the Galway City Council Local Economic Community Plan High-Level Goal One – a World-Class Creative City Region and the Galway City Council Arts plan: New Directions Strategic Plan for The Arts 2021-2026 that guides Galway City Council's investment in the arts.

Cultural Partnerships enable the Arts Office and organisations to deliver shared objectives and actions. In 2025 Cultural partnerships were progressed with the following cultural organisations in the City; Galway Community Circus, Branar, Baboro, Cuirt, Galway Music Residency, Druid, Outset Gallery, Galway Centre for Independent Living and Cellissimo. Work was also undertaken in 2025 to work with other groups to progress more cultural partnerships in 2026.

Arts Act 2003; Galway City Council Arts Organisation Grant

In accordance with the Arts Act 2003, Galway City Council invited applications for funding towards projects and programmes in the city that would stimulate public interest in the arts, promote knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts and improve standards in the arts within its functional area. €450,000 in funding was allocated under this initiative with 34 applicants were successfully funded in the Professional Strand and 24 applicants were recommended for funding through the Community Voluntary and Amateur Strand, resulting in a total of 58 applicants receiving funding in 2025.

Galway City Council Band Grant programme:

Galway City Council provides the annual Band Grant valued at €20,000, The 2025 Band Grant awarded the funding to seven groups. All seven awardees reported working with children, six of which are school bands. The grant acts as core funding for established community bands, supporting performances at key events. All awardees have previously been awarded the grant.

Music Generation programme:

In 2025, Music Generation Galway City continued to deliver designed, needs-based programmes providing access to music education for children and young people across Galway City in settings including primary and secondary schools, after-school clubs, youth hubs, community centres, libraries, halting sites, IPAS centres, arts venues and virtual reality environments.

Approximately 3,000 children and young people engaged with the programme over the year, most on a weekly basis. Participation ranged from ages 0–4 in Early Years provision to young people aged 16–19 through the Future Sounds programme. In addition, 12 professional youth music events were delivered.

Film

Galway City Council's Arts Office work in partnership with Ardán to implement the UNESCO Galway City of Film programme. The core value of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) is to use creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable development. The investment tied to this international designation is €40,000 per annum. Programme funding amounts to €10,000 per annum. Galway also partners with neighbouring local authorities and the Western Development Commission to manage the Western Regional Audiovisual Production (WRAP) fund with €25,000 investment from Galway City Council.

Galway City Museum

In September 2025, Galway City Council submitted a revised funding proposal for the capital development programme for the Galway City Museum to Fáilte Ireland. A decision on this is awaited. Throughout the 2025 a wide variety of exhibitions, events, workshops, talks and collection development took place during the year and visitor numbers in 2025 were increased by 25,000. The museum continues to host the Failte Ireland Tourism Office.

Town Hall Theatre

In 2025, the Town Hall Theatre, Galway's municipal theatre, had another busy year offering a diverse programme of local, national, and international events. The venues continued to deliver a high number of events and ticket sales at both the Town Hall Theatre and the Black Box Theatre, maintaining its status as the second busiest Arts Council-supported venue outside of Dublin and Cork.

Leisureland

The numbers using Leisureland in 2025 continued to grow with the facility approaching peak capacity in some areas. Participation by children in swimming lessons at the venue is at the highest level it has ever been. Significant investment was made in replacing Gym Equipment in 2025 to ensure that the Gym offers a facility on par with any others in the City. The events hall also continues to be in high demand throughout the year and outdoor activities at the facility in 2025 saw the return of the summer amusements from March and ice rink from November through to January.

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 and attendance, superannuation, performance management, staff welfare, learning and development, and blended working functions.

Workforce 2025

Galway City Council's Management Team comprises the Chief Executive, and five Directors of Service:

Chief Executive	
Director of Service – Urban Directorate	Patricia Philbin
Director of Service – Operational Development	Patrick Greene
Director of Service – Project Development	Derek Pender
Director of Service – Corporate Development	Helen Kilroy
A/Director of Service – Social Development	Elizabeth Fanning

The headcount in the organisation on 31 December 2025 was 684 staff members consisting of temporary/permanent indoor and outdoor employees who carry out managerial, administrative, technical, craft and other roles.

Strategic Workforce Plan

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. Galway City Council completed and submitted its Strategic Workforce Plan (SWP) 2025 -2029 to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on 06 October 2025.

Recruitment

In 2025, despite a competitive recruitment environment, the Human Resources Department successfully recruited qualified staff to meet the organisation's needs in line with the HR annual recruitment plan. The Recruitment Section managed 67 competitions and made 194 appointments, including 118 new employees (105 permanent, 13 temporary/contract/seasonal). The remaining 76 appointments were for acting posts and promotions. There were 9 retirements. In addition, work progressed on the recruitment of craft apprentices.

Performance Management and Development System (PMDS)

Implementation of the Performance Management and Development System (PMDS) continued throughout 2025. The process supported structured engagement between managers and staff, ensuring clarity around role objectives, ongoing performance discussions, and identification of individual training and development needs. PMDS remained a key tool in aligning staff performance with organisational goals, strengthening communication, and promoting a culture of continuous improvement across all departments.

Learning and Development

Galway City Council continues to support continuous and lifelong learning across the organisation. In 2025, a broad programme of organisational and personal development training was delivered. Training focused on key competency areas including leadership and management, business and administrative skills, infrastructure guidelines, governance and legislative awareness, career and retirement planning, as well as climate action awareness to support the Council's sustainability goals. Accredited certificate and diploma-level programmes relevant to the local government sector were also facilitated. In addition, some staff were supported to pursue third-level qualifications to further their professional development and future career growth.

The Training Team also coordinated a comprehensive programme of Health and Safety training during 2025, delivered in close collaboration with the Health and Safety Section. This included mandatory and role-specific training designed to ensure compliance with statutory requirements, promote safe work practices, and support a strong organisational safety culture. These programmes enhance staff awareness of workplace risks, strengthen organisational capacity to prevent incidents, and ensure that Galway City Council continues to meet its responsibilities in providing a safe working environment for all employees.

Time to Read Programme

Volunteers from Galway City Council participated in the Time to Read Programme with the Mercy Primary School, for the 2024/2025 Academic Year. Children from second class received reading support from a City Council volunteer over 12 weeks, had a reading session in the City Library, and were informed of GCC operations during a visit City Hall.

Blended Working

Galway City Council continued to operate its Blended Working Policy in 2025. The annual re-application process took place in Q4 of 2025 and was fully managed through an online system, ensuring an efficient and consistent approach across the organisation.

Staff Welfare

Galway City Council continued to prioritise staff wellbeing in 2025, with ongoing engagement between employees and line managers on welfare matters. Key supports included the administration of the Sick Leave Scheme, the Employee Assistance Programme, and a range of Work Life Balance Schemes. These schemes, such as Parental Leave, the Shorter Working Year Scheme, the Cycle to Work Scheme, and the Commuter Ticket initiative, were actively managed to promote flexible and sustainable working arrangements. Wellbeing supports and initiatives were also promoted throughout the year, reinforcing the Council's commitment to fostering a healthy, supportive, and inclusive workplace environment.

Industrial and Employment Relations

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

Gender Pay Gap Report

The annual Gender Pay Gap Report was published in November 2025. The report showed a Gender Pay Gap of -0.31% Mean and -10.33% Median. A negative gender pay gap indicates that on average females occupy higher paid roles than males.

Superannuation

Working with MyPay on superannuation services, guidance and support was provided to current and retired staff throughout 2025 in addition to informing staff on changes by Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation to public sector pensions.

Retirement/Staff Events

The Annual Christmas Gathering for retired staff was held on 6 December 2025, providing an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the continued connection between the Council and its former employees.

The Retirement and Service Awards Ceremony took place on 26 November 2025, where the Mayor of Galway City, Cllr. Mike Cubbard, and the Chief Executive, Mr. Leonard Cleary, formally recognised the dedication, commitment, and long-standing service of both retiring and serving staff. The event highlighted the valuable contribution these individuals have made to the organisation and to the delivery of public services in Galway City.

Retirees on the Honours List

Mr. Barry Cummins	Transportation Department
Mr. Thomas Molloy	Environment Department
Mr. Paul Daly	Environment Department
Mr. Thomas Hynes	Environment Department
Mr. Thomas Lydon	Environment Department
Mr. Brian Mannion	Environment Department
Mr. Vincent O'Connor	Transportation Department
Mr. Gerry O'Loughlin	Transportation Department
Mr. Justin Wynne	Recreation and Amenity

20 Year Service Award Recipients for 2025

Mr. Derek Healy	Active Travel Department
Ms. Caroline O'Donnell	Recreation and Amenity Department
Ms. Mairead Keane	Recreation and Amenity Department
Mr. Pat Burke	Housing Department
Mr. Kieran McGlynn	Transportation Department
Ms. Louise McNamara	Finance

Annual Retirement and Service Awards on 26 November 2025



Left to Right: Kieran McGlynn; Barry Cummins; Louise McNamara; Derek Healy; Caroline O'Donnell; Mayor Mike Cubbard; Leonard Cleary, Chief Executive; Patrick Green, Director of Services; Mairead Keane; Anita Kenny, HR; Attracta Lyons, Head of HR

Priorities for 2026

- Delivery of HR annual recruitment programme aligned to Strategic Workforce Plan
- Implementation of new recruitment Applicant Tracking System
- Provision of staff welfare advice and support to staff
- Delivery of learning and development programme
- Engagement on employment related matters with relevant stakeholders
- Progressing pay related amendments
- Ongoing digitisation of HR processes to include implementation

Project Development Directorate

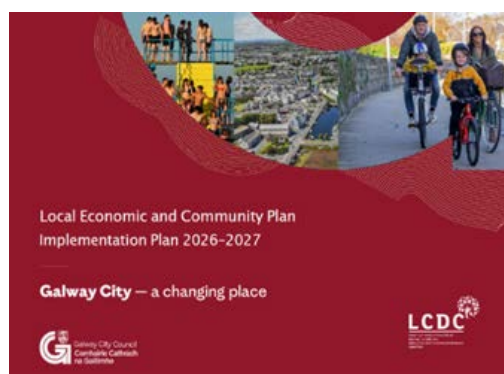
Community Development, Corporate Assets and Derelict Sites

The objective of the Department is to enhance quality of life by fostering community engagement, social cohesion, access to services and remediating abandoned or underutilised properties to revitalise communities. The Department seeks to empower and engage the diversity of local voices and address the diverse needs of the community through programmes and initiatives, while also enhancing public safety and encouraging community investment.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

The Galway City LCDC was established in 2014 to develop, coordinate and implement a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development. The LCDC is made up of representatives from the local government and local development sectors, public bodies and representatives of social, economic, environmental and community interests. A copy of the Galway City LCDC Annual Report 2025 is available at [LCDC Annual Report 2025](#)

The Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) Implementation Plan 2026 – 2027 was agreed in 2025, based on the High-Level Objectives outlined in the LECP Framework 2024 – 2029. 66 actions are contained in the Plan as well as relevant key outcomes to facilitate evaluation. A final review of the first and second year of the LECP Implementation Plan 2024 – 2025 is to be completed and presented to the LCDC in 2026. Information on the LECP can be found [here](#).



Local Community Safety Partnership

2025 marked a significant milestone for community safety with the establishment of the Galway City Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) under the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024. The inaugural meeting, held in November brought together representatives from Galway City Council, An Garda Síochána, Tusla, HSE, community and voluntary organisations, and local residents in a new collaborative model designed to improve safety and wellbeing across the city.

Galway City LCSP will have a central role in shaping a safer, more connected city through partnership-driven, evidence-based action. Members identified key priorities for the forthcoming Galway City Community Safety Plan, which is to be developed in 2026, including youth engagement, domestic and gender-based violence, supporting marginalised communities, and enhancing urban safety.



Galway City Local Community Safety Partnership inaugural meeting November 2025

Cllr. Níall McNelis was elected Chairperson and Mr. Tommy Flaherty confirmed as Vice-Chair of the LCSP. The Galway City LCSP will continue strengthening partnerships and harnessing community voices to deliver a safety plan that reflects the city's evolving needs.

Mayor's Awards



Mayor Peter Keane with 2025 Mayor's Awards winners.

The Mayor of Galway City, Cllr. Peter Keane presented this year's Mayor's Awards at the Galway Bay Hotel. Over 90 individuals and groups were recognised for their voluntary contributions to community life. The Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to the Galway Hospice Foundation Volunteers in acknowledgement of their compassionate support for patients and families, as well as their vital fundraising efforts.

Community Funding Schemes

€1,617,752 was allocated under the Community Recognition Fund to strengthen community infrastructure and support areas that have welcomed new communities, with projects to be delivered during 2025–2026. 19 projects were approved across three funding windows: €936,693 for 11 projects in August 2024, €290,735 for 2 projects in February 2025, and €390,325 for 6 projects in June 2025, the latter targeting the East side of the city to ensure balanced investment. Projects delivered in 2025 included lighting upgrades, energy-efficiency improvements to community facilities, the purchase of community vehicles, refurbishment and enhancement of local clubs, school and sports amenities.

€137,000 was allocated to 91 community and voluntary groups under the Local Enhancement Programme 2025. Capital funding supported small facility upgrades and the purchase of equipment for community use, while current funding helped groups meet essential running costs such as energy bills, rental or lease payments, and insurance.



Galway City Council established the Community Action, Inclusion, Regeneration, Development and Environment (CAIRDE) Grant Scheme in 2025 to support community, sporting and voluntary groups, social enterprises and business associations in delivering projects that strengthen local development and enhance quality of life.

Online applications were invited in April with 111 submissions received and €565,000 allocated to 66 successful applicants at the June Council meeting for initiatives ranging from community development and cultural projects to sports facility upgrades, public space improvements, environmental sustainability, accessibility, and the promotion of the Irish language.

For the 2026 scheme, applications opened in October with 126 applications received, with successful grants scheduled for approval at the January 2026 Council meeting.



A new initiative was introduced in 2025 called the Community Participatory Scheme inviting communities to propose projects they wished to see delivered in their area up to €25,000, with the first year focused on Galway City East. Three viable and eligible proposals were shortlisted for public vote from which upgrades to the Mervue Playground emerged as the winner.

€25,000 was allocated under the Local Community Festival Grant to 24 community groups, enabling them to deliver small scale events and festivals. These activities contributed to strengthening community cohesion, promoting a sense of belonging and pride, encouraging participation, and supporting positive relations across diverse groups.

Galway City Council administered Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade grant funding to support local Africa Day celebrations, held annually on 25 May to recognise the people, cultures and potential of the African continent. A diverse programme of cultural, artistic and family-friendly events took place across the city, showcasing contemporary African-Irish culture through fashion, art, music, dance, food and community activities.

Street Feast is a series of community celebrations and neighbourhood lunches and took place in May. Events promote social inclusion, integration, and stronger, more resilient communities. In the lead-up to the event, a Street Feast roadshow was held in Galway City Library in April. 25 Street Feasts were hosted across Galway City over the weekend.



Community Development Initiatives and Engagement

Three new Urban and Community Development Officers (UCDO) were appointed to provide targeted support for community and voluntary groups in the city. These roles support the growth and empowerment of local communities, working closely with residents, community groups and other stakeholders to implement community development initiatives and enhance community cohesion.

These new roles support the delivery of the LECP, and other initiatives, by building and maintaining strong relationships between Galway City Council and the community. Each local electoral area (LEA) in the city (West, Central, East) has a dedicated Urban and Community Development Officer, with the Officers also having thematic and programme responsibilities on a city-wide basis including working closely with groups and organisations supporting older adults, ethnic minority groups, young people, people with disabilities and LGBT+ communities.

The Community Development Team secured €40,500 from the Housing Finance Agency Social Investment Fund to support the development of a community café in Ballybane. The Ballybane Needs Analysis highlighted a significant need for a local hub or focal point where residents can naturally gather and interact daily. The team also reengaged with Galway Cities membership of the European Coalition of Cities Against Racism.

The UCDOs focused on getting to know their communities and understanding their strengths, challenges and needs. 127 community groups/service provider organisations were engaged with supports provided including access to funding, support with governance structures, financial procedures, and best practice for community and voluntary groups. Supporting ease of access for the community within Galway City Council is a vital role of the UCDO's and facilitating cross departmental engagement on community needs has been a key priority.

Galway City Community Network / Public Participation Network

Galway City Community Network (GCCN), the Public Participation Network for Galway City, represents over 190 community, voluntary, social inclusion and environmental organisations. Guided by its vision of a creative, inclusive and sustainable city with transparent governance, GCCN continued to strengthen community participation, support representative structures, and advance social inclusion.



In 2025, GCCN focused on strengthening community participation, influencing local policy, and advancing inclusion. It supported community representatives across key decision-making structures, coordinated major policy submissions on transport, planning and public-space projects, and played a central role in developing the Intercultural Strategy. GCCN's collaboration with Access for All produced an educational film on disability barriers. It was recognised as a European good-practice model, led community engagement for the Waterways hydropower pilots, and supported climate-action initiatives. GCCN also contributed to Healthy Galway, Traveller and Roma inclusion, anti-racism work through GCARD, and the Migrant Integration Forum, while helping shape the LECP Implementation Plan with a strong focus on equality and social inclusion.

Community Development Programme

2025 marked the third year of AMACH! LGBT+ implementing the three-year CDP funding scheme which has enabled further expansion of Teach Solais LGBT+ Resource Centres operations. AMACH LGBT+ used CDP funding to carry out a comprehensive suite of training for volunteers delivered to staff and volunteers including Media, Messaging for Social Change, Youth Leadership, Peer Support, Management and Health and Safety procedures.

AMACH has collaborated with community members, to address emerging issues and develop collective responses for the following three community development initiatives: Galway Community Resistance. Trans Collective Action Group, and development of a peer-led response to support LGBTI+ members in Direct Provision.

Healthy Galway City (HGC)

Healthy Ireland is a national, government-led initiative focused on improving the health and wellbeing of everyone living in Ireland. As part of this effort, Healthy Galway City (HGC), an initiative of the Galway City LCDC, works to create a city where all residents can achieve their full physical and mental wellbeing.

Under the Healthy Ireland Fund 2022–2025, €75,000 was allocated in 2025 to support priority health and wellbeing actions. Galway City was accredited as a World Health Organisation (WHO) European Healthy City under Phase VII, joining Cork, Limerick and Waterford in the National Healthy Cities and Counties of Ireland Network. For more information, visit [Healthy Cities and Counties - Healthy Ireland Local Government](#)

A key element of HGC's work was the Healthy Galway City Community Grant, a €40,000 fund supporting 20 community groups and clubs across the city. Funded projects ranged from alcohol-risk reduction workshops and gardening initiatives to social inclusion programmes, exercise groups, and creative activities.

HGC also delivered a wide range of programmes aimed at increasing physical activity levels among adults and children, particularly people with disabilities, older adults, disadvantaged communities, and individuals in alcohol or drug recovery. Initiatives included cycling leader training, boxing programmes, walking and running groups, and the "Nature for Health" woodland-based wellbeing programme. Targeted supports for men included the "Men on the Move" programme and a boxing fitness initiative for Traveller men. Older adults benefited from the "Social Steps" dance programme delivered across three city locations.

To support positive mental health, HGC funded Galway City Partnership and Galway

Traveller Movement to deliver community singing groups, men’s social clubs, arts and wellness activities, social prescribing supports, and culturally appropriate Traveller-focused wellbeing programmes. Activities included equine therapy, dance classes, fishing groups, and the development of a community gym. GTM also organised wellness excursions for Traveller women and community trips for National Traveller Mental Health Day.



Age Friendly Programme



Galway City and County Councils jointly developed the Galway Age Friendly Strategy 2026–2031. HUB Planning was contracted to prepare the strategy, which was shaped through extensive consultation, data analysis, and action-planning workshops with internal and external partners. The draft underwent multiple reviews by the Age Friendly Alliance, the Older Person’s Council, SPCs, the LCDC, and the Interdepartmental Team before being formally adopted by Councillors in December 2025 and officially launched in January 2026.

To view the Strategy, please click [here](#).

A range of Age Friendly initiatives took place throughout the year. Positive Ageing Week (26 September–3 October) celebrated the contributions of older people, with the flagship “Local Heroes” Exhibition honouring 27 nominees whose stories were showcased across Galway

City and County. You can view the Local Heroes exhibition at [Positive Ageing Week | Galway](#)

Galway City and County Councils also jointly hosted the National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards in October 2025, attracting nominees, dignitaries, and Age Friendly representatives from across Ireland. The Local Heroes Campaign was shortlisted under the “Active and Healthy Ageing” category. To learn more about the National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards, visit [Awards 2025 | Age Friendly Ireland](#)

To strengthen age-friendly practice within the local authority, Galway City Council established an Age Friendly Interdepartmental Team in 2025. Its purpose is to embed age-friendly objectives across all service areas, encourage collaboration, and ensure progress is monitored and reported to the Age Friendly Alliance.



Comhairle na nÓg

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 2025 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.

Comhairle presented to national TD's and Senators in Leinster House on the work of their topic and the need for a youth centre for Galway City. The Justice Minister Jim O'Callaghan met with Comhairle on his visit to Galway following the presentation earlier in the year. Comhairle presented to the Mayor of Galway City and the local Gardai on their topic and the results of surveys conducted by them. Galway City Comhairle na nÓg held their annual Youth Conference in October and the committee welcomed over 60 young people from the various secondary schools in the city.

Community Centres



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. Improvements to the centre included a new coffee dock, outdoor seating and outdoor water station.

The development of the new centre in Newcastle was supported by the Urban and Community Development Team who are assisting with funding applications for equipment.

Galway Local Sports Partnership (GSP)

GSP continued to have an impact on sport and physical activity provision during 2025. Initiatives were delivered by the Active Cities Officer, Community Sports Development Officers and Sports Inclusion Disability Officer alongside partner agencies and clubs. €140,000 was allocated to 49 clubs under the Galway City Council Sports Club Grant with the Sports Partnership allocating €26,000 under the Increasing Participation in Sport and Physical activity and €10,000 under the Dormant Accounts Volunteer Support fund to 40 clubs and organisations across Galway.

Bike Week took place in May an estimated 2,300 people took part in over 20 events with the highlight being the city centre cycle. During European Week of Sport, Active Cities Galway produced a fun and exciting 3k colour run as part of #BEACTIVE NIGHT, funded by Sport Ireland with 275 people participating.

Other notable events included National Play Day (July) with over 300 children and 150 adults attending the Eyre Square event. St. Patricks Festival Family Fun Day catered for over 200 participants of all ages. Notable programmes delivered include Men on the Move (Westside, Ballinfoile and Ballybane), Games for All (Ballybane, ATU and Mervue), Activator Pole programmes, Nature for Health (Merlin Woods), Her Outdoors Week, Women in Sport Week and Her Moves.

GSP trained 739 people in Safeguarding (child protection) courses, 60 people in Autism in Sport, 15 in Coaching Teenage Girls among other offerings. The BoxUp programmes is going from strength to strength with 1,808 users, 7,397 number of uses and 3,746 hours of usage time.

Corporate Assets Derelict Sites and Dangerous Structures

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 land assets is nearing completion. Work on the transfer of remaining water services assets to Uisce Éireann continued in 2025 and is due to complete by Q3 2026.

Derelict Sites

95 sites were on the Derelict Sites Register at the end of 2025, an increase from 11 at the end of 2024. 190 potentially derelict sites were identified and a series of notices issued to property owners under the Derelict Sites Act 1990. Notice of intention to compulsorily acquire sites were issued in respect of 5 derelict sites in 2025. Levies totalling €192,850 were raised on 7 derelict sites in 2025 with interest of €17,185 accruing on these levies throughout the year. Work will continue in 2026 on identifying derelict properties, raising levies due on 39 properties currently on the Derelict Sites Register and compulsorily acquiring derelict properties where appropriate.

In June 2025, the elected members adopted a new Derelict Sites Policy and Procedures for Galway City Council. This document will provide appropriate guidance to the Derelict Sites Team to administer the derelict sites programme throughout 2026 and beyond.

Dangerous Structures

44 structures were listed on the Dangerous Structures register at the end of 2025. 38 dangerous structures were reported during 2025, for which advisory letters were issued. Many of these reports occurred because of Storm Éowyn which took place on 24 January 2025. 11 Section 3 Notices under the Sanitary Services Act 1964 were issued in 2025.

Properties currently on the Register will continue to be reviewed throughout 2026 and further action will be taken as necessary, under the Sanitary Services Act 1964 to prevent them from posing a danger to the public.

Active Travel

The Active Travel team continue to commit to creating safer, healthier, and more sustainable ways to move around communities. Through new walking and cycling infrastructure and community engagement, the team are improving connectivity, supporting climate goals and enabling residents of all ages to choose active travel for everyday journeys.

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. The scheme was approved by An Coimisiún Pleanála in September 2025.

BusConnects Galway: Cross City Link

In September 2024, 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 decision of An Bord Pleanála was subject to Judicial Review proceedings before the High Court. The court hearing took place in December 2025 and a decision is awaited.

Ballybane Road and Castlepark Road Cycle Network Scheme

Works on the Ballybane Road and Castlepark Road Cycle Network Scheme began in February 2025 and are progressing on schedule. Works are taking place concurrently on both Ballybane Road and Castlepark Road, and a traffic management plan is in place. When works began in early 2025, it had been anticipated that the project would be finished in Q3 2026, but Galway City Council now anticipates that works will be substantially completed within Q2.

The Crescent/Sea Road Junction Upgrade



Galway City Council's first rain gardens are now in bloom following the Crescent/Sea Road Junction Upgrade by the Active Travel Department. The gardens absorb rainwater to reduce flooding, improve drainage and boost biodiversity. Former roadway space now provides wider footpaths, safer crossings and slower traffic. A new footpath links the 401 Bus Stop to

the Medical Centre, with safety upgrades at Scoil Fhursa under the Safe Routes to School scheme. Funded by the National Transport Authority (NTA), works were completed in March 2025. Mayor of Galway, Cllr. Mike Cubbard welcomed the improvements at the opening event in July 2025, with further projects planned across the city.

Bóthar Stiofáin Cycle Network

The Construction phase of the Bóthar Stiofáin Cycle Network scheme was tendered in June 2025. Jons Civils Ltd. were appointed lead contractor after a competitive tender process. Work is ongoing and scheduled for completion in Q2 2026.

Salmon Weir Bridge Pedestrian Crossing

Construction works on a new pedestrian crossing at the Salmon Weir Bridge began in November 2025. The project was operational in Q1 2026.



Parkmore Road Bus Priority Scheme

A new southbound bus lane along Parkmore Road, from the Business Park Roundabout towards the Monivea Road junction, was officially opened in April 2025. New bus stops and footpaths were also constructed as part of this scheme. The project has delivered faster commute times for bus users and facilitated an extension of the 409 bus service into Parkmore Business Park.

This route will utilise a planned Bus Turning Circle which is to be constructed in Parkmore. Planning Permission for this Turning Circle was granted by Galway County Council in Q3 2025. This will be tendered for construction in Q2 2026 with aim to commence construction in Q3 2026. The project is within Galway County Council Boundary Area.

Bus Network Redesign

This Project is currently at phase 3 preliminary design and Galway City Council is working in collaboration with the NTA in relation to installation of new bus stops & route changes across the city.

Western Distributor Road Cycle Lane

The Part 8 Scheme was presented to the Councillor Information Briefing in September 2025. The Part 8 Chief Executive Report was formally approved at the October Plenary Council meeting. Detailed design began following planning approval with construction set to commence in Q1 2027.

Quietways

A series of routes across the city have been developed in conjunction with the NTA for cycling and a tender for a design consultant will issue in 2026.

Safe Routes to school (SRTS) (Round 3)

The Design tender was finalised in Q4 2025 for the following schools with a consultant to be appointed.

- St. Josephs Special School)/ Galway Educate Together National School, Moyola Lane, Newcastle, Galway.
- Coláiste Iognáid, Bóthar Na Mara, Gaillimh
- Gaelscoil Dara, Bóthar Bhaile an Locháin, An Rinn Mhór, Gaillimh.

- Scoil Chaitríona Junior and Senior Schools, Renmore Avenue, Galway.
- Colaiste Éinde Secondary School, Threadneedle Road, Galway.
- St Patricks NS, Lombard St., Galway.

Gaelscoil Mhic Amhlaigh and Claddagh Primary School were selected in December 2025 under Round 4 of the SRTS program and are included in this tender. In-house design for St. John the Apostle Knocknacarra National School is progressing. Shantalla Road – Traffic Management/Active Travel plans will incorporate the area around Scoil Bhríde.

Access Controls

Designs have been completed for 9 strategic city-wide locations as part of the Group 1 Access Control project. The selection criteria for access control intervention locations are based on accessibility, permeability, connectivity to public transport and integration with existing and proposed active travel infrastructure. Construction works commenced in Q4 2025 with the access control intervention now complete at Ballyloughane. Further interventions to be undertaken throughout 2026.

Active Travel Newsletter

A new regular Active Travel newsletter is being published, outlining the work of the Active Travel Department. Further editions will follow throughout 2026.

Awards



Galway City Council took home the Best Trail/ Waterway in Ireland Award for the Eglinton Canal Active Travel Scheme, in the All-Ireland Community and Council Awards 2025, at the national ceremony in Rochestown Park Hotel, Cork on Saturday 22 February 2025.

Climate Action

Department Key Objectives

- Achieve a 51% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 (compared to 2018 levels), in line with national targets.
- Enhance the city's climate resilience, focusing on adaptation strategies that protect vulnerable populations, infrastructure, and natural ecosystems.
- Integrate climate action across all Council operations and decision-making processes, ensuring a whole-of-city approach.

Strategic Pillars

1. Decarbonising Energy & Buildings

Expansion of retrofitting programmes, promotion of renewable energy installations, and improved energy efficiency in public and private sectors.

2. Sustainable Mobility

Accelerating the shift to active and public transport modes, electrification of Council and commercial fleets, and enhancement of cycling and walking infrastructure.

3. Circular Economy & Waste Reduction

Supporting circular economy practices, reducing municipal waste, and promoting local reuse, recycling, and sustainable consumption models.

4. Nature-Based Solutions & Biodiversity

Expanding green spaces, enhancing biodiversity corridors, and using natural infrastructure to support flood management and carbon sequestration.

5. Community Engagement & Climate Literacy

Strengthening partnerships with citizens, schools, businesses, and local organisations to build a shared climate vision and empower climate action at every level.

Climate Actions and UN Sustainability Goals

Galway City stands at a pivotal point in its climate journey. This 2025 update reaffirms our shared commitment to climate justice, intergenerational responsibility, and creating a liveable, resilient city for all.

Galway City Council has an important role to play to ensure the actions within the LACAP progress and promote the UN SDGs which aims to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. Galway City Council has been officially selected as a national Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Champion for 2025-2027 by the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment.

Becoming an SDG Champion means that Galway City Council will act as a national example of good practice, demonstrating how local government can contribute meaningfully to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Over the next 18 months, we will work with the Department to promote the SDGs, share learnings, participate in national events, and highlight the fantastic work already underway across all departments.

Galway City Council Energy and Emission Reduction Retrofit works

Case Study: Knocknacarra Community Centre



As part of the SEAI Pathfinder Programme, Knocknacarra Community Centre was selected for deep energy retrofit works to meet 2030 energy efficiency and carbon reduction targets. The centre is a top 10 Significant Energy User (SEU) in the Galway City Council building stock. The centre, originally built in 2005 is a dry sports and leisure facility with multipurpose rooms, offices, changing areas, and a sports hall open to the general public. It also underwent an expansion in 2015. The works carried out under the programme which included installation of a heat pump, installation of a 40kWp PV system, LED lighting upgrades and glazing upgrades aimed to;

- Decrease in carbon emissions by at least 50%
- Improve the BER of the building to A3

I Galway City Council

- Integrate renewable energy technologies
- Improve thermal comfort and airtightness

The total amount of energy saved was 147,151(kWh) and 34.6 tCo2e was saved towards 2030.

Case Study: Ballinfoile Community Centre

As part of the SEAI Pathfinder Programme, Ballinafoile Community Centre was selected for deep energy retrofit works to meet 2030 energy efficiency and carbon reduction targets. The centre, originally built in 2016 is a dry sports and leisure facility with multipurpose rooms, offices, changing areas, and a sports hall open to the public.

The works undertaken under this Pathfinder program which included the installation of a heat pump and 40kWp PV were to;

- Decrease in carbon emissions by at least 50%
- Improve the BER of the building to A2
- Integrate renewable energy technologies

Galway City Council Circular Economy Initiatives

Case Study: Circular City Galway Repair Cafe

Repair Café Galway is part of a grassroots movement focused on reducing waste, overconsumption, and planned obsolescence by helping people repair items rather than discard them. Galway hosts garment-focused repair cafés—often held at Galway City Museum—where attendees bring clothing items and work alongside trained volunteers who guide them through basic repairs. These sessions provide tools and materials for mending and help participants build long-lasting repair skills.

The Repair Café events also form part of Circular City Galway, the city's broader circular-economy initiative supporting reuse, repair, and waste reduction.

The workshops have been collating figures for kg textiles repaired at each shop. The repair cafés were done on a pilot basis to trial interest. The environmental impact of reusing textiles is estimated to be 70 times lower than the production of new clothing and per kilogram of clothing: reusing 1 kg of clothing saves an estimated 25 kg of CO₂. So, the promotion of these workshops is a huge priority for Galway City Council. The biggest benefit of running the workshops has been the setting up of a permanent monthly Repair Café in 2026:

Coirib go Cósta Galway City Flood Relief Scheme:

The draft emerging preferred option for the scheme has been agreed in Q4 2025. This process involved incorporating the feedback received during the 2025 public consultation process, feedback from stakeholders and feedback from all departments within Galway City Council. A multi-criteria assessment which considers the social, economic, environmental and technical implications of all viable scheme options has been completed to inform this process also. The emerging preferred option will be finalised in Q1 2026 and presented to the public for further non statutory consultation. This is scheduled to take place on the 28th and 29th of April. Elected members will be briefed in advance of the engagement event and a 5-week period for submissions will be provided post event.

Roads and Transportation

Licensing and Taking in Charge

Key Achievements

- Over 700 road opening licences processed
- Over 200 permits issued for skip, crane, scaffolding, hoarding
- 20 abnormal loads permits issued
- Over 40 road closures processed to facilitate construction works and other events within the city
- 1 No. housing estate taken in charge.
- Expanded our EV fleet with the purchase of an additional van. Our 'green fleet' now consists of 22 EVs and one electric sweeper.
- Continued growth in usage of our parking app.
- Upgrades to back-office systems in our traffic section for management of parking, pay and display.

Traffic and Community Warden Teams

Continued to lead on the implementation of the new Giant Leap system. This has allowed for significant upgrades in the back-office management of our fixed charge notices and resultant case management processes.

Our partnership with Payzone and Park Magic continued to develop with an increase in users of the Galway City Parking App. The first 6 months of 2025 saw over 67% of all parking transactions in the city being processed electronically, rising to approximately 70% during the last 6 months of the year.

This rise in usage reflects the ongoing work in communicating parking and payment options to residents, commuters, and visitors to Galway City.

Challenges and Solutions

We had to respond to feedback and user experience with regards to the changes in parking, pay and display within the city. At times this was challenging, particularly to staff who have customer-facing roles. It must be acknowledged that our Community Wardens played a particularly key role providing real-time assistance across the city. We also had to manage

misinformation in some feedback and commentary, we did so effectively with consistency in messaging and in providing a far-reaching advertising campaign across several media outlets.

2026 Goals

- Further processes have been explored to streamline the parking permit system. These will be implemented in Q2 2026
- An audit of signage across city centre car parks and subsequently on street signage will also be undertaken in Q1 2026. This will aim to ensure we provide accurate and easy to follow information for our customers and ease the process of parking in the city.
- Continued delivery of all licencing functions while mitigating the impact on the city's transportation network.

Fleet Management

2025 marked a significant step forward in our commitment to sustainable and efficient service delivery. We successfully transitioned most of our fleet from diesel to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO), achieving an immediate and substantial reduction in carbon emissions while maintaining operational performance. In line with our wider electric vehicle objectives, we expanded our zero-emission capability by purchasing an additional electric van dedicated to the Environment Dog Warden section, reducing noise and air pollution during daily operations. To enhance our grounds maintenance capabilities and support local biodiversity, we upgraded our equipment fleet with the addition of a new flail mower. This specialist equipment allows us to efficiently manage and cut back our designated 'No Mow' pollinator areas, ensuring these vital habitats are maintained effectively at the required times of the year.

Roads Maintenance

Key Achievements

GCC roads maintenance crews successfully completed works at 87 different locations across the city during 2025. These can be categorised under 3 main headings:

Strengthening and 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.

13 projects were completed under the Restoration Improvement Programme and smaller scale repairs completed at 23 locations.



Safety and 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 41 projects were completed during 2025

€250,000 was allocated under the first year of the Footpath Investment and Repair Fund and divided equally between the three electoral areas. Footpath reconstruction was completed under this fund at:

- East Electoral Area: Renmore Road
- Central Electoral Area: Bohermore and St. Bridget's Place
- West Electoral Area: Devon Park



Mobility Improvement works at Devon Park and Upper Salthill Road.

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 minimize environmental impact. A total of 13 projects were completed during 2025 in addition to general and preventative maintenance works.

Financial Overview

The Dept. of Transport grant allocation for GCC was issued in February and amounted to €3,928,500. 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 €1,983,500.

The Transport Infrastructure Ireland grant allocation to GCC for Current Maintenance – Protection and Renewal of National Roads was also issued in February and amounted to €189,517.

Challenges and Solutions

We continued to benefit from a long-term fixed price contract with our primary contractor which helped us to avoid the ongoing rises in costs of materials.

Goals for 2026

Continued delivery of the Roads Restoration and Improvement programme for 2026 within budget and with minimal disruption to the city's road users.

Key Achievements

- Advanced coordination of the Junctions on the Headford Road and Wolfetone Bridge
- Successfully negotiated a new maintenance contract lasting up to 9 years.
- Junction Upgrades at Lough Atalia / College Road, Liosbán and Riverside. Replacing failed ducting, top entry poles and installing LV LEDs.
- Replacing obsolete traffic servers
- Purchasing 6No. Variable Messaging Signs to replace obsolete models on the East Side (delivery in April)
- Facilitating Active travel projects and signals expansion
- Enhancements to the Parking Guidance System were commenced in 2025 which will allow for Irish Language capability and display. These works will be completed in 2026 and will align with our commitment to the Official Languages Act.

Challenges and Solutions

- Obsolescence and some aging infrastructure. – Replacement and upgrade as required
- Increasing volume on road network presents some challenges when progressing minor improvements to signal staging, design, and coordination.

Goals for 2026

- Complete roll out of Irish Language on the Parking Guidance System (PGS)
- Complete installation of Variable Messaging Signs
- Optimise and coordinate newly constructed junctions in Ballybane, Castlepark

Bridge Management

Key Achievements

University Road Canal Bridge

- » Vegetation clearance completed.
- » Design of remedial works is on-going.

Salmon Weir Bridge

- » Funding was secured from the Department of Transport to progress the Salmon Weir Bridge Remediation Project.
- » Remedial works to the northwest parapet wall were completed.
- » Site investigations and pavement investigation works were completed.
- » The design of remedial works to the Salmon Weir Bridge continued to progress following completion of site and pavement investigations.
- » Vegetation clearance was undertaken in Q4 of 2025.



Salmon Weir Bridge showing completed de-vegetation works

William O'Brien Canal Bridge

- » Bridge inspections to inform preliminary and detailed design of remedial works to William O'Brien Bridge were completed.
- » Vegetation clearance was completed.
- » Design of remedial works are on-going.

Nun's Island Bridge (NUIG Buildings)

- » Bridge inspections to inform preliminary and detailed design of remedial works to Nun's Island Bridge were completed.
- » Vegetation clearance was completed.
- » Design of remedial works is on-going.

Fr. Griffin Road Bridge

- » Masonry works were completed at Fr. Griffin Road Bridge.

Goals for 2026

- William O'Brien Canal Bridge - Completion of masonry remedial works
- New Road Bridge - To undertake engineering inspection and commence design of remedial works. Carry out vegetation clearance works.
- Wolfe Tone Bridge - Advance the design of necessary remedial works
- Coast Road Railway Overbridge - Carry out site inspections and identify necessary remedial works. Commence the design of same.
- Salmon Weir Bridge- Complete design of maintenance and remedial works. Procure a contractor to undertake works and complete works by Q3 of 2026.
- University Road Canal Bridge - Prepare application under Part 8 to undertake strengthening and remedial works to University Canal Bridge. Procure a contractor to carry out advance works.

Noise Action Plan 2024-2028

Galway City Council submitted its Annual NAP Progress Report 2025 to the EPA in compliance with the European Communities (Environmental Noise) Regulations 2018 S.I. No. 549 of 2018.

Additional Infrastructural Enhancements

Westside EV Charging Hub

- The Westside EV charging hub was officially opened on 27 June 2025 by Mayor Mike Cubbard and Minister for state and the DOT Seán Canney. First of its kind in Ireland.
- 6 publicly available solar powered EV charging points at Westside carpark at affordable prices for the community whilst giving back to the grid.
- Partnership between ZEVI, Galway City Council, Electric Skyline and Abarr



Launch of Westside EV Charging Hub.

City Centre Enhancement and Multimodal Projects

Following completion of pavement rehabilitation works on High Street in Q1 2025 the focus shifted to Church yard street and the removal of uneven surfaces and surface water ponding, progressing a much-needed upgrade in one of the busiest streets in the city. After satisfactory engagement with the trader groups and residents works to be progressed over two phases commenced in Q4 2025. The contractor appointed a designated contact to consult with business during construction works.

A feasibility study and strategic works program identifying opportunities and challenges for delivering high-quality, multi-modal infrastructure across the city was completed in Q2 2025. This report will guide future scheme development and assist in the prioritisation and delivery of Galway's active and sustainable transport network. The timelines for implementation as set out in the report will be further refined upon confirmation of funding and resources.

Challenges and Solutions

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

Galway City Council will continue to address the challenges of traffic congestion and road safety and connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists in significantly urban areas in the city identified in the feasibility study.

Goals for 2026

Galway City Council will continue to make the business case to national government for funding for this infrastructure critical for the development of land banks while meeting its national targets in housing transport active travel and other areas.

Applications for funding under both Regional and Local Road Specific and Strategic Road Improvement Programmes were submitted to the DOT in respect of planned works for several different road sections.

Public Lighting

Key Achievements

Galway City Council has responsibility for the public light infrastructure across the city. Supported by external contractor it maintains the following public lighting assets:

- 10,342 public lights, associated electrical infrastructure and cabling

Storm Eowyn caused considerable damage to the public lighting infrastructure and to make these installations safe the lights had to be isolated and power supply disconnected. A program of essential improvement works to restore the public lighting was completed at the following locations:

Item	Project Location	Scope of Works
1	Inchagill road, Galway	The replacement of the damaged infrastructure involves all design supply and installation of civil engineering and electrical works, testing and certification. These works include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe disconnection and removal of damaged PL columns and lanterns. • Supply and installation of new PL columns with new LED lanterns. • Supply and installation of new micro pillars to create interface points. • Excavation and reinstatement areas including roads and footpaths. • Traffic management (TTM) • Replacement of all non-compliant concentric cabling.
2	Renmore Avenue	
3	Elm Park, Renmore	
4	Beach Court, Salthill, Galway	
5	Hawthorn Place, Knocknacarra	
6	Seamount, Salthill, Galway	
7	Castle Park, Galway	
8	Manor Court, Galway	Cost Estimates
9	Westbrook, Galway	The replacement costs of the damaged infrastructure was approximately € 800,000

Challenges and Solutions

Most of the public lighting infrastructure in Galway city would have been installed by ESB with much of this now past their expected life span or not acceptable under current ESB and SAFE Electric Ireland regulation. When faults occur on this old infrastructure, repair works are prohibited under ESB and Safe Electric regulations with the only solution being upgrading the existing infrastructure the cabling. Storm Eowyn has brought a direct focus to this issue and the need to upgrade this infrastructure.

The public lighting network is unique as all maintenance and upgrade works are fully funded through the local authority's internal revenue funds with no Government support and with no department directly responsible for it. To address the current challenge and in the interest of public safety GCC commenced restoration to the damaged public lighting installations using internal revenue funds and via loan sanction provided to GCC from the Local Government Finance (DHLGH). Galway City Council will continue to pursue any available state and EU grant funding.

Goals for 2026

- Progress city wide survey and risk-based assessment to prioritise scheme designs at locations of direct fed and two core concentric cable within the city.
- Develop a works implementation program subject to available resources to bring all outdated concentric cables and defective infrastructure up to current required safety standards
- Progress Public Light Scheme proposals at Ballyloughnane and Lakeview Park Newcastle
- Complete the LED Upgrade program

Surface Water Drainage

Key Achievements

- GCC will promote the use of nature based sustainable drainage features as a primary method of managing surface water drainage informed by directives within the National Planning Framework, the River Basin Management Plans, Climate Action Plans, DMURS and various development plans throughout Galway City

Challenges and Solutions

- To ensure development across the city are designed to reduce flood risk from stormwater surges, whilst also improving the amenity, biodiversity and placemaking value of the city's urban landscapes

Goal for 2026

- Develop a Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs) Guidance Document which will assist with planning and provide guidance to consultants designing new housing, non-residential or mixed-use developments and indeed family homes/extensions.

Major Emergency Planning and Response

The draft Galway City and County Major Emergency Plan (MEP) was significantly progressed with completion of various appendices including Flood and Severe Weather Plans. The National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) intends to request copies of updated severe weather and flood plans from all local authorities during the summer of 2026.

A new system to capture events and analyse their impact during severe weather events was launched in 2024 and development of this technology is progressing. 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.



Damage from Storm Eowyn, Dr Mannix Rd., January 2025.

Community Support Centres (CSC)

The experience following Storm Eowyn (2025) and other recent severe weather emergencies showed the need to identify locations within our local community where people affected by severe weather or other potential emergencies could access basic welfare needs such as food, mobile phone charging, hygiene facilities, and connect to Wi-Fi/internet. Such facilities could also be used as a means of communicating consistent important information on topics such as public updates, public health information and advice on accessing local Social Welfare offices and humanitarian schemes.

Three CSC locations have been identified within the city that can be activated rapidly to support people based within the community or a neighbouring community in a time of need. The primary purpose of a Community Support Centre is to provide a safe place where volunteers can deliver basic welfare services to affected people within their community.

Name of Facility: Knocknacarra Community Centre

Eircode: H91 R6PW

What facilities are available on site in the event of a storm:

- Main sports hall (32m x 19m)
- 2 x Multipurpose rooms (15m x 10m)
- 2 x Small meeting rooms
- Male and female changing rooms with showers
- Male and female toilets
- Wheelchair accessible toilet
- Small kitchenette
- Wifi

Name of Facility: Westside Community Centre

Eircode: H91 R853

What facilities are available on site in the event of a storm:

- Main sports hall (29m x 16m)
- Practice Hall (12m x 9m)
- Male and female changing rooms with showers
- Male and female toilets
- Wheelchair accessible toilet
- Small kitchenette
- Wifi

Name of Facility: Renmore Community Centre

Eircode: H91 W259

What facilities are available on site in the event of a storm:

- Main sports hall (31.5m x 18m)
- Practice Hall (12m x 11m)
- Male and female changing rooms with showers
- Male and female toilets
- Wheelchair accessible toilet
- Small kitchenette
- Wifi

Generators for Community Support Centres

To ensure that Community Support Centres can operate when they have no access to main electricity, the Department of Rural and Community Development and Gaeltacht have supplied significant capital funding to Local Authorities to procure transportable generators suitable to maintain an uninterrupted power source to a designated Community Support Centre. Each Local Authority (incl. GCC) will procure, store, and maintain four transportable generators, 3No. 100KvA and 1No. 30KvA. In response to an emergency, Galway City Council will transport and connect to any of the three CSC listed above and allow them to operate.

Challenges and 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.

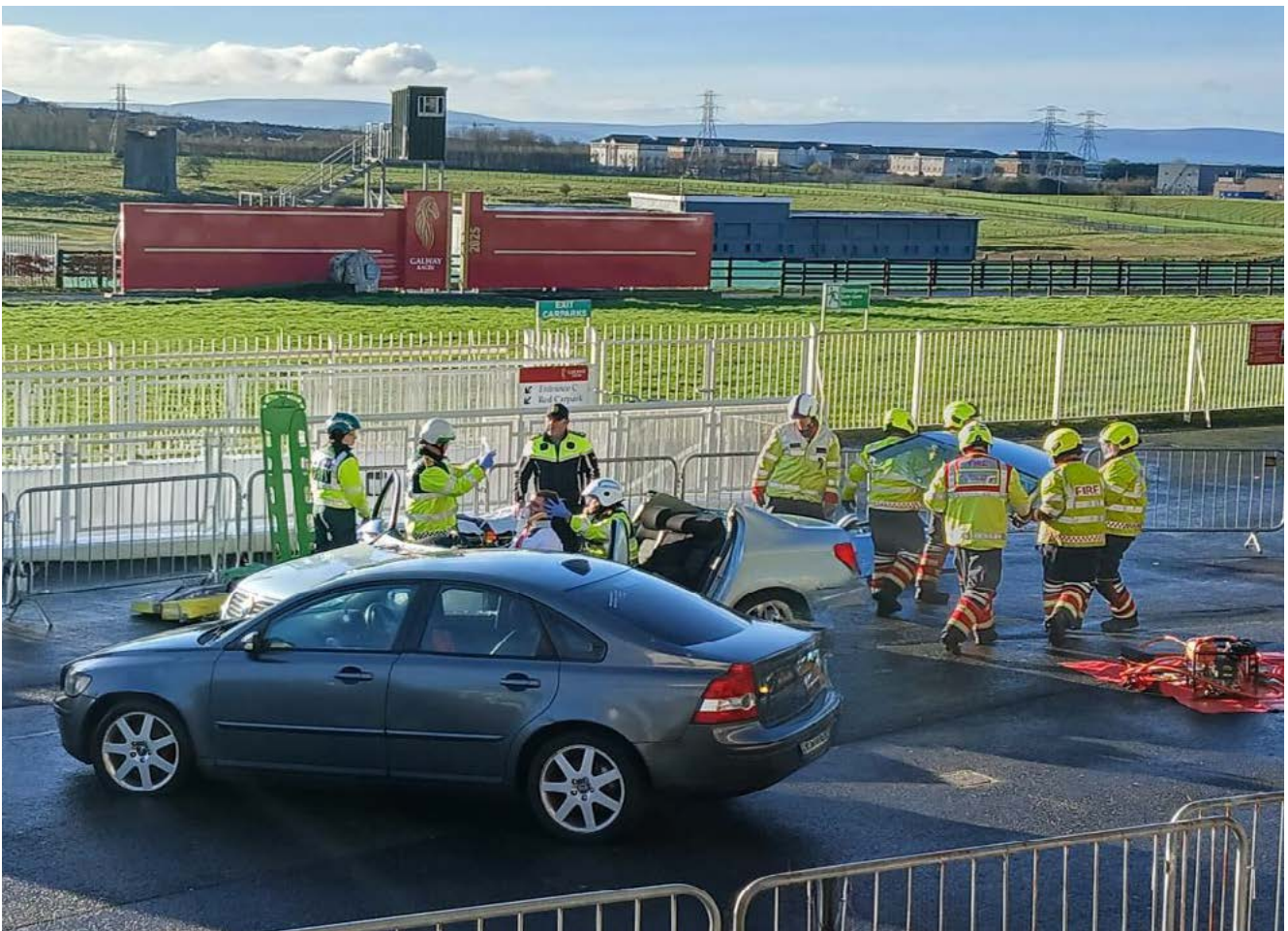
Road Safety

Key Achievements

- Successful coordination of two Road Safety Events during 2025 with our partners in An Garda Síochána and Galway County Council. The first event in May saw 450+ TY Students attend the Lifesaver Programme at Leisureland which was opened with a staged road traffic collision and rescue scenario.
- This event was successfully scaled up in November with over 700 students from across the City and County attend Galway Racecourse for a similar event. The RSA were also on site with their interactive shuttle hub.
- Interactive Road Safety Event at Tirellan National School in October which delivered road safety awareness talks to students in 3rd to 5th classes – again with support from Gardáí.

Goals for 2026

- Delivery of the Galway City and County Joint Road Safety Strategy (Q1/2026)
- Expansion of locally led road safety initiatives with schools and community groups.
- Progress road safety for all road users in Galway City.



Emergency Services in action at Road Safety event at Galway Racecourse.

Environment Services

Environmental Awareness

2025 saw a large variety of community and schools related projects supported by the environment team, and the Environmental Awareness Officer. These included: Love Your Beach, a Gum Litter Taskforce campaign, Environmental Calendar Competition, Picker Pals programme, Spaces for Biodiversity Competition, Wellpark Grove Anti-Graffiti Project, City Schools PC initiative, Deposit Return Scheme campaign, and the Salthill Litter Study, in partnership with CuriOcean CLG and the University of Galway.

During the year, Galway communities that had received support from the Environment section were recognised for their work, winning a Gold Medal at the national Tidy Towns awards, achieving second place in the Youth Initiative category at the Pride of Place Awards, and receiving a nomination for the 2024 Ballybane Project for best CSR Project in a Community at the LAMA Awards.



Salthill beaches benefitted from the Love Your Beach initiative

Waste Enforcement

The Waste Enforcement Team worked diligently to meet their targets, and have successfully done so, working closely with the Community Wardens. As part of this, the team completed 260 routine waste inspections, and 700 non-routine inspections.

Litter Management

The Litter Management Team maintained high standards across the city centre and suburbs, particularly during peak tourist seasons, festivals, and the Galway Races.

Specific projects included a deep clean of the steps at Eyre Square, sticker removal on Williams Street, cleaning of the Wolfe Tone Bridge handrails, and the temporary installation of extra bins on Middle Island during fine weather.

The Litter Management Unit also facilitated the 2025 Annual Hazardous Waste Collection Day at Ballybrit Racecourse. This was a major success, with 300 cars disposing of 18 tonnes of hazardous material.

A pilot Bulky Goods Reuse Project with Bounce Back (Galway Traveller Movement) in Q3 diverted 218 items (including mattresses, furniture, and wardrobes) from landfill for refurbishment. This initiative supports the Council's objectives under the Circular Economy Strategy by promoting reuse and recycling and reducing waste to landfill.



The Draft Litter Management Plan was prepared in-house, offering a significant saving on consultation fees. The plan will be published in 2026, following public consultation.

Galway City also received a fantastic score on the independently assessed Irish Businesses Against Litter (IBAL) survey, achieving the mark 'cleaner than European norms.' Galway City is only 1 of 10 locations to achieve this mark in Ireland.

Shop Street looking its best, following work by the Litter Management Unit.

Air, Noise, and Water

Air Quality Monitoring and Compliance

Routine environmental inspections of petrol stations were successfully carried out to ensure compliance with Petroleum Vapour Emissions Recovery legislation.

A two-pronged approach to Solid Fuel Regulation included a public information campaign on low-smoke fuels and a programme of retailer inspections, set to continue into 2026. Proactive meetings were also held with solid fuel transporters.

Bathing Water Management

The Bathing Season was managed successfully with weekly water quality sampling at our four designated beaches: Ballyloughane, Grattan Road, Salthill, and Silverstrand. Results throughout the season were consistently high, with most classified as 'Excellent'. One sample at Grattan Road was classified as 'Good'. Infographics and information on out-of-season bathing were shared on social media in December.

Regulatory Inspections and National Plans

Inspections of Dry-Cleaning premises under the Solvents Directive were completed, and Certificates of Compliance were issued to garages undertaking spray painting.

Under the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems, risk-based inspections were undertaken in Q1 and Q2, with follow-up inspections on non-compliant systems continuing throughout the year. A public social media campaign on septic tank requirements was also launched.

Automated Public Conveniences (APCs)

Following Storm Eowyn in the early part of the year, some of our APCs were out of order for a few days after Storm Eowyn. These are now back in operation. In addition, we completed Repairs to our APCs at Earls Island, Children's Millennium Park, Ladies Beach, and Blackrock

Furthermore, 2 new bottle refilling stations in Roscam Park and at Renmore Community Centre.

Casual Trading

The Environment invited application for a range of casual trading markets in Galway City in 2025, including the Summer and Christmas Markets at St.Nicholas' Cathedral.

Additionally, we invited application for the 2026 licences for St.Nicholas' Cathedral Saturday and Sunday Markets and the Eyre Square Market.

The team liaised with the St.Nicholas' Market Committee on these licences, with a view to building the relationship between Galway City Council and the committee.

Dog Pound/Services

Shelter Operations

A total of 90 dogs were rehomed directly from the Galway City Dog Shelter in 2025, with a further 49 moved to partner charities.

Heartwarming rehoming stories included a puppy chosen to become a therapy dog in a nursing home and 'Sammy the Dog', now a therapy dog at Clarenbridge Care Centre. These successes were featured in local and national media.

The Dog Services received media attention, through the rehoming of a dog to become a therapy dog in Clarenbridge Care Centre, and via a 'Day in the Life' article with our Dog Wardens published in national press.

Licensing and Public Awareness

A dedicated door-to-door licensing campaign in Westside and Knocknacarra areas saw 150-250+ 10-Day Warning Notices issued monthly to unlicensed dog owners.

The 'Love Your Dog, Love Your City' campaign was launched in August, promoting responsible ownership through positive social media videos and collaboration with MADRA on school workshops.

New XL Bully Dog Regulations make it illegal to own or keep these dogs without a Certificate of Exemption. We ran an awareness campaign around this, and processed applications for a licence for these dogs.

Recreation and Amenity Department

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.

Storm Eowyn

Storm Éowyn clean-up operations are still ongoing to this day. All Operational (Outdoor) resources were allocated to the effort from the outset, resulting in substantial cost and time implications.

- All 3 Centres were opened for additional hours to accommodate the general public that remained without electricity and running water and hot showers. This was extended for a period of 2 weeks.
- Sporting facilities, in particular MUGAS across the city incurred extensive damage.
- An estimated 4000 plus trees were lost during the storm, clean-up operations alone in the woodlands was extensive to ensure the re-opening and safe passage for public was challenging.
- City wide disruption to pavement in woodlands, Parklands and estates.
- Signage and infrastructure including buildings and pavements were damaged at our beaches across the city.
- Public land was contaminated by an oil spill which incurred large costs for the clean-up operation.
- Ball stop nets required replacement at pitches across the city.
- Extensive damage occurred at our Cemeteries, 30 Headstones required repair/ replacement, churches within the graveyards required new roof tiles, wall repairs, gutters. Kerbing and pavements resurfacing required and watermain also was damaged.





Storm Éowyn damage at Barna Woods

Amenity and Community Capital Projects

Kingston and Millars Lane Parks and Public Urban Realm Project

Working through 2025 alongside Galway City Council, a Design Team, consisting of DRLA, MKO, Quinn Architects, PUNCH Consulting Engineers and TC Estimating, continued the development of the **Kingston Park and Millers Lane Parks and Public Urban Realm Project**.

Kingston Park and Millers Lane Parks and Public Urban Realm Project is an exciting opportunity to reimagine two significant recreation zoned green spaces to serve the communities of Knocknacarra and Ragoon. The project will create accessible, public, connected green spaces, with dedicated areas for sports, play, relaxation and nature.

The Project provided extensive community engagement when in Autumn 2024: We asked people to identify what kind of spaces and facilities they wanted to be included in the design of Kingston Park and Millers Lane (1st Stage Non-Statutory Consultation)

In Spring (April) 2025 (2nd Stage Non-Statutory Consultation): We asked the public to help us refine and examine 6 concept designs (3 concept designs for Kingston Park and 3 concept designs for Millers Lane). The community response was strong, with valuable and useful feedback being provided at each stage of engagement.

The Design Team analysed all feedback, and taking into consideration policy and site constraints, developed a preliminary design option for Kingston Park and a **preliminary**

design option for Millers Lane.

In September (Autumn 2025) following many working events with important statutory stakeholders and specialists we brought the public together again to present the Preliminary Design Plan (Called Preliminary Design as it's the last design before taking it to the Statutory Planning Process). With the feedback received and the design and planning teams got to work to prepare the Part X Planning Pack and process. Parallel to the design and planning processes our team has been working on a land acquisition package. On the positive side we had achieved a sale agreed stage in the process, but due to the time taken to get that far and the constraints established to lodge an application, we decoupled those lands from our Part X Application. An Application under Section 177AE(4) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 was lodged with An Coimisiún Pleanála on the 13 November 2025 that included Kingston Park (phase 1 lands in GCC ownership and consent) and Millers Lane.

Our Part X Planning Application for Kingston Park Phase 1 and Millers Lane Park are with An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) and we await their decision. Kingston Park Phase 2 (the southern lands) design works are underway; feedback from the 3 non-statutory consultation processes will form an essential part of the preparation for a second Part X Planning Application to ACP in late 2026.

The Project website <https://kingstonparkmillerslane.com/> is updated as matters progress and includes the Part X Planning Application and the recent submission issued to ACP.



Overall Site Proposal for Millers Lane Park as Lodged with An Coimisiún Pleanála

Southpark Public Park and Public Urban Realm Project



Landing Page for the Southpark Public Park and Public Urban Realm Project Website

The South Park Public Park and Public Urban Realm Project is an exciting opportunity to reimagine this amazing and historic natural amenity adjacent to the centre of Galway City. The project will be transformational for South Park Public Park, the Claddagh Basin and Celia Griffin Children's Memorial Park. It is envisioned that the project will create accessible, public, green spaces, with biodiversity-friendly planting, age and mobility-friendly pathways, and spaces for play and relaxation.

Galway City Council and the Design Team the first public non-statutory public consultation process during January and February 2025; received valuable and useful feedback from stakeholders and the community.

A second non-statutory public consultation process was provided by **Galway City Council and the Design Team between the 25 August to 22 September 2025, and the public was invited to a 'drop in' public consultation event:**

Date: Thursday 28 August 2025

Time: 1pm to 7.30pm

Venue: Galway City Centre Library, St. Augustine Street, Galway, H91 R6W

The public were invited to provide feedback through the Community Survey which was accessible at the event or through the project website. Submissions were invited initially to be made from Monday 25 August to Monday 22 September 2025. Later this was extended until Friday 10 October 2025.

A total of nine design concepts were prepared and published as part of the second Non-Statutory Consultation Process and were available to view on the dedicated website <https://southparkpublicpark.com/>. The concepts were based on information gathering and analysis then synthesised with public feedback in the first Consultation process.

9 concept designs were available for review as follows:

- 3 concepts for South Park;
- 3 concepts for the Claddagh Basin; and
- 3 concepts for the Celia Griffin Children’s Park.

The public were invited to engage with the dedicated Community Survey to enable feedback on the 9 concept designs. The public were encouraged to read the Information Boards before completing the survey and ask questions at the public consultation event in the Galway Library. It was noted to the public that the feedback would influence our next stage preliminary design process and that the team would return with a plan (at a third stage non statutory consultation process in 2026 for comments and feedback.



Southpark Consultation Information Board at 1st Stage Non-Statutory Consultation



Southpark Consultation Information Board with Design Concept at 2nd Stage Non-Statutory Consultation

Throughout 2025 the Team have engaged in consultations and information gathering and sharing with other bodies including: -

- » The Coirib go Cósta Project Team with respect to the Flood Management Project where part of it is within the Project Boundary;
- » GCC NTA and Operational Roads Department Teams;
- » Uisce Éireann and other utility companies;
- » Bus Éireann;
- » Local Sporting and Residents Associations and Clubs
- » The Galway Diocese and Galway Rovers (Claddagh Hall);
- » The Dominican Order (St. Mary’s (Claddagh) Parish) and Pastoral Committee;
- » The Galway Museum Extension Project Team and GCC Planning Teams in connection with Spanish Arch;

The project includes addressing the Land Registration and Licencing and we are grateful to the support provided by our colleagues in Corporate Assets and our Legal Representatives.

The project also saw various site and desk-based assessments including detailed full year wintering bird surveys, ecological and habitat assessments.

An Archaeological Assessment was undertaken and later followed by an assessment by CCTV camera of existing underground services and hydrological and Ground Based Radar surveys.

2025 concluded with progress towards producing the preliminary design plan that will be presented at the 3rd Stage Non-Statutory Consultation process that is currently scheduled to run between the 2 – 31 July 2026 (subject to revision);

The Project website <https://southparkpublicpark.com/> updated.

Renmore Neighbourhood Park and Public Urban Realm Project



Landing Page for the Southpark Public Park and Public Urban Realm Project Web Site

The Renmore Neighbourhood Park and Public Urban Realm Project exciting opportunity to reimagine this amazing and historic natural amenity in the Eastern Coastal Renmore suburb of Galway City. The project will be transformational for the Renmore Neighbourhood, Ballyloughan and Lough Atalia. It is envisioned that the project will create accessible, public, green spaces, with biodiversity-friendly planting, age and mobility-friendly pathways, and spaces for play and relaxation. Moreover, it will enable pedestrian and cycling connectivity between the City Centre, and the Renmore, Wellpark, Mervue Ballybane and Murrough Suburbs.

Galway City Council and the Design Team the first public non-statutory public consultation process during January and February 2025; received valuable and useful feedback from stakeholders and the community.

A second non-statutory public consultation process was provided by Galway City Council and the Design Team between the 25 September to 23 October 2025, and the public were invited to a 'drop in' public consultation event:

Date: 1 October 2025 from 4pm to 8pm.

Time: 1pm to 7.30pm

Venue: Renmore Community centre

The public were invited to provide feedback through the Community Survey which was accessible at the event or through the project website. Submissions were invited for return by the 19 October 2025.

A total of nine design concepts were prepared and published as part of the 2nd Non-Statutory Consultation Process and were available to view on the dedicated website. The concepts were based on information gathering and analysis then synthesised with public feedback in the first Consultation process. In total 9 concept designs were available for review as follows:

- 3 concepts for Renmore Neighbourhood;
- 3 concepts for Ballyloughan; and
- 3 concepts for Lough Atalia.

The public were invited to engage with the dedicated Community Survey to enable feedback on the 9 concept designs. The public was encouraged to read the Information Boards before completing the survey and ask questions at the public consultation event in the Galway Library. It was noted to the public that the feedback would influence the next stage preliminary design process and that the team would return with a plan (at a 3rd Stage non statutory consultation process in 2026 for comments and feedback).

Renmore Neighbourhood Park Project

Welcome to the 2nd Non-Statutory Consultation

- What has happened so far?**
 - The 1st public consultation for the Renmore Neighbourhood Park Project took place from January to February 2025. We asked you to tell us what kind of spaces and facilities you would like included in the area in the future.
 - We received valuable and useful feedback from the community and key stakeholders. The Design Team analysed this feedback and has developed **3 design concepts**:
 - 3 concepts for Renmore
 - 3 concepts for Ballyloughane Beach
 - 3 concepts for Lough Atolia
- What is happening now?**
 - The following information boards will summarise the results of the 1st public consultation and will present the 3 concept designs for your review.
 - There is an online survey where you can provide feedback on the concept designs at <https://renmorepark.com/>. Submissions can be made from **Thursday 25th September to Thursday 23rd October 2025**.
 - We encourage you to **read the information boards before completing the survey**.
 - A **drop in public consultation event** will be held on **Wednesday 1st October 2025 at the Renmore Community Centre**. Further details about the event are available on the project website listed above.
 - We want to hear from everyone in the community**. Your input will help shape the future of the area, ensuring it serves the needs of the local community both now and for generations to come.
- What is happening next?**
 - Based on the community's feedback, as well as the identified policy and design constraints, a preferred option for all three areas will be developed.
 - A **third round of public consultation on the Draft Masterplan will occur early next year**.
 - The Masterplan will be refined and finalised based on the public's feedback, and a 'Part X' planning application will be lodged with An Coimisiún Pleanála next year.
- The future of your park and neighbourhood is in your hands!**



Renmore Consultation Information Board at 2nd Stage Non-Statutory Consultation

Renmore Neighbourhood Park Concept 1

Enhanced Pedestrian Priority

- This concept creates an enhanced pedestrian priority space on Renmore Avenue at the interface with Scoil Chaitríona where footpaths are widened and vehicle movement becomes one-way for a short section. A terraced multi-purpose route meanders through green spaces to enable a more gentle gradient and create universal access for all.
- A play space is proposed as a central feature within Nolan Park. The play area would be well-sited for Dun na Mara residents and Scoil Chaitríona pupils. It would also broaden the use of this green space which presently has a dominant sports use. Play proposals should be viewed alongside Ballyloughane Beach Concept 1 Proposals.
- Formal sports provision includes the retention of the existing soccer, rugby and GAA pitches, with improved drainage. A MUGA is proposed to the rear of the Community Centre designed for multi-functional sport use. Landscape mounds are proposed to provide spectator vantage points and create some vertical interest.
- This concept includes a pump track to cater specifically for older children and teenagers. A dog-friendly park is proposed at the Dun na Mara green space.

- Pros:**
- Reducing some traffic movements will improve pedestrian safety in the vicinity of Scoil Chaitríona which will support better access to green spaces and promote walking and cycling to school.
 - Reversing open space functions within Nolan Park increases the number of people using the space, benefiting the broader community.
 - Play provision is in an area which is open and overlooked, with easy access to the school.
 - The pump track is located within a low-lying area, to minimise visual intrusion and impact on nearby residential properties.
 - Improvements to neighbourhood gateway entrances along Ballyn Park's southern boundary will improve safety and appeal.

- Cons:**
- Existing sports pitches do not comply with optimum sporting standards in terms of site orientation.
 - Properties along Finawood Grove and Lancelotti Avenue may experience a change in view and frequency of traffic.
 - No dog-friendly zone within this area, although this is proposed at the Dun na Mara green space.



Renmore Neighbourhood Consultation Information Board with Design Concept at 2nd Stage Non-Statutory Consultation

During 2025 the Team engaged in consultations and information gathering and sharing with:

- » The Coirib go Cósta Project Team with respect to the Flood Management Project where part of it is within the Project Boundary;
- » Port of Galway Authorities and Bus Éireann;
- » The Department of Defence;
- » Iarnród Éireann (Irish Rail) and CIE;
- » GCC NTA Teams and Safe Routes to Schools Teams;
- » GCC Roads Operations Teams;
- » GCC Planning Department;
- » GRETB;
- » The Brothers of Charity Woodlands Campus Renmore;
- » Renmore AFC and Renmore Residents Association;
- » Renmore Active Retirement Association;
- » Renmore Bowling Club;
- » Renmore Hockey Club;
- » St. James GAA Club;

- » Consultant Design Team for the Department of Science and Education and the Principals of Scoil Caitríona Junior and Senior Schools;
- » Renmore Parish, the Galway Hospice and the Bons Secours Hospital.

Work is continuing with respect to managing our required land portfolio and registrations; the project includes addressing the Land Registration and Licencing and we are grateful to the support provided by our colleagues in Corporate Assets and our Legal Representatives.

A number of site investigative contracts were completed including Archaeological Screening, CCTV analysis (Underground services) GPRS and utility data gathering. A full four-season ecological assessment has been ongoing and will conclude in late Spring 2026. The data from this is required for the statutory planning processes to be undertaken.

Work was progressed to produce the preliminary design plan that will be presented at the 3rd Stage Non-Statutory Consultation process that is currently scheduled to run between the 2 April – 3 May 2026 (subject to revision).

Two statutory planning applications were progressed: -

- » A Part VIII Planning Application for a Multi-Use 2G Games Area at Melody's Field that will precede;
- » A Part X Application for the Renmore Neighbourhood Park;

The Project website <https://renmorepark.com/> will be updated over the coming months.

Proposed Dublin Road Lawn Cemetery

The detailed design for the proposed Dublin Road Lawn Cemetery is substantially complete. All required connection and compliance applications have been submitted, including foul sewer and water connections, disability access certification, fire safety submissions and surface water drainage applications.

A prequalification competition has been completed, resulting in four contractors being shortlisted for the main works contract. These shortlisted contractors will proceed to the next stage of the procurement process, where full tender documentation will be issued and evaluated.



Green Spaces Strategy 2022-2032

The Green Spaces Strategy was adopted by elected members at the December 2025 Plenary meeting. The Strategy provides a list of active recreation facilities on a Ward-by-Ward bases, the provision of these amenities is evidence based and outlined in the report. The report will be published in both English and Irish in Q2 2026, and the implementation of the objectives to commence start of 2026.

Woodquay Park Project

Construction work commenced in October 2025 on the Woodquay Park Public Realm Enhancement project. The project is due to be completed in May 2026. The cost of this project is approximately €1.2m and is funded through the Fáilte Ireland Urban Animation Scheme, Local Authorities Water Programme, the local property tax and commercial rates.

The project is a significant public realm enhancement project for the city and seeks to create an accessible, public, green space with bio-diversity friendly planting, age and mobility-friendly pathways, and spaces for play and for rest. The project will also involve traffic calming upgrades and improved pedestrian facilities to the surrounding streets.



Sports Capital Projects

Eugene Dunleavy (Glen Oaks/Drom Chaoin MUGA) Refurbishment

€47,953 in grants (€34,000 under 2017 Sports Capital Programme and €13,953 under 2018 Sports Capital Programme) were awarded to this project by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for the development of an artificial playing surface, security fencing, upgrade of floodlighting and goalposts. Final grant sums totalling €2,398.00 were paid to Galway City Council during 2025.

Mervue Park All-weather Pitch

Construction work was completed on the new all-weather pitch in Mervue Park in May 2025. The project includes a state-of-the-art 70x35m 3G synthetic turf pitch equipped with energy efficient LED floodlighting and ancillary footpaths. The project was funded by Galway City Council through the Local Property Tax and commercial rates, the Sports Capital and Equipment Programme and by a donation from St. James' GAA Club.



Doughiska Pitch Drainage Works and Floodlighting

Drainage improvement works were undertaken on two soccer pitches in Doughiska in July 2025. Ducting for floodlighting was also installed with floodlights scheduled to be erected early 2026. The pitches will be re-opened for use in the summer 2026 once grass has been fully established. The project received €278,000 grant funding under the Sports Capital and Equipment Programme.



Doughiska Skatepark Upgrade

Galway City Council completed upgrade works on the Doughiska Skatepark in November 2025. This project is a state-of-the-art skate park constructed from concrete and features a wide variety of facilities, which includes ramps, bowls, rails, and street zones, making it an ideal place for both beginners and more experienced skaters and bikers. The project was designed and built by Browne Brothers Ltd. in partnership with internationally renowned designers Vulcano Skateparks S.L.

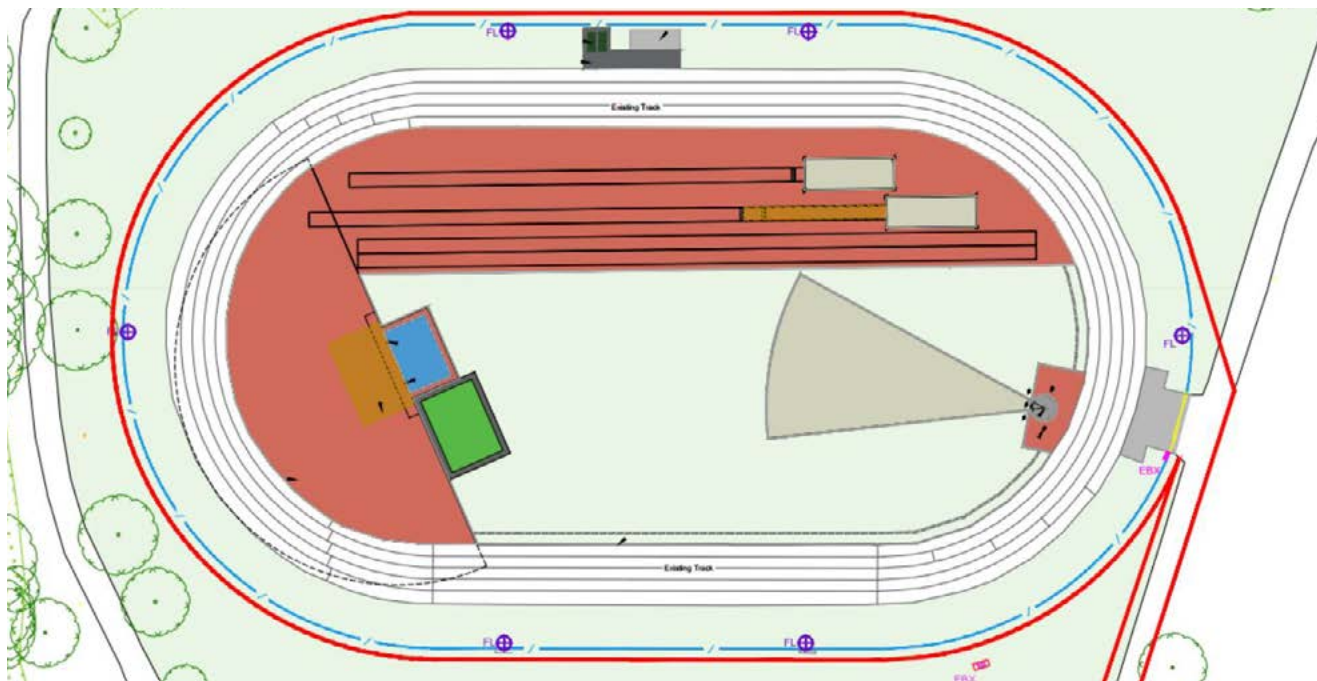
The project cost €400,000 and was funded through the Local Property Tax, commercial rates and the Sports Capital and equipment Programme.

Galway City Council is also proud to announce that the project has been shortlisted for an Irish Construction Excellence (ICE) Award 2026 in the Leisure or Tourism category. The nomination recognises the transformation of a well used but aging facility into a modern, inclusive and technically advanced skatepark that now ranks among the best of its kind in Ireland.



O'Sullivan Park Athletic Facilities

The works contract was tendered for the construction of field athletics facilities at O'Sullivan Park running track in 2025. Construction work is due to commence in Q2 2026 and will take approximately 3 months to complete. The project comprises two 60m sprint lanes, shot putt and long, triple and high jump facilities.



Event Permits

The Recreation and Amenity Department process applications for events in the parks and open spaces across the city. Over 80 event permit requests were processed through the Recreation and Amenity Department in 2025. These events ranged from educational and nature walks, charity runs, St. Patricks Day events, Galway International Arts Festival just to name a few.

Community Facilities and Projects

Community Centres

The book-a-pitch online facility continues to facilitate the booking of Community Halls and multi-purpose rooms within centres, all weather pitches, O' Sullivan Park Athletic Facility and multi-use games areas. The proposal to review the overall running and use of community centres will commence early 2026.

- During storm Eowyn, all the community centres provided essential and emergency wash facilities for those who had no power due to the storm.
- Fire safety measures were upgraded in Renmore, Westside and Knocknacarra Community Centres. The dressing rooms in a number of locations in the city were also upgraded.
- New sensors, smoke detectors and new emergency lighting installed.

Westside Community Centre

New Basketball hoop installations completed.

New flooring and lining works to the main sports hall completed.

Westside CC Sports Hall - New floor, new basketball hoops and the floor lined for basketball, pickleball 4 courts, soccer and volleyball.

Safety padding installed to all community centres.



Renmore Community Centre

Roof and Rainwater Goods Upgrade Contract

Aim of the Contract was to structural deficiencies and persistent leakage issues at the centre, resolve operational problems caused by internal blockages and prevent further water damage to the building fabric. The works included:

- Installing a new pitched roof over the existing defective flat roof on the northeast side of the centre.
- The concealed internal drainage systems (comprising gutters and downpipes) were sealed and grouted to eliminate leakage and improve flow.
- New external gutters, downpipes and associated infrastructure were installed and connected to the existing underground surface water network, ensuring a more reliable and maintainable drainage system.
- The works substantially complete with minor closeout items remaining.
- Safety roof ladders and railings installed.





Courts lined for badminton use.

Other sports facilities

Pitches, Courts and Dressing Rooms

Total of 51 pitches are located across the city which provide for the playing of all forms of sporting activities, most of which were licensed to various Clubs/schools/colleges for an 11mth period from 1 September – 31 July 2025. These comprise of: Rugby, Soccer, Gaelic Games, All Weather, Training, Astro Turf/cages and Multi Use.

Doughiska Tennis Courts

Tennis court lined at Doughiska.

Westside Tennis Courts

Four Pickle Ball courts added to Westside.

Crestwood

- New heating and showers installed in the dressing rooms.
- New under the sinks units installed.
- New Storage compound was installed.



Doughiska tennis court



Westside pickle ball courts.



Crestwood storage compound.



Water station installed at Doughiska.



Water station in Ballybane.



Water station in Ballinfoile.



Civic Naming of the Eugene Dunleavy Muga in Glenoaks, Westside took place Friday 23 May 2025.



Civic Naming of the Pat Manogue Park took place on the 23 May 2025.

Parks, Woodlands

Parks

Fr. Burke Park

- Access upgrade works at Fr Burke Park were carried out with the installation of new footpaths/walkways.

Cappagh Park

- Pathway upgrade works were undertaken in Cappagh Park.

Kennedy Park

Refurbishment works to the accessibility ramp adjacent to the playground in Eyre Square were completed.

Woodlands

Storm Éowyn-Fallen Trees in Barna Woods have been transformed into magical sculptures of a fairy house, an owl, an eagle, an otter chasing a fish, seating areas, and a wizened tree spirit, as part of a Galway City Council project to transform fallen trees into an enchanted route through the woods, funded by Creative Ireland. The pieces were created by chainsaw artist, 'Fear na Coillte', Will Fogarty.



Completed refurbishment works to Eyre Square Pedestrian ramp.

Almost 100 trees were felled in January 2025 in Barna Woods, when Storm Éowyn swept through the country with unprecedented impacts. In the months that followed, Barna Woods was closed while specialists worked to clear the main footpath through the woodlands, moving fallen trees to the sides of the paths. A number of these trees have now been transformed into a magical path of sculptures inspired by nature.



Galway City Allotments

A city-wide online survey of the demand for new Allotments and Community Gardens has gone out to the public. Printed versions of the survey are available in all the libraries. The survey will help Galway City Council identify where in the city there is a need to deliver new facilities or extend existing facilities. The results of the survey will be available on Council Website in Q2 2026. Galway City Council currently provides a total of 77 allotment plots at two locations: Shantalla (City Central); and Merlin Woods Doughiska (East side of City). There are six Community Gardens in the city in Ballinfoile, Ballybane, Merlin Woods, Westside, Salthill and Ballyloughane.

Green Flag Parks Award

In November 2025 An Taisce awarded Galway City Council four Green Flag Park and one Community Green Flag award in Maynooth University. The prestigious Green Flags were awarded to Kennedy Park (Eyre Square), O’Sullivan Park (Mervue), Quincentennial Park (Salthill), Millennium Children’s Park (Newcastle). The Community Green Flag award went to Terryland Forest Park, for the Council’s work in conjunction with the volunteer group An Tuatha of Terryland Forest Park.

Terryland Forest Park 25-year Anniversary celebration

On the 5 June 2025, Uachtaráin na hÉireann, Michael D. Higgins commemorated 25 years of Terryland Forest Park at a celebration in Galway City. The ‘Green Lungs’ of Galway City was planted in early 2000, over the course of a single day (12 March), with over 3,000 people arriving at an empty field - and leaving having planted a forest.

The event, organised by GCC Recreation and Amenity Section, in conjunction with the Tuatha of Terryland Forest Park, recognised the dedication and commitment of Galway City Council Recreation and Amenity staff; volunteers from Tuatha of Terryland Forest Park; and President Higgins – who at the time, as a Minister for Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht (1993-1997), secured funding for the nascent forest project.

As part of the commemoration, President Higgins planted an oak tree in the very spot he previously planted a King Oak 25 years ago - which was knocked by Storm Éowyn.



Uachtarán na hÉireann Michael D. Higgins planting an oak tree on 5th June as part of 25th Anniversary of Terryland Forest Park.





Estates and Open Spaces

- Winter/Spring maintenance programme:
- All proposed hedge pruning.
- Winter pitch maintenance works.
- Flower bed maintenance for the City's Park, Pitches, Woodlands, Estates and Green Spaces.
- Christmas tree recycling operations were carried out at Merlin Woods and Hunters Depot.
- Summer Wildflower beds were sown in O'Sullivan Park, Children's Millenium Park and Quinquennial Park.
- Recreation and Amenity crews participated in the management of the aftermath of Storm

Eowyn, Crews worked relentlessly to ensure Roads, beaches etc were all restored to ensure public safety across all affected areas across the city.

- Opening of the new beautiful curved seated and paved area in Blackrock on Friday 23 May 2025, which was a joint project between Galway City Council and McHugh Property Holdings.



Playground Operations and Management

Ongoing maintenance works were carried out in all playgrounds across the city. These included deep cleaning, power washing addition of woodchip, part repairs /replacement, painting, surface maintenance, removal of graffiti and inspections to ensure that all equipment meets the standards required for safe use.

Children's Millenium Playground



- Painting works completed at the skate park.
- Wildflower area at Children's Millenium Park

Fr. Burke Park Playground

- Playground tenders received, works to commence in new year.

Beaches and Water Safety General

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

Ballyloughane Beach

- Installation of two shelters at Ballyloughane Beach, with spectacular murals painted by local artist, Ró (Ronan J Connor).



Salthill Promenade and Beaches

- Installation of Composite Benches at various locations and removal of old and worn wooden benches.
- New railings and safety equipment installed at Blackrock, Palmers Rock and other locations around Salthill.
- Painting of structures completed including Blackrock Diving Tower, Shelters etc.



Silverstrand Beach

- Painting of structures completed including Toilet Block.
- Installation of 4 new wheelchair accessible picnic benches.



Water Safety

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.

The bathing season in Ireland operates from the 1st of June to the 15th of September. During the bathing season, water samples are taken from the four designated bathing areas in Galway City (Silverstrand, Salthill, Grattan and Ballyloughane) and tested for microbiological parameters indicative of water quality, namely E-Coli and Intestinal Enterococci. Silverstrand and Salthill are Blue Flag Beaches and are sampled at least fortnightly. Ballyloughane and Grattan are sampled at least weekly. The results are reported to the EPA and made available to the public at the beach notice boards and on Beaches.ie

Blue Flag Awards

The Blue Flag is one of the world's most recognised eco-labels for beaches. To be granted Blue Flag status beaches must comply with a specific set of criteria relating to water quality, information provision, environmental education, safety and environmental management. Salthill and Silverstrand beaches retained both awards for 2025.

Cemeteries Operations and Management

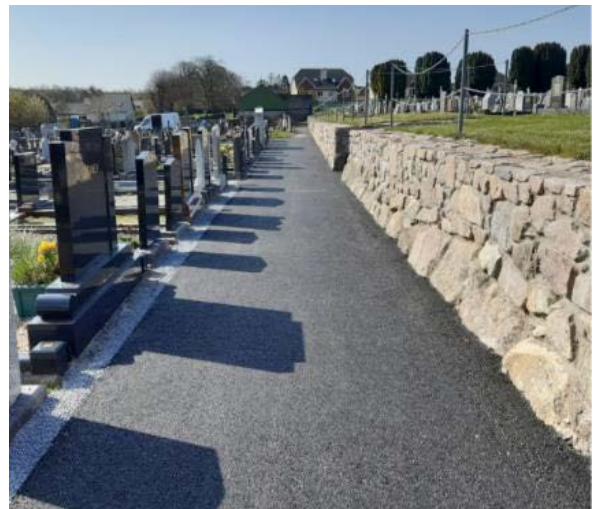
General

The City Council continued to manage and operate two cemeteries in the City at Ragoon and Bohermore. Maintenance works carried out in the cemeteries include tidying, grass cutting, strimming etc.

Cemetery Sunday Mass was held in Bohermore on 17 August 2025 and in Ragoon on 14 September 2025 both events had a substantial turnout.

Ragoon Cemetery

- A new materials storage slab was installed.
- Approximately **1,160 m²** of pathway surfacing completed, improving accessibility and circulation across the cemetery.
- Handrails have been installed at steps in several locations to enhance visitor safety.
- Additional land drainage works have been completed in the lawn section to improve ground conditions.
- Fourteen urnplot headstones were installed in preparation for future use.
- Sewer repairs and enhancement to cemetery lodge completed.



Bohermore Cemetery

- Upgrade works to the heating system in the Cemetery Lodge have been completed, improving energy efficiency and general comfort.
- The stone wall adjacent to the Protestant Chapel has been fully rebuilt, restoring structural integrity and appearance.
- Extensive roofing and stone repair works on the Protestant Chapel have been completed, supported by BHIS funding, which has now been formally signed off.



I Galway City Council

- Approximately 150 m² of surfacing works around the Protestant Chapel has been completed.
- The new Plot of Angels has been completed and is now ready for use.
- New Alucast gutters and downpipes have been installed on the Protestant Mortuary Chapel, improving rainwater management and protecting the building fabric.

Old Ragoon Cemetery

The Community Service Initiative Team continue to maintain the Old Ragoon Cemetery, whose works include:

- The cutting back and removal of overgrown material, litter picking.

Floral Projects

Spring planting at Eyre Square



Biodiversity

Bio- diversity Action Plan and invasive species Strategy 2025-2030. Galway City Council unveiled two landmark initiatives aimed at safeguarding the city's natural heritage: the Galway City Biodiversity Action Plan 2025–2030 and Galway City Invasive Species Strategy 2025–2030. Cllr John McDonagh, deputising for the Mayor of the City of Galway, officially launched the event, held at Galway City Museum, brought together local stakeholders, environmental experts, community groups, and government representatives to celebrate a renewed commitment to ecological sustainability. The Plan reflects a growing recognition that cities must accommodate nature and actively nurture it. It sets out a clear and ambitious roadmap for protecting habitats, restoring ecological networks, and engaging citizens in the stewardship of their local environment.”

The National Parks and Wildlife Service's Local Biodiversity Action Fund (LBAF) will continue this year with funding of €3 million. The scheme aims to provide funding to assist any Local Authority's biodiversity officer with the implementation of projects that promote actions contained in Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) 2023-2030. Each Local Authority can claim up to €96,700 in 2025. Support for the following projects was submitted:

1. Galway City IAS Management and Education Project 2025
2. The Hare's Corner – Galway City 2025
3. Galway City Tern Ringing Project
4. Recording Irish mayfly to Establish Conservation Status
5. Bat field surveys to ground truth ecological corridors
6. Ballyloughane Beach Wetland Restoration Design
7. Dark Sky Public Lighting Local Authority Training

Total cumulative Cost €115,276, NPWS grant sought € 97,984 and Galway City Council support funding € 17,291.

Dexter Cows

The Dexter Cows have settled in well, local communities, groups and schools alike continue to enjoy visiting their temporary home in Ballyloughane.

Biodiversity Workshops, Free Biodiversity Workshops were held at the Museum for the Galway Science and Technology Festival! Galway City Museum invited children and families who too who took part in a series of free, hands-on workshops on 15 November.



Community Engagement and Biodiversity Awareness 2025

Biodiversity Workshops were held at the Museum for the Galway Science and Technology Festival! Galway City Museum invited children and families who too who took part in a series of free, hands-on workshops on 15 November.

Coastwatch Water Quality Workshop:

Galway City Council were delighted to co-sponsor the Coastwatch Water Quality Workshop organised by Coastwatch as part of the More4Nature project, an initiative funded by the Horizon EU program.



The poster features logos for Coastwatch, Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe Galway City Council, more4nature with citizen science, and the European Union flag. The text reads: "OUR COASTAL WATER QUALITY WORKSHOP". Below this, it says: "Join us in Galway City for: -An exceptionally low tide seagrass and shore riches fieldtrip Workshop Water quality and citizen- authority participation". The date and time are "Friday, 28th March 2025, 9:30am-3.30pm". It includes a QR code and contact information: "Book Tickets on our website Or scan the QR code www.coastwatch.org". On the right, there are two images: a close-up of green seagrass underwater and a hand holding a water quality test strip. At the bottom right, it says: "Any query? email - survey@coastwatch.org or Karin Dubsy - kdubsy@coastwatch.org or 757 06 011 104".

The Hares Corner 2025: Growing Together with The Hare's Corner!



The students at Radharc na Mara School Mervue, who signed up to embrace nature and took an active role in planting trees, orchard and sowing seeds. It's amazing to see young minds nurturing the environment, one tree at a time.

Artificial Lighting for Local Authorities Workshop

This workshop was held in Galway City on the 7th April, the first of its kind for the region. This workshop was organised by the Connacht Biodiversity Officers and workshops were co funded by under the NPWS Local Biodiversity Action Fund. Inappropriate artificial lighting can have negative impacts upon the surrounding wildlife and human health, impacting upon our natural circadian rhythms and how well our body functions. The opening address was delivered by our own Patrick Greene DoS.



Connacht Biodiversity Officers and workshop presenters. Closing address delivered by Galway County Council Cathaoirleach Martina Kinane.

Understanding Aquatic Invasive Species Workshop

The interactive and informative workshop explored the growing issue of aquatic invasive species—what they are, why they matter, and how we can help prevent their spread.



Installation of Swift Nesting Boxes at St Ignatius Church/Coláiste Iognáid

Swift conversation in Ireland is important in Ireland because over the last 15 years the Swift population has decreased by 40% and by at least 60% in Galway City. St Ignatius Church Community and Colaiste Iognaid SJ and Scoil Iognaid SJ have engaged with the Biodiversity Officer who was advised by Swift Conversation Ireland to install swift nest boxes. There are plans for the interactive involvement of students with the project, and they will be able to follow the development of the young birds with the aid of special cameras installed in the boxes.



Our pictures show (1) the four newly installed Swift Vivara Pro GZ 10 boxes, and (2) Lynda Huxley, Martin Curry SJ, Paula Kearney and Liam O'Connell SJ during the installation.

National Tree Week

In March each year GCC undertakes a series of tree planting projects throughout the city as part of National Tree Week. This year however, due to the extensive tree damage and clean up after Storm Eowyn, GCC Parks made the decision to postpone the tree planting in 2025 until the Autumn time. Instead, GCC Parks used the opportunity presented by the storm damage to roll out new initiatives with residents in the estates. With the agreement of the residents the GCC Parks crews retained in situ stumps from fallen trees and large fallen tree limbs (instead of removing them completely). One third of biodiversity in woodlands occurs

in dead/fallen wood, this presented an opportunity to introduce new habitats in some of the open spaces and woodland areas. Where possible the new habitat areas were supplemented with native tree and shrub planting such as holly, oak, hazel, Scots pine, guelder rose and crab apple.



Planting native shrubs at the McGraths Field



Using storm fallen branches as new habitat in the open space at McGraths Field



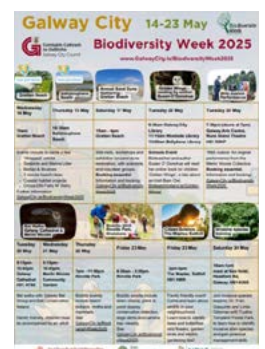
Residents of The Maples, Salthill with the stump of a fallen tree during Storm Eowyn which was retained in the open space to form an area of new habitat.



Tree planting with the residents of Ros Ard and The Links at Cappagh.

For National Biodiversity Week

Galway city Council had an exciting programme of events for the people of Galway to celebrate biodiversity and connect with nature in their local area. Events such as biodiversity walks, fun talks on the familiar and not-so-familiar plant, insect and animal species in the landscape and workshops for those looking to encounter the natural world up close took place throughout the City. The week's events proved to be very successful with lots of enthusiasts on board and ready to learn and explore.



Picnic in the Garden, Merlin Woods

An event held by the Merlin woods community on Sunday 24th August, where Galway City Council's Bio-diversity officer engaged with the community exploring the local wildlife and educating the children and families regarding the bio-diversity within the locality, the event was very successful community event.

Buaile Bó Ballyloughane – Shelter murals



Galway City Council is delighted to celebrate the Buaile Bó Ballyloughane Conservation Grazing Project with the unveiling of vibrant new murals at Ballyloughane. Created in collaboration with Creative Together, Scoil Chaitríona Junior Renmore, and Radharc na Mara NS, these murals reflect the rich natural heritage of the area and the importance of sustainable land management through conservation grazing.

Active Teen Spaces – Workshop with Students of Merlin College, Doughiska

Rec and Amenity have prepared an application to the DCEDIY (Department of Children) under a fund titled Making Places for and with Teenagers, due for submission in early April. Local authorities are invited to develop and submit a proposal for a project to address the recreational needs of teenagers in their local authority area, up to a maximum cost of €125,000. A key feature of this pilot fund is the consultation process with Comhairle na nÓg (local youth councils) and engagement with local teenagers to ensure their voices are heard in planning and design of their spaces.

As part of this process there was a workshop with first, second- and fifth-year students of Merlin College in Doughiska, as the proposed project is located in this area. See some photos below of the workshop with the students which was hosted by the Comhairle na nÓg and GCC staff and facilitated by Youthwork Galway.

The provision of Active Teen Spaces across the city is a key action emerging from the draft Green Spaces Strategy, to address under provision for teenagers in Galway.



Students of Merlin College and member of the Comhairle na nÓg Galway City who participated in the workshop to plan and design their local Active Teen Space.



Galway City Council were awarded the blue flag and Green Coastal Flag for 2025.

Lough Corrib Navigation Trust

- Works included maintenance works at Oughterard pier and recovery/repositioning of navigation buoys that had moved off station on the upper lake.
- The Claddagh Basin lock gates were opened to allow boats to exit for the summer months.
- Maintenance along the canal banks and tow paths is ongoing, along with litter picking and the removal of vegetation.
- Maintenance works on the Navigation system took place in late June with upgraded port side markers fitted to the Corrib River between the Quincentennial bridge and the entrance to the old River.
- Existing starboard markers were cleaned to increase visibility.
- Stone Cairns on the middle third of the lake were repaired and some were painted to increase visibility.
- Floating navigation marks on the upper lake were repaired and repositioned.
- Maintenance works are ongoing at the LCNT piers with cleaning, painting and weeding works underway
- The Structural Assessment of Oughterard pier wall was completed, and the final report was issued by consultants.
- Cleaning and weeding of tow paths are ongoing with works being carried out by the Community Service Initiative Team.



Corporate Development Directorate

Finance

The Finance Department provides a broad range of financial services including:

- Preparation of Draft Annual Budget and budgetary control.
- Preparation of Annual Financial Statements.
- Administration of the Financial Management System.
- Preparation of Three-Year Capital Programme.
- Payroll Administration.
- Commercial Rates Billing and Collection.
- Rent collection
- Loan collection
- Treasury Management and Cash Flow
- Payment of Suppliers.
- Management and review of Finance Risk Register.
- Insurance Administration.

The Finance Department also ensures that statutory and financial accounting principles are complied with.

Statutory Audit

Galway City Council undergoes an Annual Audit, required by statute, carried out by the Local Government Audit Service (LGAS). The Audit for the financial year 2025 will commenced in the next few months.

This Audit provides an independent review to help assure a fair presentation of Galway City Council's financial position.

Galway City Council is also subject to audit in relation to EU funding, NRA funding, tax compliance and audits with a Value For Money objective through the LGAS.

Summary of Major Revenue Collections for 2025

Galway City Council have seen increases in collection rates across all three major revenue collections from 2024 to 2025.

	Closing Arrears at 31.12.25	% Collected in 2025	% Collected in 2024
Rates	7,024,610	91%	86%
Rents and Annuities	2,747,991	80%	79%
Housing loans	252,504	88%	88%

The Debt Management Unit continue to work closely with customers who are having trouble paying their debts to agree payment plans and methods of payments.

Budget 2026

The Council’s 2026 Revenue Budget was adopted by Galway City Councillors at the Budget Meeting held on 24 November 2025. The budget provides for expenditure of €161m to invest in services and supports for residents, businesses and visitors, measures to support the physical and economic development of the city are funded through a combination of commercial rates, LPT, grants and income from other services raised locally. In addition to adopting the Budget for 2026 the Elected Members also voted to increase local property tax by 15% and adopted the annual rate on valuation of 0.2369 for 2026.

Procurement

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 value for money, 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 2026. In 2025: GCC procured

€65 million, paid 1,900 different suppliers and published 95 tenders through eTenders and Supplygov

Annual Financial Statement (AFS) 2025

In 2025, the Finance Department oversaw €137 million in expenditure, supporting various Council directorates. The Annual Financial Statement indicated a near-balanced position. A 15% increase in Local Property Tax generated and additional €1.4 million for core services in 2025. An increase in rates generated an additional €2.9 million in 2025. Development contributions totalled €3.4 million, with an additional €2.6 million claimed under a temporary waiver. Capital Expenditure for 2025 was €99 million with €60 million of this total being invested in housing. The Council incurred €1.97 million in Storm Eowyn related costs and claimed €1.41 million under the Severe Weather Exceptional Costs Scheme operated by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management. The Council paid Residential Zoned Land Tax of €600,000 in 2025 with no scheme currently in place to recoup this cost. The Council processed over 18,000 invoices with minimal late payment interest during 2025.

Corporate Development

To provide support services and resources to Elected Members, enabling them to fulfil their democratic responsibilities, and to provide staff with the tools they need to effectively implement their executive functions, ensuring the delivery of high-quality, efficient services to the people of Galway.

Corporate Services

Corporate Services plays a key role ensuring Council meetings run smoothly and professionally. The team looks after the practical organisation of each meeting, help ensure procedures are followed correctly, and keep Standing Orders up to date so elected members have clear guidance in carrying out their work. In 2025, this included a full review and adoption of revised Standing Orders in November, strengthening the framework for how meetings are conducted.

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

Meetings held in 2025:

Plenary Council meetings	12
Special Council meetings	2 14 July 2025 - Crown Square 15 September 2025 - Presidential Nomination
Annual meeting	1 20 June 2025 Councillor Mike Cubbard was elected Mayor of the city of Galway. Councillor Alan Cheevers was elected Deputy Mayor of the city of Galway.
Statutory Budget Meeting	1 24 November 2025
Oireachtas Meetings	2 31 January, 25 April, 2025
Joint City and County Council Corporate Policy Group Meeting	4 25 Feb, 14 May, 2 July, 7 Nov., 2025

Workshop	
Property Workshop	20 January 2025
Land Development Agency Programme	27 January 2025
Land Development Agency Briefing	06 March 2025
Galway Port Company Strategy	12 May 2025
Galway Drugs Task Force	16 September 2025
Uisce Éireann Workshop	22 October 2025

Mayoral Receptions

Mayoral Receptions	
15 May 2025	Galway Lorient Twinning – 50 years celebration
07 November 2025	Galway lifeboat – Celebrating 30 years of service
14 November 2025	Stephen Walsh – Galway United

Mayoral Reception – Galway Lorient Twinning – 50 years celebration

Mayor Peter Keane welcomed delegates to City Hall to celebrate the anniversary of twinning agreement which was signed in 1975. A friendship and exchange that celebrates a shared culture of maritime, sport, education and sustainability – strengthening ties between Galway and Lorient through business, education, tourism, and cultural exchange.

Mayoral Reception – Galway lifeboat – Celebrating 30 years of service

Galway Lifeboat Service is one such exemplar of a community banding together to deliver a vital service for the community. Galway Lifeboat Service was established in the 1995, following a number of incidents on Galway Bay.

This was an incredible achievement by so many people, who gave their time to fundraise to establish the RNLI service in Galway and who have been part of the crew over the past three decades.

Mayoral Reception - Stephen Walsh – Galway United

Mayor Mike Cubbard held a reception for Stephen Walsh recognising his outstanding achievements and long-serving contribution to Galway United. He has had a positive impact and continues to be a role model for the next generation.

Courtesy Visits

17 January 2025	Ambassador of France, Céline Place
30 January 2025	Ambassador of Hungary, Gergely Bánhegyi
14 February 2025	Ambassador of Japan, Shimada Junji
13 June 2025	Ambassador of Canada Dennis King
26 June 2025	Ambassador of Nigeria, Ibiyemi Ajiboye-Roberts
14 July 2025	Ambassador of Albania, Dr. Uran Ferizi
21 July 2025	Ambassador of Ireland in Canada, John Concannon
28 July 2025	Governor General of Antigua
31 July 2025	Mayor of Menlo City, Drew Combs
05 September 2025	Ambassador of Poland, Mr Artur Michalski
09 September 2025	Ambassador of the State of Palestine, Dr Jilan Wahba Abdalmajid
29 September 2025	Ambassador of Hungary, Dr. Gergely Bánhegyi
20 October 2025	Ambassador of Morocco, Dr Lahcen Mahraoui
07 November 2025	Ambassador of Britian, Dr Kara Owens
01 December 2025	Ambassador of South Korea, Yong-kil Kim

Other Visits to City Hall

17 January 2025	Inclusive recovery city
03 March 2025	Notre Dame – sisters city (student exchange)
07 April 2025	Georgian Community
30 May 2025	China-Hunan Delegation
25 July 2025	Celtic Irish American Academy
28 August 2025	Irish Professional Footballers benevolent association
28 November 2025	Columbus Ohio delegation
28 November 2025	Romanian Community

Presidential Election 2025

The Presidential Election Order 2025 was formally made by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, James Browne, on 3 September 2025, appointing Friday, 24 October 2025 as Polling Day and confirming all statutory nomination timelines.

The nomination period ran from 5 September 2025 to 24 September 2025, the final date for receipt of nominations by the Presidential Returning Officer.

The Presidential Returning Officer issued Circular Letter F.08-25, and in total 12 expressions of interest were received, with 10 formal nominations, 3 subsequently withdrawn, and 7 candidates were scheduled to make presentations to Galway City Council.

A Special Meeting of Galway City Council was convened on 15 September 2025 to hear presentations from persons seeking a Council nomination and to consider passing a resolution to nominate a candidate.

Seven candidates sought Galway City Council's support and were confirmed as eligible. In line with the nomination process agreed by the Corporate Policy Group (1 September 2025), each eligible candidate was invited to present for up to 10 minutes (5-minute presentation plus questions).

Of the seven, three candidates presented to the Council at the Special meeting. No nominations were proposed. The meeting concluded without a Council nomination.

Franchise – Register of Electors

In 2025, Galway City Council successfully delivered on one electoral event: the Presidential Election held on 24 October. Corporate Services prepared the Register Books and Balancing Books and issued them to the Courthouse on 13 October 2025. Between 1 September and 7 October, a total of 1,829 additions, 609 modifications, and 574 deletions were made to the Register. After the Presidential Election, 1,192 polling cards were returned, and the team is currently engaging with these electors to confirm and update their correct details.

In January 2025, the team attended an information briefing on the forthcoming Local Authority migration to Voter.ie, the new national electoral registration system that will replace the individual registers maintained by each Local Authority as part of the LGERS reform. Following this, the team completed Phase 1 and Phase 2 data-quality work in preparation for migration in Q3 2026. This included contacting 7,751 electors to verify PPSNs, dates of birth, Eircode's and potential duplications, as well as completing all required corrections and translation updates.

Funding for two Clerical Officer posts was approved in 2025 to support the Voter.ie migration work. These 18-month positions commenced in October and November 2025.

Number of electors registered by category at the end of 2025:

Presidential	Dáil	Local	EU	Potential-EU
49,636	50,428	56,092	50,669	1,918

Number of postal and special voters by category:

Diplomats	4
Occupation	19
Defence Forces	132
Prisoners	5
Anonymous	0
Gardaí	0
Disabled	60
Nursing Homes	140

Total number of applications processed in 2025 was 9,834

Corporate Governance

In 2025, a total of 160 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. 8 requests were carried forward from 2024. 9 requests were appealed internally.

Requests Granted	32
Requests Part-Granted	57
Requests Refused	42
Requests Withdrawn	17
Dealt with outside of FOI	14
Requests Transferred	1
Carried forward to 2026	5
Total	168

Access to Information on the Environment (AIE)

In 2025, a total of 9 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	3
Requests Part-Granted	1
Requests Refused	4
Requests Withdrawn	0
Dealt with outside of AIE	0
Requests Transferred	1
Carried forward to 2026	1
Total	10

Safety, Health and Welfare at Work

In 2025, 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.

- ✓ Galway City Council continued to develop, coordinate and successfully implement a safety management system, to protect safety, health and welfare of its employees, contractors, and visitors.
- ✓ Changes were introduced to SMS to account for the NEW Contractor Competency App and the ISO45001 Safety Management Standard.
- ✓ Safety Statements and Risk Assessments were revised and updated as required and in accordance with their stated Annual Review Periods.

Contractor Management:

- ✓ Galway City Council introduced a NEW Contractor Competency Assessment App in May 2025.
 - Training in the use of the Contractor Competency Assessment system was provided to 35 Line Managers.
 - The introduction of the Contractor Competency Assessment as part of the Safety Statement and SMS was communicated to staff during the Annual Staff Safety Briefings.
 - 50no. contractors have been added to the Contractor Competency Assessment system.

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 2025.

The following Safety Inspections were completed in 2025:

- Safety Inspections completed by Line Managers and Supervisors (287)
- Safety Inspections completed by the Health and Safety Officers (54)

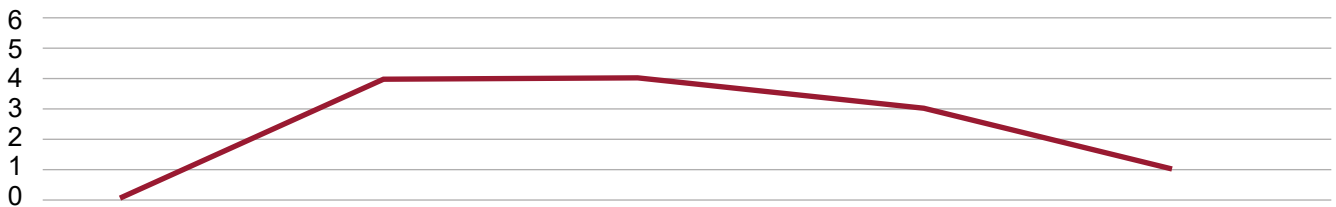
Reactive Safety Monitoring

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 to Senior Management, providing guidance to prevent recurrence, and reported statistics to the Local Government Management Agency.

- ✓ Galway City Council continued to review its health and safety objectives, to **reduce number of Violence and Aggression incidents and to successfully reduce Road Traffic Incidents within its operations by 60% during 2025.**

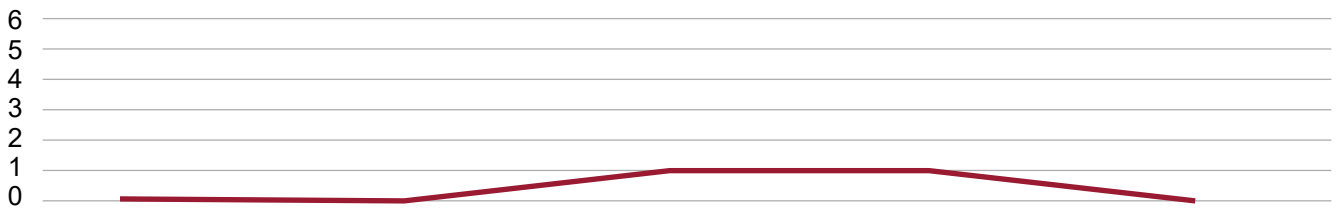
5 Year Incident Reporting

IR1 - Accidents Reportable to the H.S.A



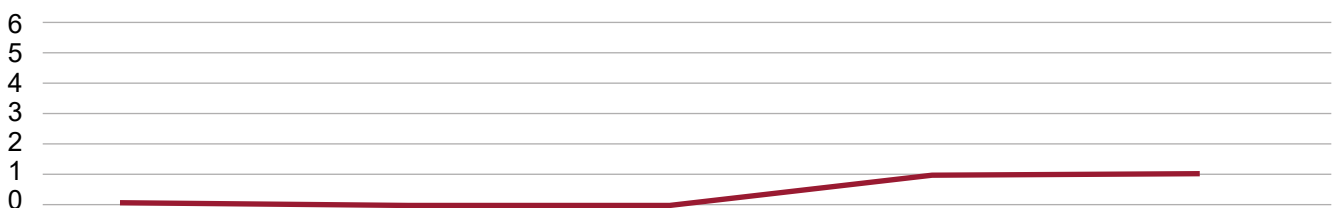
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
0	4	4	3	1

IR3 - Dangerous Occurrence Reportable to H.S.A.



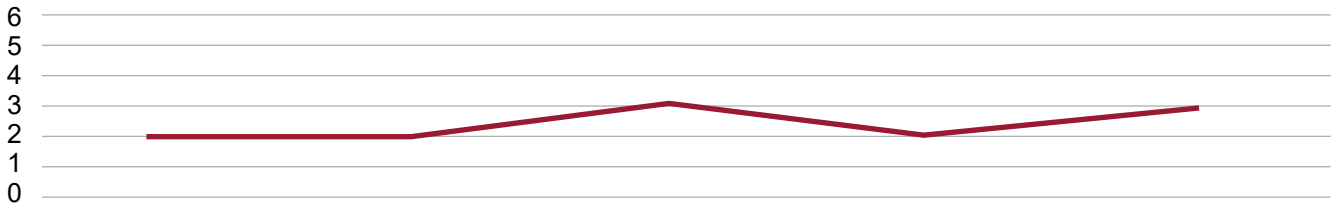
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
0	0	1	1	0

Serious Injury - Not Reportable



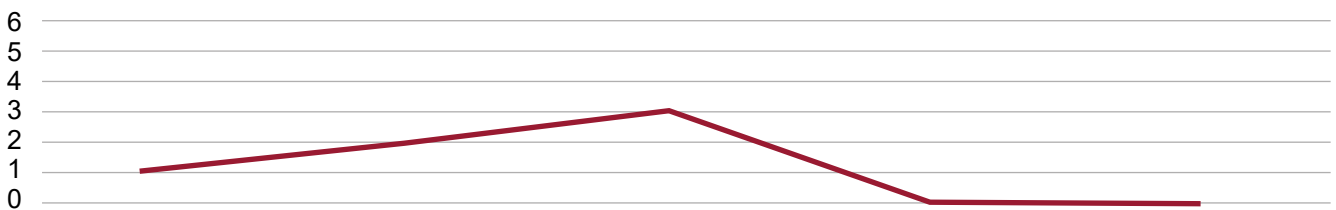
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
0	0	0	1	2

Injury - No Absence



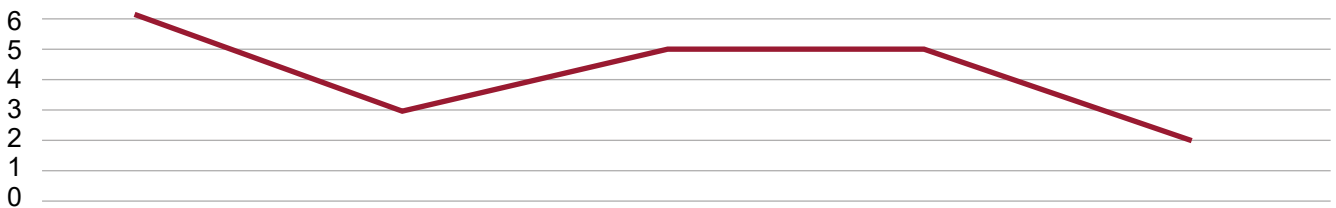
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
2	2	3	2	3

Service Strike



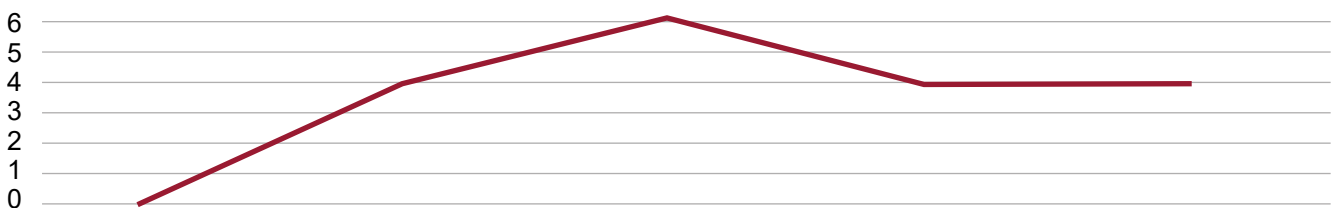
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
1	2	3	0	0

Near Miss



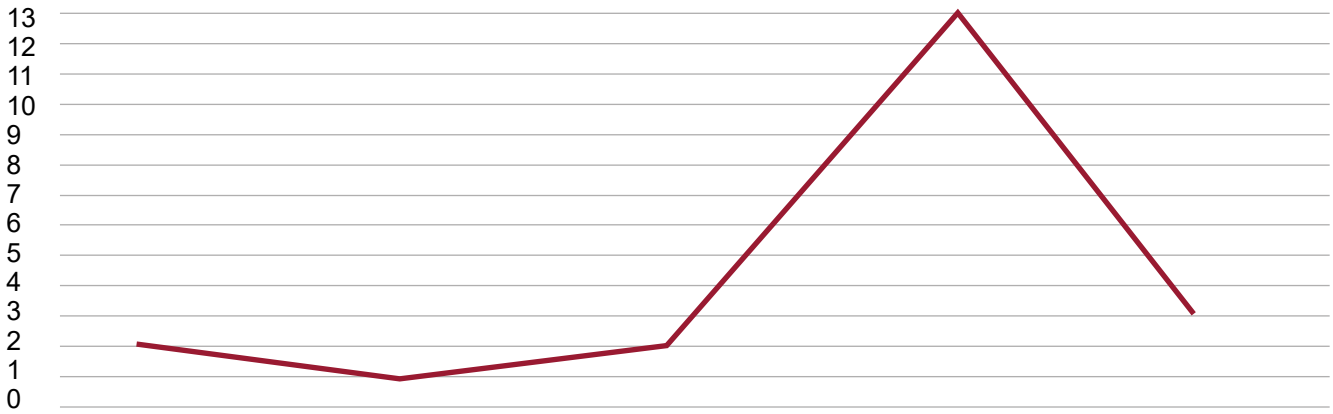
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
6	3	5	5	2

Violence and Aggression



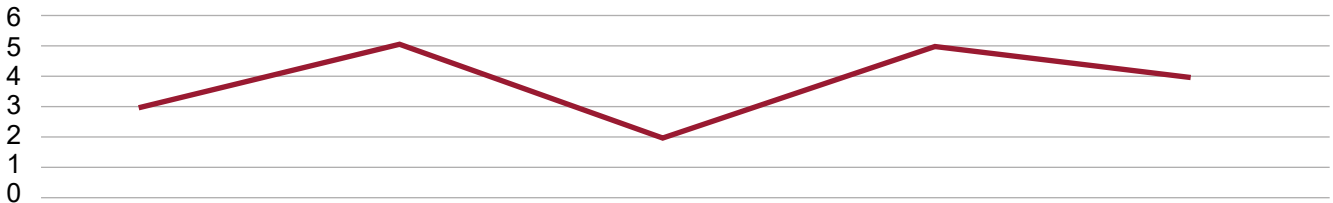
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
0	4	6	4	4

Road Traffic Accident



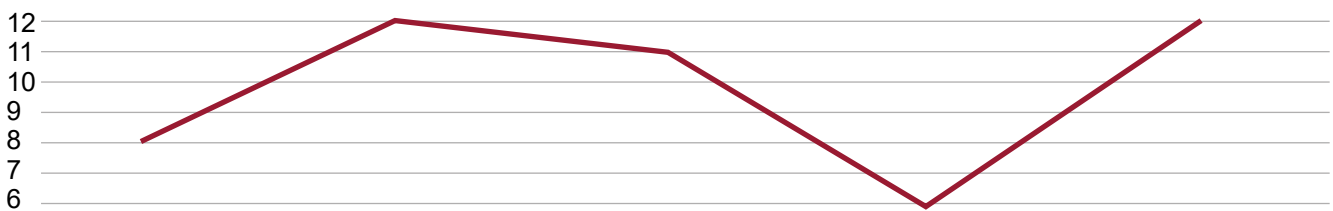
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
2	1	2	13	3

Vehicle Incident - 3rd Party



2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
3	5	2	5	4

Vehicle Incident - 1st Party



2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
8	12	11	6	12

- ✓ The IPB Driver Safety Briefing and the communication of the Toolbox Talks and Safety Alerts on 'Driver Safety' had a positive effect in reducing Road Traffic Accidents at GCC by 60% in 2025.

Emergency Preparedness

The Health and Safety Unit, in conjunction with Fire Wardens and Senior Management, completed Fire and Emergency Evacuation Drills at six workplaces Locations, twice-yearly 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 to assist the Human Resources Department in its efforts in delivering mandatory and desirable Health and Safety Training courses. Over the course of 2025, staff had been continually receiving Health and Safety training to undertake their jobs safely.

Continuing efforts to meet the needs of the Annual Training Needs Plan 2025, were greatly enhanced by the appointment of dedicated Training Officer staff, ongoing collaboration with the Health and Safety Officers and 8-weekly Management of Health and Safety Training Review meetings.

Training Course	Number Trained
Abrasive Training	7
Annual Staff Safety Briefings	598
Asbestos Awareness	9
Banksman	22
Biological Agents	19
Chainsaw	8
Commercial Vehicle Road Worthiness	2
1-Day CSCS - Health and Safety at Roadworks	35
3-Day CSCS - Signing Lighting and Guarding at Roadworks	4
CSCS – Slinger Signaller	4
CSCS Site Dumper	2
Dealing with Violence and Aggression	102
Decision Driver	8
Driver CPC Module 1 (CVEDT)	34
Driver CPC Module 2 (MRMET)	5
Driver CPC Module 3 (HSOPD)	8
Driver CPC Module 4 (RPDTI)	3
Driver CPC Module 5 (PROTD)	5
Evacuation Chair Training	14
Fire Marshals Training	52
First Aid Response (New Entrant)	15
First Aid Response- Refresher	14

Forklift Truck Driving Counterbalance	3
Gas Monitor Device Training	2
Grave Shoring	9
High Pressure Jetting System	10
Manual Handling (indoor)	99
Manual Handling (outdoor)	53
MEWP-Mobile Elevated Work Platform	12
Project Supervisor Construction Stage (PSCS)	12
Project Supervisor Design Process (PSDP)	12
Road Opening and Reinstatement - Advanced	3
Road Opening and Reinstatement - Basic	6
Safe Dog Handling and Interactions	5
Safe Pass	65
Safety Induction - Indoor	94
Safety Induction - Outdoor	24
Safety Representative Training	7
School Warden Training	13
Sharps and Needlestick Training	20
Temporary Traffic Management Design - Level 1-4 Roads	1
Temporary Traffic Management Design - Level 5 and 6	1
Use of and Responding to Lone Worker Alarm	10
On-site VDU Assessment and DSU Training	114
Working at Heights Training	41

Safety Communication

- ✓ Galway City Council continued to communicate the requirements of its Health and Safety policy and safety statement to all those working at Galway City Council, using the GCC Staff Safety Inductions and its Online Safety Induction system.
- 117no. new staff attended the Staff safety inductions in 2025
- 113no. Contractor employees completed the GCC online safety induction.

Safety Consultation

Galway City Council continued to ensure that staff were consulted on changes to the Safety Statement, Risk Assessments and Emergency arrangements through the Safety Consultative Committee (SCC) meeting forums, which were attended by elected Safety Representatives and the Heads of Functions.

- ✓ There were good attendances and constructive discussion noted at the meetings.
- ✓ 6No. SCC Meeting has been held with the “Maintenance Operations Safety Consultative Committee” (SCC) Meeting covering issues within Transportation, Water, Housing,

Recreation and Amenity and Environment (Incl. Sandy Road Depot facilities).

- ✓ 6No. SCC Meetings have been held with the “Offices Operations Safety Consultative Committee” (SCC) Meeting, covering issues within City Hall, Grammar School, Eyre Sq. Finance Offices and Fairgreen officers, Theatres and Museum buildings.
- ✓ Actions arising from the SCC Meetings were added to the Health and Safety Risk Register and reviewed at subsequent SCC meetings.

Maintaining Safe Workplaces, Plant and Machinery

- ✓ Galway City Council continued to monitor, inspect and maintain its workplaces, plant and machinery to be used by its staff and others in a safe manner.
 - » Line Managers, Supervisors; and Health and Safety Officers completed 287no. Safety Inspections during 2025.
 - » Driver / operators of Vehicles, and other Plant and Equipment completed Daily Driver Checklist Inspections / Pre-Use Inspections.
- ✓ Irish Engineering Services (IES), operating on behalf of Irish Public Bodies Insurance, completed Inspections of all Plant Subject to Statutory Inspections during 2025.
- ✓ Actions arising from the Safety Inspections were added to the Health and Safety Risk Register and were continually reviewed throughout the year by the Head of Functions, Line Managers and the Health and Safety Officer.

ICT and Digital

Introduction

The ICT and Digital department plays an enormous role in the provision of essential services to the public. It provides staff with technical support and secure access to a growing range of technology and systems, enabling Galway City Council to deliver high quality services to the public, as well as being responsible for delivering projects enabling the digital transformation of the organisation.

The section is focussed on delivering the LGMA’s National ICT and Digital Strategy, published in 2024, which aims to make 90% of all applicable services available via digital methods by 2030.

The department covers 4 specialist areas:

- **IT Infrastructure and Operations** (Network, Servers, IT Service Desk, Hardware, Software and Telephony),
- **Enterprise Applications** (tasked with ensuring the stability and operational efficiency of the numerous databases and enterprise-grade systems which underpin the day-to-day functioning of the organisation, along with assisting departments with the introduction of digital solutions),
- **Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Web services**, (providing mapping and map layers to visualise data; managing the galwaycity.ie website and providing services such as online forms, surveys and public consultations)
- **Cybersecurity** (providing structured oversight of security governance, operational security processes and digital risk management, strengthening the organisation’s overall security posture.)

Service Desk “Business as Usual” Stats in 2025

Category	No. of Staff	No. of Requests Opened from 01/01/25	No. closed by 31/12/25
IT Infrastructure and Operations	6	4197	4159
Enterprise Apps	5	349	334
GIS	1.5	65	59
Web	1.5	253	243
Cyber security Incident investigation	2	181	177
Mobile phone queries	1	126	122
Unassigned		331	171

The following are some of the achievements of these teams in 2025

Cybersecurity

- **Establishment of a Dedicated Cybersecurity Function:** Q2 saw the formal establishment of the Cybersecurity Team.
- **Cybersecurity Audit Completed:** A comprehensive cybersecurity audit was completed during Q2 to provide a roadmap for the new team. The review provided independent assurance on the Council's existing security controls and governance arrangements, with recommendations incorporated into ongoing improvement initiatives.
- **Enhancement of Threat Detection and Response Capabilities:** The Council's cybersecurity capabilities were further strengthened through improved monitoring tools and closer collaboration with the LGMA 's national SOC/SIEM service. These upgrades support earlier detection of unusual activity and contribute to a more resilient ICT environment.
- **Expansion of Cybersecurity Awareness and Staff Engagement:** A programme of cybersecurity awareness and training activities was delivered across the organisation. This included regular simulated phishing exercises and targeted learning modules designed to help staff recognise and respond to common cyber threats.

Enterprise Applications

A key project for this team in 2025 was the procurement and development of a CRM and ERP platform. Following a tender process the project was awarded to Spanish Point Technologies. Requirements gathering, development and UAT phases were the main focus in Q3 and Q4 as was CRM Data integration with FOI Power App and iHouse

Building on the success of the in-house development of PowerApps in 2024, the following apps were developed in 2025:

- **FOI Appeals process** module added to Freedom of Information app
- **CE Orders** - in development - to digitise the workflows and standardise the process of raising CE Orders across the organisation
 - » Both FOI and CE Orders apps were made available to other local authorities under the Build-to-Share initiative.
- **Work Mobile Phones Register** - register of staff mobile phones to aid with management and billing
- **Derelict Sites Register** - in development

Other achievements include

- Third Party Application Deployment - Supported implementation of Giant Leap Parking Enforcement System
- LGMA Application Deployment – rolled out latest versions of iPlan, iHouse, iReg and Travel Claims applications
- iDocs integration with Fire Safety Certs iPlan
- Data Analysis of the following via Power Bi Report creation:
 - » Giant Leap Parking Enforcement System Report integration
 - » Housing Rent Assessments
 - » Planning Enforcements APAS Report integration
 - » Travel Claims
 - » iReg

IT Infrastructure and Operations

This year's IT infrastructure project work focused on modernising communication, improving security, and enhancing overall reliability across the organisation.

- All staff moved to Microsoft Teams Phone, replacing old desk phones and making communication more flexible.
- Security was strengthened through the delivery of a Privileged Access Management system which now manages and records all thirdparty access, strengthening our security posture and ensuring full auditability of external interactions.
- With no AV facilities in City Hall meeting rooms, and following the success of the AV fit out of the Emergency Management room which is bookable outside of emergencies for any larger meetings, 3 further key locations received AV equipment to support better hybrid collaboration and to allow staff to become familiar with the technology in advance of the move to Crown Sq. where all meeting rooms will be equipped with AV.
- All laptops and PCs were updated to Windows 11, and several core systems, such as UPS, Domain Controllers and File Servers were upgraded to improve stability and performance.
- Finally, the Leisureland IT infrastructure was reviewed with a plan to move services to the cloud, reducing hardware reliance and simplifying future support.

Web and G.I.S.

Building on the migration to LocalGov Drupal for www.galwaycity.ie, we have experienced a 20% increase in web traffic to the site in 2025 through ease of access to information, and consolidation and provision of multiple project and event subsites through the platform.

We have also driven a large improvement in the accessibility of www.galwaycity.ie for improved user experience and in line with our NDA obligations.

In addition to all new application forms, grants and surveys being created from a digital-first perspective, many legacy application processes have been digitalised for the public and back-office staff. Improvements around digital information capture, automations and integrations have streamlined previously analogue processes to assist with staff workloads, assessment timelines, and paper-reduction targets.

Successful initiatives include Social Inclusion grants, Affordable Housing surveys, Salthill Prom and Seafront Plan, Mobile Spec-sheets for fleet operatives, and various internal approval systems.

Multiple projects were completed to improve the mapping and data capture of assets, incidents, and academic study, from Public Liability and Planning Scheme digitisers to Vernacular Heritage and Biodiversity mobile apps.

Mobile GIS forms will be developed in 2026 to underpin and expand the ability to complete formal inspections as part of the larger Dynamics CRM project.

Customer Service Centre

The Galway City Council Customer Service Centre continued to play a central role in supporting the public and facilitating access to Council services throughout the year. The Centre incorporates the Reception Desk and Cash Office, located in the main foyer of City Hall and open to the public from 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday, as well as the Customer Service Call Centre, which operates from 9am to 5pm.

Across all channels, the Centre handles general enquiries, payments, housing and environmental queries, traffic and transport issues, and a wide range of Council service requests.

The Call Centre supports all directorates by handling incoming calls to the Council’s main telephone number (091) 536 400. It also processes all reports received from the Council’s out- of-hours emergency call service, which operates daily from 5pm to 9am.

The Customer Service team manages all formal customer complaints, Fix Your Street submissions, and email correspondence received through **customerservice@galwaycity.ie** and **seirbhisdochustaimeiri@galwaycity.ie**.

2025 Key Services and Support

Parking Permits Processed (resident, carer, visitor)	6784
Bulky Waste Collections Managed	1094
Community Clean Ups Assisted	51
Fix Your Street: cases on issues like illegal dumping, street lighting faults, and potholes	465
Call Centre and Payment Processing	
Total calls answered in 2025, including out-of-hours emergency reports	45,435
Total cash office and payments processed in 2025	
Cash Office Receipts	14,002
Telephone payments	14,321

In addition to these core duties, the team provides extensive cross departmental support, assisting housing tenants and applicants, supporting individuals seeking homeless services, handling general housing queries, managing recreation and amenity enquiries, recording water outages and leaks, and responding to finance-related matters such as rates waivers and appeals and also provided essential administrative support during severe weather events.

In 2025 the Customer Service Team, working in close collaboration with the Digital Strategy Team, supported the development of the Council’s forthcoming digital Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system, which will introduce Microsoft Dynamics 365 across a number of Council departments. This transformation initiative is designed to improve operational efficiency, enhance accessibility, streamline case management, and strengthen the Council’s ability to deliver a truly citizen first service. The CRM system is scheduled to go live in 2026, marking a significant step in the Council’s digital transformation journey. The Customer Service Centre remains committed to embracing digitalisation projects that enhance customer experience, ensure service consistency, and support modern, user focused public service delivery into the future.

Communications / Gaeilge

Communications and Marketing

The communications team supports the wider organisation in relation to press releases, media liaison, digital content, public awareness projects, event launches, severe weather response, branding, and communications training.

Over 200 press releases were issued in 2025.

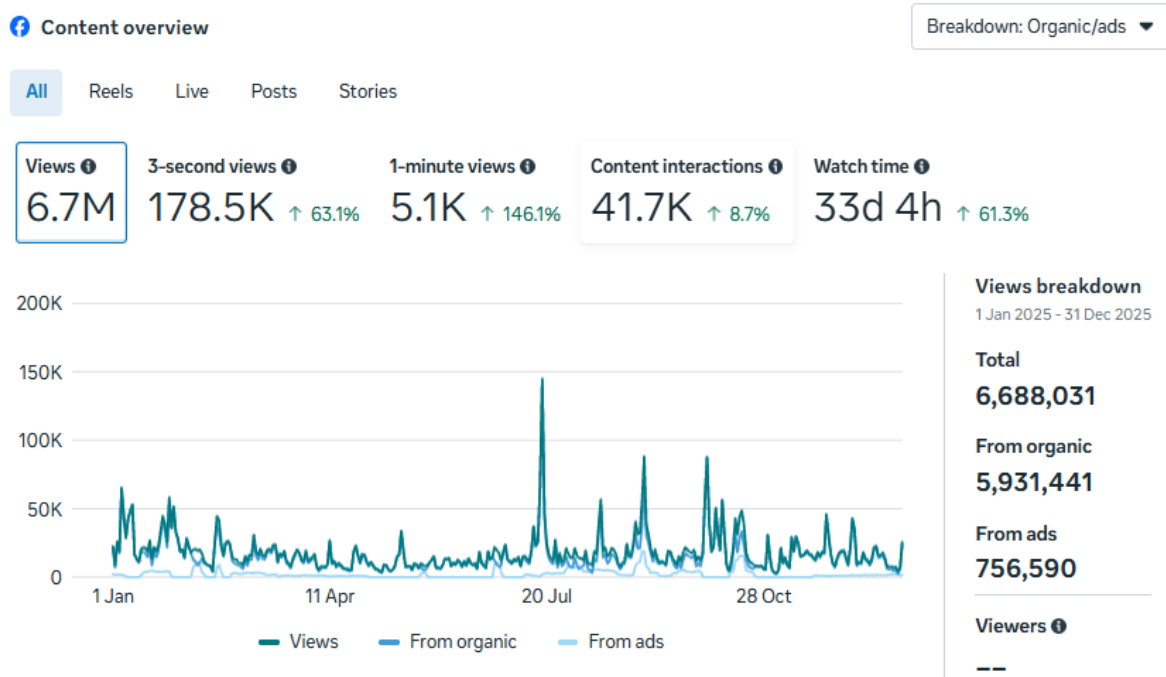
Over 290 media queries were issued through the communication team.

A special feature episode of the award winning 'Galway City – Your Council' podcast was released in July 2025, in partnership with Galway City Museum.

The Communications team also manages the Galway City Council social media accounts. Use of X/ Twitter was paused in February 2025, with the team focusing on engagement with audiences on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and TikTok. Galway City Council also maintains a YouTube channel, and a presence on BlueSky and Threads.

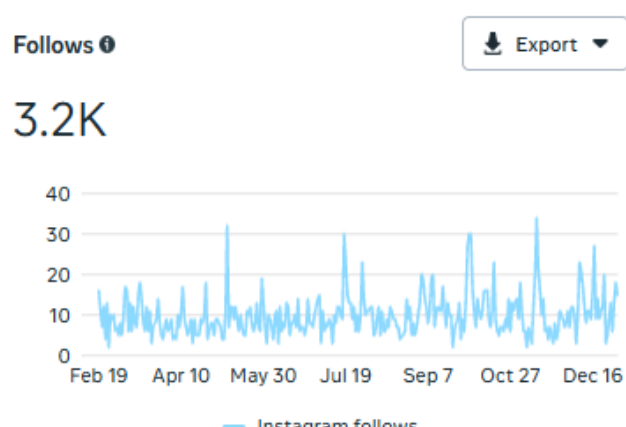
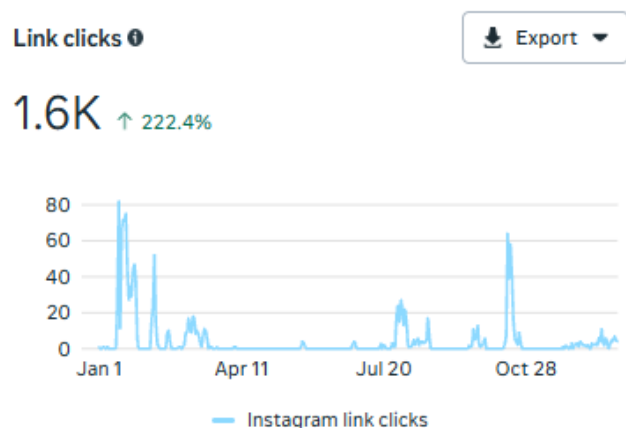
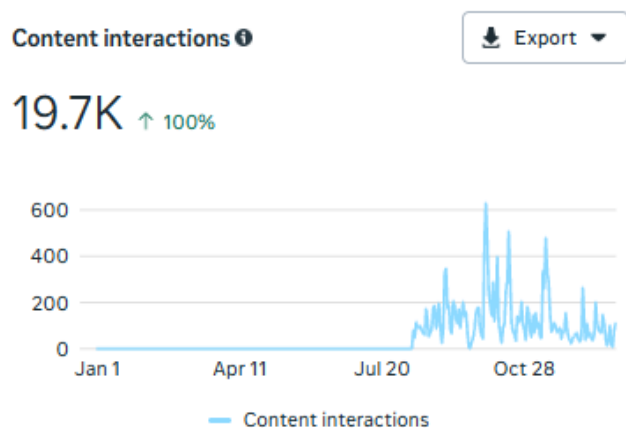
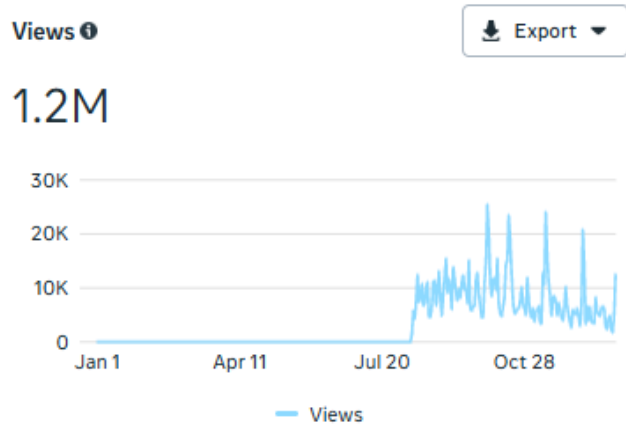
Facebook 2025

- 22,862 followers on Facebook – +11.6% from previous 365 days
- 41,733 interactions – +8.7% from previous 365 days
- 6,688,031 Views



Instagram 2025

- 3.2K additional follows. Total: 9,365
- 19.7K interactions - +100%
- 177.8k reach - +65.6%



LinkedIn 2025

From 24 February 2025 to 21 December 2025 (data from start of the year is no longer accessible):

- 430,480 impressions
- 7,897 reactions
- 6,808 total followers – 1,333 new followers in this period

TikTok

From 26 February 2025 to 31 December 2025 (earlier data no longer accessible)

- 2.1k followers – 981 net followers
- 3.3m views
- 20K profile views
- 11k likes

Gaeilge | Irish Language

Gaeilge staff continue to support the organisation to deliver obligations under the Official Languages Act, including continued delivery of our adopted Irish language policy, the Galway City Council Irish Language Scheme 2009-2022.

First Bilingual Meeting of Galway City Council

Galway City Council hosted a fully bilingual meeting (Gaeilge/ English) on Monday 10 March 2025 - the first such meeting in the Council's history.

In 2016, Galway City was honoured as a bilingual city by former Uachtarán na hÉireann, Michael D. Higgins. A special meeting was held at the time with one agenda item fully as Gaeilge.

However, in March 2025, the full meeting was bilingual.

Interpreters were available through headsets throughout the meeting, with meeting documentation available in English and Gaeilge. Several councillors put forward motions and made contributions as Gaeilge.

The meeting acknowledges Galway's unique position as a bilingual and Gaeltacht city, and as a Gaeltacht Service Town. Coinciding with Seachtain na Gaeilge 2025, the proposal for a bilingual meeting arose from the newly formed sub-Strategic Policy Committee for Gaeilge in December 2024.

Strategic Policy Committee Summary

The Gaeilge sub-SPC met for the first time in December 2024 – the first of its kind in both Galway City Council and nationally. This led to the first fully bilingual meeting in the history of Galway City Council in March 2025.

Initiatives supported by the sub SPC in 2025 included:

- Engagement with Roads to progress Gaeltacht road signage in the city's Gaeltacht townlands: Baile an Dúlaigh, Mionlach, An Caisleán Gearr, Cúil Each, Tír Oileáin, Baile an Phoill, An Pháirc Mhór and Cnoc na Cathrach.



- Adoption of a Gaeilge style guide, to be referenced in parallel with the English language style guide, to support more accessible, readable publications and materials in both languages.

- Recommendation for all translations by or on behalf of Galway City Council to be done by the GCC preferred supplier, due to quality issues in the past
- Engagement with Planning in relation to potential for planning notices to be published in Gaeilge publications

Classes

Irish language training continued in 2025, 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 a group of public-facing staff.

Official Languages Act (OLA) - Legislative Obligations

Galway City Council's language obligations are now informed fully by the Official Languages (Amendment) Act, 2021 (OLA).

Recruitment

Under the OLA, 20% of Galway City Council employees must be competent in Gaeilge by 2030. Gaeilge staff are playing a key role in raising awareness of this obligation, to ensure Galway City Council meets the legislative requirement, with staff in each department available to give customer service through Gaeilge.

Irish Language Advertising

Under Section 10A of the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021, public bodies must comply with 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.

2025 Advertising Figures

- Percentage of advertisements in Irish or bilingual: 39.85 %
- Percentage of advertising spend in Irish language media: 5.9%

Civic Naming

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

- Páirc Ilúsáide Eoin Uí Dhtubhshláine | Eugene Dunleavy Multi-use Games Area 23 June 2025¹
- C.I. O'Flynn and Ronnie O'Gorman, Eyre Square 9 October 2025²
- Also passed in 2025 were commemorations to be made in 2026: Arthur Colahan (Salthill Promenade and Tommy Keane (Laurel Park)

Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty

The Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty (“the Duty”) is set out in Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014. The Duty places a statutory obligation on public bodies to consider equality and human rights in the performance of their functions. It consists of two distinct but interconnected elements set out under Section 42(1) and Section 42(2) of the Act.

Under Section 42(1), public bodies are required to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and treatment, and protect the human rights of employees, service users, members, and policy beneficiaries across all functional areas. This overarching Duty applies on an ongoing basis to all public bodies.

Section 42(2) sets out a three-step process through which public bodies are to give effect to the Duty, the strategic Duty, to be implemented as part of their strategic planning and reporting cycle, namely:

- **Assess** the equality and human rights issues relevant to the functions and purpose of the organisation
- **Address** these issues through planned actions, policies and initiatives

¹ <https://www.galwaycity.ie/news/2025/new-multi-use-games-area-named-after-much-loved-teacher-and-all-ireland-winner-eugene>

² <https://www.galwaycity.ie/news/2025/two-men-commemorated-for-unique-contributions-to-galway-city-life>

- **Report** annually on progress and achievements.

The groups identified under the Duty include those covered by the equality grounds of gender (including gender expression, gender identity and sex characteristics), civil status, family status (including lone parents and carers), age, disability (broadly defined), sexual orientation, race, religion, membership of the Traveller community, and socio-economic status (those at risk of or experiencing poverty and social exclusion). The Duty also applies to groups at the intersections of these grounds, as well as individual rights holders under relevant national and international human rights instruments.

1. Initiatives taken during the year to enable implementation of the Duty

Galway City Council has undertaken an assessment of equality and human rights issues relevant to its functions, and prepared an implementation plan for the Duty. Both documents were updated in 2025 to reflect new guidance issued by the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission. Both documents, as required under the Duty, are publicly available on the Galway City Council website. Galway City Council is taking a values-led approach to implementing the Duty and our equality and human right values statement is also available on the website.

Galway City Council convened a working group for the Duty to drive ongoing implementation of the Duty. Steps were taken to train and familiarise the working group for the Duty with the legal requirements for the Duty and the manner in which it is being implemented in Galway City Council. As we approach 2026 this working group is being reformed to ensure it is composed of relevant personnel from across the whole organisation and that it develops appropriate linkages with civil society organisations representative of the identified groups for the Duty.

The working group is to drive, coordinate and support implementation of the Duty. It prepared an action plan for the Duty for 2025, drawing from commitments in our Annual Service Delivery Plan. It monitored progress on this and assisted in preparing this report of the progress made.

The working group is convened and supported by the Corporate Services Department who take overall responsibility for the Duty within Galway City Council.

Mentoring support was provided to staff in the relevant departments to undertake equality and human rights impact assessments as required under the overarching Duty.

2. Initiatives taken during the year to implement the overarching Duty to mainstream equality and diversity in the performance of our functions - undertaking equality and human rights impact assessments in the development/review of plans, policies, programmes, and strategies (Section 42(1))

An equality and human rights impact assessment was undertaken in the:

- Customer Action Plan and Charter
- Traveller Accommodation Programme

This reflected a significant development in the work processes of Galway City Council to better and more systematically embed a focus on equality and human rights in our decision-making and in the performance of our functions. It is too early in the life of these strategies to establish outcomes for the identified groups for the Duty.

3. Targeted plans, policies and actions implemented during the year to directly address equality and human rights issues and/or address the specific needs of the identified groups for the Duty (Section 42(2))

Plans, policies, and actions to specifically target equality and human rights issues and/or address the specific needs of the identified groups for the Duty, that were implemented during the year:

- Traveller Accommodation Programme
- Age Friendly Strategy
- Housing Disability Strategy
- Regional Homeless Action Plan
- Dignity at Work Policy

These plans and policies and the actions they gave rise to generated positive outcomes for service users and staff from the identified groups for the Duty that are tracked across the different sections of this Annual Report.

Appendix 1

Council Membership of Committees 2025

Committee	Councillors
AILG (Association of Irish Local Government)	Cllrs. Terry O’Flaherty, Declan McDonnell, Alan Cheevers
Northern and Western Regional Assembly	Cllrs. Mike Cubbard, Níall McNelis
Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board	Cllrs. Helen Ogbu, Josie Forde, Eibhlín Seoighthe
Corporate Policy Committee	Mike Cubbard (Chair), Declan McDonnell, Donal Lyons, Clodagh Higgins, Níall McNelis, Mike Crowe
Galway City Council Audit Committee	Cllrs. Mike Cubbard, Peter Keane
Galway/Salthill Fáilte Company CLG	Cllrs. Peter Keane, Aisling Burke, Declan McDonnell, Níall McNelis, Josie Forde
Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd	Cllr. Eddie Hoare
Local Authority Members Association	Cllr. Níall McNelis
Local Community Development Committee	Cllrs. Josie Forde, Helen Ogbu, Eibhlín Seoighthe
Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee	Cllrs. Eibhlín Seoighthe, Alan Curran, Helen Ogbu, Aisling Burke, John McDonagh
Lough Corrib Navigation Trustees	Cllrs. Frank Fahy, Mike Crowe, John McDonagh
HSE West and North West	Cllrs. Shane Forde, Mike Crowe, Aisling Burke
Galway Sports Partnership: Steering Group Member	Cllr. Mike Cubbard

Local Community Safety Partnerships (LCSPs)	Cllrs. Alan Cheevers, Helen Ogbu, John McDonagh, Eibhlín Seoighthe, Eddie Hoare, Josie Forde, Mike Cubbard, Níall McNelis
Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs)	Cllrs. Clodagh Higgins, Mike Crowe, Níall McNelis, Mike Cubbard, Declan McDonnell, Donal Lyons
Procedures Committee	Cllrs. Aisling Burke, Alan Cheevers, Eddie Hoare, John McDonagh
Ballinfoile/Castlegar Neighbourhood Centre Advisory Group	Cllrs. Mike Cubbard, Helen Ogbu
Civic Commemoration Committee	Cllrs. Mike Crowe, John McDonagh, Terry O’Flaherty
Western Intercounty Railway Committee	Cllrs. Clodagh Higgins, John McDonagh, Aisling Burke, Frank Fahy
Nighttime Economy Working Group Forum	Cllrs. Mike Cubbard (Central LEA), Níall McNelis (West LEA), Shane Forde (East LEA)
Grants Committee	Cllrs. Declan McDonnell, Peter Keane, Alan Curran, Donal Lyons, Mike Cubbard, John McDonagh, Eddie Hoare, Alan Cheevers, Shane Forde and Helen Ogbu.
Local Community Safety Partnerships (LCSPs)	Cllrs. Alan Cheevers, Helen Ogbu, John McDonagh, Eibhlín Seoighthe, Eddie Hoare, Níall McNelis, Josie Forde, Mike Cubbard

Appendix 2

Conferences/Training attended by Elected Members 2025

Events	Attendees
AILG Annual Conference	Cllr Terry O'Flaherty
Community Society Economy Summit 2030	Cllr Eibhlín Seoighthe
LAMA Spring Seminar	Cllr John McDonagh
	Cllr Mike Cubbard
LAMA Autumn Seminar	Cllr John McDonagh
The Emerging New Ireland La Touche Legacy	Cllr Declan McDonnell
AILG Housing Delivery Rezoning and Infrastructure in Focus	Cllr John McDonagh
Health Service Entitlements Conference	Cllr Terry O'Flaherty
AILG Autumn Training Seminar	Cllr John McDonagh
Irish Language course for Elected Members	Cllr Eibhlín Seoighthe
Chairing Skills for Councillors	Cllr John McDonagh
AILG Training Local Authority Budget Process	Cllr Declan McDonnell
AILG Elected Member Training Programme Module 1	Cllr Terry O'Flaherty
Association of Irish Regions Annual Training Seminar	Cllr Helen Ogbu
	Cllr John McDonagh
	Cllr Mike Cubbard
Africa Ireland Trade Horizons	Cllr Helen Ogbu
Training for SPC Chairs	Cllr John McDonagh
AILG Training	Cllr Declan McDonnell
ECCAR Conference	Cllr Helen Ogbu

Appendix 3

Progress Report on Galway City Council's Corporate Plan 2024-2029

This progress report provides an overview of Galway City Council's performance in 2025 against the strategic objectives of the Corporate Plan 2024–2029. Throughout the year, the Council advanced key priorities across housing, climate action, transport, community development, digital transformation and organisational improvement, while strengthening governance and enhancing service delivery. It reflects the Council's ongoing commitment to fulfilling its mission and vision for a sustainable, inclusive city supported by high quality public services.

Social Development Directorate

Housing and Social Inclusion

Objective:

To enhance the quality of life for the people of Galway City through the acceleration of the delivery of quality social and affordable homes and housing supports to those in need and in appropriate locations, thereby creating socially inclusive and sustainable communities as an exemplar of Social Development.

Operational Development Directorate

Environment

Objective:

To protect, enhance, and conserve the natural environment of our city, while promoting environmental awareness through collaboration with organisations and local communities. Our aim is to improve the quality of life for all residents by fostering a sustainable and eco-friendly urban environment.

- The Environment team actively supported a wide variety of community and school projects in 2025, including Love Your Beach, the Picker Pals programme, and the Spaces for Biodiversity Competition. Community recognition was high, with supported groups winning a Gold Medal at the Tidy Towns awards and receiving a Pride of Place nomination.

- Awareness campaigns were delivered on the Deposit Return Scheme and Solid Fuel Regulations. The Circular Economy was advanced through the pilot Bulky Goods Reuse Project with Bounce Back, which diverted 218 items from landfill for refurbishment, directly supporting reuse and recycling objectives.
- The Draft Litter Management Plan was prepared in-house and is scheduled for publication in 2026 following public consultation. New bottle refilling stations were installed at Roscam Park and Renmore Community Centre to support reuse infrastructure.
- The Waste Enforcement Team met their targets with 260 routine and 700 non-routine inspections. The Litter Management Team maintained high standards during peak seasons and festivals. Galway City achieved a “cleaner than European norms” rating in the IBAL survey, one of only 10 locations in Ireland to do so.
- Routine inspections ensured compliance with Petroleum Vapour Emissions and Solvents Directives. Regulatory functions for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems were carried out under the National Inspection Plan.
- Weekly water quality sampling at the four designated beaches (Ballyloughane, Grattan Road, Salthill, Silverstrand) resulted in consistently high standards, with most samples classified as ‘Excellent’. Air quality efforts included a public information campaign on low-smoke fuels and retailer inspections for solid fuel compliance.
- Targets were met to achieve the Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) plan, along with significant liaising with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- Compliance efforts in relation to the Control of Dogs legislation included a door-to-door licensing campaign issuing 150-250+ 10-Day Warning Notices monthly. Awareness campaigns were run for the new XL Bully Dog Regulations.

Recreation and Amenity

Objective:

To protect, enhance and conserve the natural environment of our city and to develop and promote high quality, accessible and inclusive recreational, leisure and amenity facilities to improve quality of life.

Roads and Transportation

Objective:

To provide, manage, and maintain the roads and transport network within the available budget, and to work in partnership with public transport providers and other agencies in developing integrated and sustainable transport policies. A further key objective is to implement a Major Emergency Management Framework incorporating response plans for severe weather events.

Roads Maintenance

- Galway City Council's roads maintenance programme was successfully delivered within the allocated budget for 2025. Key elements to this were the continued benefit from a fixed price contract with a principal contractor, the management of resources within the department and efficient delivery of works by roads crews.
- Restoration and improvement works were conducted across several locations with thirteen large-scale and a further twenty-three smaller scale projects completed. These included resurfacing, pavement improvements and successfully restoring and preserving road functionality.
- Safety and mobility improvement works were also completed which aligns with our objective to utilise engineering measures and schemes to enhance road safety. A total of forty-one projects were completed in 2025 ranging from footpath repair to enhanced road signage and markings.
- Roads crews completed thirteen projects to improve drainage and remove surface and subsurface water from our road network. These preventative measures will help to ensure longevity of surfaces and minimize environmental impact.

Licensing & Taking in Charge

We successfully processed over seven hundred road opening licenses and issued a further two hundred permits for works and other events across the city. This entails successful coordination with our colleagues in Planning, Tourism and the management of resources to both facilitate infrastructural enhancements and economic development, whilst ensuring minimal disruption to the day-to-day flow of traffic and people to, from and around Galway city. Works also continued on several taking in charge projects across the city.

Enhancements to Infrastructure

- Works were carried out at 5 bridges ranging from removal of vegetation, structural enhancements, and repairs. Inspection and design of remedial works at several sites are also ongoing.
- Significant challenges were posed following the damage to lighting infrastructure following storm Eowyn. Priority repair works were identified and undertaken at 9 locations in the city. Further priorities in relation to the required upgrade of underground cabling have been identified as essential to future-proofing the network.
- Our commitment to sustainable energy and accessible infrastructure was evident in the delivery of the Westside EV Charging Hub in June. This project saw the installation of 6 publicly available solar powered EV charging points at Westside carpark with affordable prices for the community whilst also providing any excess energy back to the national grid. This was a successful partnership project between Galway City Council, ZEVI, Electric Skyline and Abarr.

Road Safety

- In addition to the engineering measures to enhance road safety as previously referred, several community-based projects were successfully completed. These included large scale events with over 1200 Transition Year students attending Leisureland and Galway Racecourse to witness a mock road traffic accident and Garda Lifesaver Programme. This echoed our commitment to successful partnership with our colleagues in Galway County Council and the emergency services.
- The joint Galway City and County Joint Road Safety Strategy 2026-2030 will launch in May 2026

Major Emergency Management

- The draft Galway City & County Major Emergency Plan (MEP) was significantly progressed with completion of various appendices including Flood and Severe Weather Plans. The National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) intends to request copies of updated severe weather and flood plans from all local authorities during the summer of 2026.

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- Following a review of challenges faced by communities during storms and emergency scenarios, three Community Support Centres (CSCs) have been established for such occurrences. Located at key strategic sites across the city, each CSC will provide basic welfare needs along with access to food, electricity for phone charging and Wi-Fi and as potential sites for public health and humanitarian assistance. The CSC locations are Knocknacarra Community Centre, Westside Community Centre, and Renmore Community Centre. Galway City Council have received funding for transportable generators for each site to ensure power supply.

Project Development Directorate

Project Management and Capital Delivery Office

Objective:

To oversee 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.

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 to advance organisational objectives, cross directorate issues, and contribute positively to the Council's policy formulation function.

- Develop the Project Management and Capital Delivery Office
- Finalise staff structure for PMO and fill vacancies to support delivery of priority aims i
- Scope the feasibility of a Centralised Repository for Project Data using best practice guidance.
- Overseeing Project Management Office Functions
- Examine the feasibility and develop a Real-Time Reporting and Monitoring dashboard
- Establishing Standardised Project Management Methodologies

Active Travel

Objective:

To lead the roll out of new and upgraded walking, wheeling and cycling infrastructure across the city, linking into the regional travel networks that are the responsibility of Galway City Council. This will help to deliver the vision of the Galway Transport Strategy, which identifies the need for a shift towards sustainable travel, reducing dependence on the private car. This includes the development of segregated cycle lanes and widened footpaths, new walking

and cycling bridges, and new pedestrian crossings. One of the key aims is to increase the number of walking and cycling networks so that walking, cycling and public transport will account for 50% of all journeys made by 2030.

- Galway City Council continues to work to implement the objectives contained within the Galway Transport Strategy. The schemes being rolled out include improvements for walking, cycling, public transport, Safe Routes To Schools, permeability initiatives and other minor interventions across the city. Work continued throughout 2025 in accordance with grant allocations, including some priority projects e.g. Ballybane/Castle Park and Bóthar Stiofáin Active Travel Schemes. The Crescent Sea Road junction was completed which included junction tightening, new and improved footpaths and new pedestrian crossings & rain gardens.
- BusConnects project remains vital to easing congestion. We are continuing to progress Dublin Road & Cross City Link Projects. Following approval of the Dublin Road scheme by An Coimisiún Pleanála in September 2025, Galway City Council confirmed the CPO through the publication of a statutory notice in December 2025.
- By investing in Active Travel infrastructure, the local authority is encouraging walking, wheeling and cycling as everyday modes of transport, supporting behaviour change. Considerable work was completed under Access Controls during 2025. Work also commenced on a new pedestrian crossing at the Salmon Weir bridge in November which was completed in Q1.2026.
- Improving accessibility and permeability is an integral part of the work been undertaken by the Active Travel team. The Quietway's project is looking at the whole city in terms of permeability and an in-house analysis of the needs throughout the city has been undertaken. The project will be developed further in 2026.
- The Active Travel team enhance pedestrian safety by widening footpaths, improving lighting and adding safe crossings. Traffic calming, lower speeds, and segregated cycle lanes reduce conflicts and collisions.
- Galway City Council continues to work to implement the objectives contained within the Galway Transport Strategy. The schemes being rolled out include improvements for walking, cycling, public transport, Safe Routes to Schools, permeability initiatives and other minor interventions across the city.

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- GCC is a member of the Co-ordination Group for the new Galway Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy and will advocate on behalf of Galway City to the National Transport Authority (NTA), who has ultimate responsibility for the drafting and publishing of the review.
- The Active Travel team are continually exploring funding options to enable the roll out of the aims contained with the GTS. €11m of NTA funding grants was secured for 2025.
- The Bus Network Redesign is currently at phase 3 preliminary design and Galway City Council is working in collaboration with the NTA in relation to the network redesign, which will result in an apx. 50% increase in bus services throughout the city.
- Galway City Council continued its work with the NTA to expand the roll out of new Park & Ride facilities. The NTA submitted a planning application for Cappagh Road site in Q1 2026.
- Design tender finalised in Q4 2025 for nine Schools with a consultant to be engaged in 2026. Works were completed to establish a school zone at Scoil Fhursa, incorporating gateways, junction tightening and bollards.
- Galway City Council continues to work to implement the objectives contained within the Galway Transport Strategy including individual active travel schemes on the east and west of the city and the BusConnects Schemes. Discussions in relation to the BusConnects route through the University College Hospital progressed during 2025 with agreement expected in 2026.

Community Development, Corporate Assets and Derelict Sites

Objective:

To enhance quality of life by fostering community engagement, social cohesion, access to services and remediating abandoned or underutilised properties to revitalise communities.

To empower and engage the diversity of local voices and address the diverse needs of the community through programmes and initiatives, while also enhancing public safety and encouraging community investment.

- The Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) Implementation Plan 2026 – 2027 was agreed, based on the High-Level Objectives outlined in the LECP Framework 2024 – 2029.
- Establishment of the Galway City Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) under the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024.
- €1,617,752 was allocated under the Community Recognition Fund to strengthen community infrastructure and support areas that have welcomed new communities.
- €137,000 allocated to 91 community and voluntary groups under the Local Enhancement Programme 2025.
- The Community Action, Inclusion, Regeneration, Development & Environment (CAIRDE) Grant Scheme was established to support community, sporting and voluntary groups, social enterprises and business associations in delivering projects that strengthen local development and enhance quality of life. €565,000 allocated to 66 successful applicants.
- A new initiative was introduced called the Community Participatory Scheme inviting communities to propose projects they wished to see delivered in their area up to €25,000, with the first year focused on Galway City East.
- Three new Urban and Community Development Officers (UCDO) were appointed to provide targeted support for community and voluntary groups.
- Under the Healthy Ireland Fund 2022–2025, €75,000 was allocated to support priority health and wellbeing actions. Galway City was accredited as a World Health Organisation (WHO) European Healthy City under Phase VII.
- Galway City and County Councils jointly developed the Galway Age Friendly Strategy 2026–2031. Galway City and County Councils also jointly hosted the National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards in October 2025, attracting nominees, dignitaries, and Age Friendly representatives from across Ireland.
- Galway Sports Partnership continued to have an impact on sport and physical activity provision during 2025. Initiatives were delivered by the Active Cities Officer, Community Sports Development Officers and Sports Inclusion Disability Officer alongside partner agencies and clubs. €140,000 was allocated to 49 clubs under the Galway City Council Sports Club Grant.

- 95 sites were on the Derelict Sites Register at the end of 2025, an increase from 11 at the end of 2024. Levies totalling €192,850 were raised on 7 derelict sites in 2025 with interest of €17,185 accruing on these levies throughout the year. A new Derelict Sites Policy and Procedures for Galway City Council was adopted by Council.

Climate Change and Sustainability

Objective:

To be a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and carbon neutral city by no later than the end of 2050 by delivering transformative change, just transition and measurable climate action within our own organisation and services and across Galway City, through leadership, example, and mobilising action at a local level. Addressing climate change has become a global priority, with efforts focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, transitioning to renewable energy sources, improving energy efficiency, promoting sustainable practices, and adapting to climate change well underway.

Urban Development Directorate

Arts, Culture, Economic and Tourism Development

Objective:

To facilitate a strong, sustainable, inclusive, economic ecosystem in Galway City, which offers access to employment for all, with particular attention to the diversity of groups covered by the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty; will provide a good quality of life for its residents; and will ensure the sustainable development of the region.

To make Galway City a model of cultural sustainability, community participation and exciting cultural and creative experiences.

- During 2025, Galway City Council continued to implement the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024–2029 as the statutory framework for social, economic and community development, with due regard to the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty. Delivery of the LECP was overseen by the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and Urban Development SPC and progressed through targeted actions that promote equality, social inclusion and community participation, including inclusive funding programmes, participatory initiatives, integration supports, age friendly and youth strategies, and measures supporting marginalised communities.

- In 2025, Galway City Council continued to actively manage, maintain and upgrade its enterprise and cultural infrastructure to support economic growth, creativity and community engagement. Through targeted investment, ongoing maintenance and strategic planning, Council owned enterprise centres, cultural venues and creative spaces were supported to remain accessible, fit for purpose and aligned with Galway's ambition as a vibrant, innovative and culturally rich city.
- In 2025, Galway City Council continued to support the development of a vibrant, inclusive and well managed night time economy, recognising its importance to the city's cultural life, economic vitality and community wellbeing. Through dedicated night time economy initiatives, stakeholder engagement, cultural programming, accessibility and safety measures, and collaboration with national agencies and local businesses, the Council worked to enhance Galway's evening and night time offering while balancing economic activity with quality of life for residents.
- In 2025, Galway City Council supported initiatives that increased tourism revenue while delivering tangible benefits for local businesses and employment. Through destination development, festivals and events, public realm investment, promotion of year round tourism, and collaboration with Fáilte Ireland and industry partners, the Council strengthened Galway's visitor economy in a sustainable way.
- Supported indigenous and start up enterprises through the work of the Galway City Council Local Enterprise Office, responding to the specific needs across the diversity of our communities in this work.
- In 2025, the Urban Development Directorate progressed arts, culture, economic and tourism development through targeted investment, strategic partnerships and programme delivery. Key achievements included supporting major festivals and cultural events, advancing the Destination Experience Development Plan with Fáilte Ireland, strengthening the night time economy, investing in enterprise and cultural infrastructure, and delivering public realm and shopfront enhancements. These actions supported increased visitor engagement and spend, strengthened Galway's creative and cultural profile, and delivered tangible economic and employment benefits for local businesses.
- In 2025, Galway City Council used targeted arts and Creative Ireland funding to address disadvantage and promote social inclusion. This included €450,000 in Arts Act funding supporting 58 organisations, a €20,000 Band Grant supporting seven community bands, 21 Creative Practitioner Bursaries, supports for over 40 artists through residencies and

CPD, and delivery of 83 Culture Night events. These investments expanded access to culture, engaged marginalised and lesser heard communities, and used creativity to strengthen wellbeing, connection and inclusion across the city.

- In 2025, Galway City Council continued to safeguard and celebrate the city's distinctive cultural heritage while supporting a dynamic programme of contemporary arts and creative practice. Key actions sustained investment in contemporary arts through €450,000 in Arts Act funding, Creative Practitioner bursaries, artist residencies and cultural partnerships. The Arts Office supported over 80 arts organisations and 500 artists, delivered 83 Culture Night events, and advanced programmes linked to UNESCO City of Film status.

Planning

Objective:

To lead the development of Galway City, in a co-ordinated approach, to address the challenges of housing, movement and climate change to deliver a better city for all. The planning section will maintain an effective planning system that can successfully meet the city's sustainable economic, environmental, and social development goals.

- To ensure Galway City Council's strategic development plans and policies aligned with national policies, one variation of Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029 was commenced and completed in 2025 and work on variations No. 2 and 3 variations to ensure supply of suitable and serviced land for development.
- With support from the Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme (THRIVE) – an integrated Urban Strategy was developed which will serve as a vision led guide for the regeneration of Galway's West End. This plan involved significant public engagement and outreach.
- Aligning with the policies of the Galway Metropolitan Area Plan (MASP), a joint Retail Strategy was prepared for the MASP area, in conjunction with Galway County Council.
- A Harbour masterplan has been submitted and finalised for this key brownfield site and a planning application submitted for first phase of development for this site, in 2025.
- A significant level of public and stakeholder engagement and outreach took place throughout 2025 on a Salthill Village and Seafront Framework strategy, supporting Galway City Councils' vision for creative and collaborative approach to public engagement and co-design.

- Engaged and co-ordinated with infrastructure and utility providers in the preparation of infrastructure programs to support funding applications and for new developments in Murrough, Ardaun & Tuam Road.
- Progressed URDF funded elements of Ceannt Station to allow for 5 new platforms and passenger experience and public realm improvements.
- Supported enhancements to the public realm through progression of Middle Street & Cross Street regeneration project.together with progression of Lombard Street regeneration project.
- Implemented changes to work practices arising from Commencements of the Planning and Development Act 2024, with commencement dates in 2025.
- Implemented the RED III Directive within the development management function and processed one application subject to this Directive.
- Adopted the Galway City Heritage Plan 2027-2029 and supported the Galway City Heritage Forum to support delivery of actions contained therein.
- Engaged with stakeholders to explore options for the creative use of Galway city's heritage assets including Fahy's Farm, Mutton Island Lighthouse and Menlo Castle.
- The Architects Department strengthened engagement with local stakeholders through hosting events such as the annual Galway Charter Update during the Architecture at the Edge festival and through Galway Charter/NEBA project stakeholder meetings, which included representatives from institutions such as the RIAI, NUIG, ATU, Galway Chamber, Galway Culture Company, and the OPW.

Human Resources

Objective:

To ensure adequate staff resources to meet Galway City Council's objectives, and to encourage, assist and support our staff through the employee life cycle in developing their full potential as valued employees of Galway City Council.

- Galway City Council completed and submitted its Strategic Workforce Plan (SWP) 2025 -2029 to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on 06 October 2025.
- In line with the HR annual recruitment plan, 67 competitions were held and 194 staff appointments were made.
- Training delivery focused on key competency areas including leadership and management, business and administrative skills, infrastructure guidelines, governance and legislative awareness, career and retirement planning, as well as climate action awareness. Accredited certificate and diploma level and third level qualifications were facilitated. A comprehensive programme of Health and Safety training was also delivered.
- There was ongoing engagement between employees and line managers on welfare matters with support provided through the Sick Leave Scheme, the Employee Assistance Programme, and a range of Work Life Balance Schemes.
- Engagement continued with staff members and/or trade unions on various employment matters.
- Superannuation services, guidance and support were provided to current and retired staff.
- Retirement and Service Awards Ceremony took place recognising the dedication, commitment, and long-standing service of both retiring and serving staff.
- Pay related amendments were progressed.

Corporate Development Directorate

Corporate Services

Objective:

To provide support services and resources to elected members, enabling them to fulfil their democratic responsibilities, and to provide staff with the tools they need to effectively implement their executive functions, ensuring the delivery of high-quality, efficient services to the people of Galway.

- Corporate Services organised meetings/workshops and supported elected members to carry out their democratic duties effectively.
- The adoption of updated Standing Orders strengthened how meetings run and improved clarity for councillors.
- The Council maintained strong governance and compliance standards in 2025 by processing Freedom of Information and Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) requests efficiently, actively managing public liability matters, and continuously reviewing the Corporate Risk Register to ensure organisational risks were identified and monitored.
- Customer Services handled high volumes call answering and processing service requests efficiently. They ensured accessible payment options for the public by managing cash/ phone payments and supporting customers with different needs and preferences.
- The team also collaborated closely with ICT and Digital Transformation to prepare for the rollout of the new CRM system, which will modernise case management and improve communication across Council services.
- The Communications Unit delivered timely, accessible public information throughout 2025, issuing press releases, responding to media queries, and growing the Council's digital reach across all major platforms.
- Strengthened bilingual services by hosting the first fully bilingual Council meeting, expanding Irish-language content and advertising, and progressing the work of the Gaeilge Sub-SPC to enhance service delivery through Irish.

Finance

The primary objective for the Finance Department is to ensure the financial sustainability and well-being of the council while providing value for money in delivering services.

Key financial objectives include:

- Balancing the Budget
- Effective Financial Management
- Revenue Generation
- Capital Infrastructure Investment
- Promoting Economic Development
- Ensuring Value for Money

Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

Objective:

To fundamentally transform the way people, interact and do business with Galway City Council through the digitalisation of 90% of applicable services, in line with Ireland's Local Government Digital and ICT Strategy 2030, Digital Local Government: Working for Everyone and Connecting Government 2030 – the Digital Strategy for the Public Service.

ICT is a key enabler in the delivery of modern local government services, modern workplace technologies and the delivery of new systems which improve the efficiency and effectiveness of council staff.

Appendix 4

Performance Indicators 01/01/2025 - 31/12/2025 (Annual) Galway City Council

Topic	Indicator	Value
Housing: H1, H2 & H4 Approved	H1A. Number of dwellings in the ownership of the local authority at 01/01/2025	2625
	H1B. Number of dwellings added to the local authority owned stock during 2025 (whether constructed or acquired)	30
	H1C. Number of local authority owned dwellings sold in 2025	9
	H1D. Number of local authority owned dwellings demolished in 2025	3
	H1E. Number of dwellings in the ownership of the local authority at 31/12/2025	2643
	H1F. Number of local authority owned dwellings planned for demolition under a DHLGH approved scheme at 31/12/2025	1
	H2A. The percentage of the total number of local authority owned dwellings that were vacant on 31/12/2025	2.46 %
	The number of dwellings within their overall stock that were not tenanted on 31/12/2025	65
	H4A. Expenditure during 2025 on the maintenance of local authority housing compiled from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025, divided by the no. of dwellings in the local authority stock at 31/12/2025, i.e. the H1E less H1F indicator figure	€2084.93
	Expenditure on maintenance of local authority stock compiled from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025, 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).	€5508383.85
	PI 2024: H1E. Number of Dwellings In Ownership at 31/12/2024 (2024 Dataset)	2625
	Cross-Check H1A with PI 2024 H1E	H1A Matches 2024 H1E

Topic	Indicator	Value
Housing: H3 & H5 Approved	H3A. The time taken from the date of vacation of a dwelling to the date in 2025 when the dwelling is re-tenanted, averaged across all dwellings re-let during 2025	42.46 wk
	H3B. The cost expended on getting the dwellings re-tenanted in 2025, averaged across all dwellings re-let in 2025	€50740.73
	(H3) The number of dwellings that were re-tenanted on any date in 2025 (but excluding all those that had been vacant due to an estate-wide refurbishment scheme)	90
	(H3) The number of weeks from the date of vacation to the date the dwelling is re-tenanted	3821 wk
	(H3) Total expenditure on works necessary to enable re-letting of the dwellings, using direct cost calculations	€4566666
	H5A. Total number of registered tenancies in the LA area at 31 December 2025 (External Dataset) (External Dataset)	11283
	H5B. Number of rented dwellings inspected in 2025 (External Dataset)	1379
	H5C. Percentage of inspected dwellings in 2025 not compliant with the Standards Regulations on first inspection (External Dataset)	90.54 %
	H5D. Number of dwellings deemed compliant in 2025 (including those originally deemed non-compliant) (External Dataset)	219
	H5E. The number of inspections (including re-inspections) undertaken by the local authority in 2025 (External Dataset)	1552
	Housing: H6 Approved	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 2025
The number of adult individuals classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on the night of 31 December 2025 as recorded on the PASS system		276
The number out of those individuals who, on 31/12/2025, had been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously, or for 6 months cumulatively within the previous 12 months		144

Topic	Indicator	Value
Housing: H7 Approved	A. (1) Total number of houses retrofitted between 01/01/2025 and 31/12/2025 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme (External Dataset)	46
	A. (2) Number of houses that achieved a BER rating of B2 or above between 01/01/2025 and 31/12/2025 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme (External Dataset)	46
	A. (3) Number of heat pumps installed in those houses between 01/01/2025 and 31/12/2025 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme (External Dataset)	45
	B. Total annual energy savings in MWh from houses retrofitted between 01/01/2025 and 31/12/2025 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme (External Dataset)	1141.1 MWh
	C. Total carbon emission reduction tCo2 from houses retrofitted between 01/01/2025 and 31/12/2025 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme (External Dataset)	377.1
Roads: R1, R2 & R4 Approved	R1A (a) The percentage of Regional roads that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2025 (External Dataset)	89.93 %
	R1A (b) The percentage of Local Primary roads that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2025 (External Dataset)	97.62 %
	R1A (c) The percentage of Local Secondary roads that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2025 (External Dataset)	95.69 %
	R1A (d) The percentage of Local Tertiary roads that received a PSCI rating in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2025 (External Dataset)	98.33 %
	R1B (a.1) The percentage length of Regional roads that received a PSCI rating of 1-4 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2025 (External Dataset)	4.33 %
	R1B (a.2) The percentage length of Regional roads that received a PSCI rating of 5-6 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2025 (External Dataset)	10.79 %
	R1B (a.3) The percentage length of Regional roads that received a PSCI rating of 7-8 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2025 (External Dataset)	27.24 %

Topic	Indicator	Value
	R1B (a.4) The percentage length of Regional roads that received a PSCI rating of 9-10 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2025 (External Dataset)	47.57 %
	R1B (b.1) The percentage length of Local Primary roads that received a PSCI rating of 1-4 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2025 (External Dataset)	5.64 %
	R1B (b.2) The percentage length of Local Primary roads that received a PSCI rating of 5-6 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2025 (External Dataset)	40.22 %
	R1B (b.3) The percentage length of Local Primary roads that received a PSCI rating of 7-8 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2025 (External Dataset)	33.86 %
	R1B (b.4) The percentage length of Local Primary roads that received a PSCI rating of 9-10 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2025 (External Dataset)	17.89 %
	R1B (c.1) The percentage length of Local Secondary roads that received a PSCI rating of 1-4 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2025 (External Dataset)	5.18 %
	R1B (c.2) The percentage length of Local Secondary roads that received a PSCI rating of 5-6 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2025 (External Dataset)	34.77 %
	R1B (c.3) The percentage length of Local Secondary roads that received a PSCI rating of 7-8 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2025 (External Dataset)	29.51 %
	R1B (c.4) The percentage length of Local Secondary roads that received a PSCI rating of 9-10 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2025 (External Dataset)	26.22 %
	R1B (d.1) The percentage length of Local Tertiary roads that received a PSCI rating of 1-4 in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2025 (External Dataset)	4.63 %
	R1B (d.2) The percentage length of Local Tertiary roads that received a PSCI rating of 5-6 in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2025 (External Dataset)	33.71 %
	R1B (d.3) The percentage length of Local Tertiary roads that received a PSCI rating of 7-8 in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2025 (External Dataset)	38.52 %
	R1B (d.4) The percentage length of Local Tertiary roads that received a PSCI rating of 9-10 in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2025 (External Dataset)	21.48 %
	R2A (1) Kilometres of regional road strengthened during 2025 (External Dataset)	1.2 km
	R2A (2) The amount expended on regional roads strengthening work during 2025 (External Dataset)	€591709.47

Topic	Indicator	Value
	R2A (3) The average unit cost of regional road strengthening works per square metre (€/m ²) (External Dataset)	€40.14
	R2B (1) Kilometres of regional road resealed during 2025 (External Dataset)	
	R2B (2) The amount expended on regional road resealing work during 2025 (External Dataset)	
	R2B (3) The average unit cost of regional road resealing works per square metre (€/m ²) (External Dataset)	
	R2C (1) Kilometres of local road strengthened during 2025 (External Dataset)	5.6 km
	R2C (2) The amount expended on local road strengthening work during 2025 (External Dataset)	€1452790.39
	R2C (3) The average unit cost of local road strengthening works per square metre (€/m ²) (External Dataset)	€47.54
	R2D (1) Kilometres of local road resealed during 2025 (External Dataset)	
	R2D (2) The amount expended on local road resealing work during 2025 (External Dataset)	
	R2D (3) The average unit cost of local road resealing works per square metre (€/m ²) (External Dataset)	
	R4A. Total number of T2, T2', T3, T4s issued by the local authority between 01/01/2025 and 31/12/2025 (External Dataset)	489
	R4B. Total number of T5 notifications received from licence holders between 01/01/2025 and 31/12/2025 (External Dataset)	455
	R4C. Percentage of licences that have been reviewed by the local authority prior to entering the Guarantee Period (External Dataset)	89.00 %
	R4D. Percentage of licences that have been subject of an inspection prior to entering the Guarantee Period (External Dataset)	39.00 %
Motor Tax: R3 Approved	A. The percentage of motor tax transactions which were dealt with online (i.e. transaction is processed and the tax disc is issued) in 2025 (External Dataset)	

Topic	Indicator	Value
Water: W1 & W2 Approved	W1. Percentage of drinking water in private schemes in compliance with statutory requirements (External Dataset)	
	W2. The number of registered schemes monitored by each local authority as a percentage of total schemes registered	
	(W2) How many local authority registered schemes were monitored in 2025	0
	(W2) Total number of registered schemes in 2025	0
Waste: E1 Approved	A. The number of households which availed of a 3-bin service offered by a licensed operator at 31/12/2025 (External Dataset)	37850
	B. The percentage of households within the local authority that the number at A represents (External Dataset)	122.60 %
Environmental Complaints: E2 Approved	A. The opening number of environmental complaints carried forward from year end 2024 (External Dataset)	53
	B. Total number of environmental complaints of all types (e.g. air/noise/water/waste pollution) made through any medium and whether initiated by the public or by the local authority itself from 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025 (External Dataset)	854
	C. Total number of environmental complaints of all types which were closed during 2025 (regardless of when the case commenced) (External Dataset)	893
	D. Total number of environmental complaints of all types that were not closed at 31/12/2025 (External Dataset)	14
Litter Pollution: E3 In Progress	A (1). The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2025 was unpolluted or litter free (External Dataset)	
	A (2). The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2025 was slightly polluted (External Dataset)	
	A (3). The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2025 was moderately polluted (External Dataset)	
	A (4). The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2025 was significantly polluted (External Dataset)	

Topic	Indicator	Value
	A (5). The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2025 was grossly polluted (External Dataset)	
Green Flag Status: E4 Approved	A. The percentage of schools that have been awarded/renewed green flag status in the two years to 31 December 2025 (External Dataset)	38.10 %
	Schools which attained a Green Flag for the first time in 2025 (External Dataset)	0
	Schools which renewed their Green Flag in 2025 (External Dataset)	10
	Schools which held a Green Flag from 2024 and therefore do not require renewal until 2026 (External Dataset)	6
Energy Efficiency: E5 In Progress	A. The cumulative percentage of energy savings achieved by 31/12/2025 relative to baseline year (2009) (External Dataset)	
Public Lighting: E6 Approved	A. Total annual consumption of the public lighting system (External Dataset)	2231.78 MWh
	B. Average wattage of each public light (External Dataset)	58.42 W
	C. Percentage of the total system that LED lights represent (External Dataset)	97.72 %
	Number of LED lights in the public lighting system (External Dataset)	10265
	Number of non-LED lights in the public lighting system (External Dataset)	239
Climate Change: E7 Approved	1 a) Does the local authority have a designated FTE Climate Action Coordinator? (External Dataset)	YES
	1 b) Does the local authority have a designated FTE Climate Action Officer? (External Dataset)	YES
	2. Does the local authority have a climate action team? (External Dataset)	YES
Planning: P1 Approved	A. Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	15.58 %

Topic	Indicator	Value
	Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority i.e. buildings where a valid Commencement Notice was served in the period 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025 by a builder or developer to the local authority, in accordance with section 6(2)(k) of the Building Control Act 1990 and Part II of the Building Control Regulations 1997 (S.I. No. 496 of 1997), as amended by the Building Control (Amendment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. no. 85 of 2004) and the Building Control (Amendment) Regulations 2009 (S.I. No. 351 of 2009).	77
	Number of new buildings notified to the local authority in 2025 that were the subject of at least one on-site inspection during 2025, undertaken by the local authority under section 11 of the Building Control Act 1990.	12
Planning: P2 & P3 Approved	P2A. Number of local authority planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal to An Coimisiún Pleanála that were determined by the Board on any date in 2025	43
	P2B. Percentage of the determinations at A which confirmed (either with or without variation of the plan) the decision made by the local authority	69.77 %
	(P2) Number of An Coimisiún Pleanála determinations confirming the local authority's decision (either with or without variation)	30
	P3A. Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority in the period 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025 that were investigated	363
	P3B. Total number of investigated cases that were closed during 2025	142
	P3C. 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	30.28 %
	P3D. Percentage of the cases at B that were resolved to the local authority's satisfaction through negotiations	2.11 %

Topic	Indicator	Value
	P3E. Percentage of the cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings (i.e. remedied in response to a warning letter issued under section 152 of the Act, or to an enforcement notice issued under section 154 of the Act, or where a prosecution was brought under section 157 or an injunction was sought under section 160 of the Act)	67.61 %
	P3F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2025	221
	(P3) Number of cases at B that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development	43
	(P3) Number of cases at B that were resolved to the local authority's satisfaction through negotiations	3
	(P3) Number of cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	96
Planning: P4 & P5 Approved	P4A. The 2025 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme D data divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2022 Census	€55.24
	(P4) 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 2025	€4662817
	P5A. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2025 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of their receipt	57.14 %
	P5B. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2025 that were decided (granted or refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant	42.86 %
	(P5) The total number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2025 that were not withdrawn by the applicant	42
	(P5) The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2025 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of the date of receipt of the application	24

Topic	Indicator	Value
	(P5) The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2025 that were decided (granted or refused) within an agreed extended time period	18
Fire Service: F1 Approved	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme E expenditure data for 2025 divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2022 Census figures for the population served by the fire authority as per the Risk Based Approach Phase One reports	
	AFS Programme E expenditure data consisting of E11 - Operation of Fire Service and E12 - Operation of Fire Service and E12 - Fire Prevention (inclusive of the relevant Programme E proportion of the central management charge) for 2025.	
Fire Service: F2 & F3 Approved	F2A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire	
	F2B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire	
	F2C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	
	F2D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	
	F3A. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is within 10 minutes	
	F3B. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	
	F3C. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	
	F3D. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	
	F3E. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	
	F3F. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	

Topic	Indicator	Value
	Total number of call-outs in respect of fires from 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025	
	Number of these fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	
	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	
	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	
	Total number of call-outs in respect of all other emergency incidents (i.e. not including fire) from 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025	
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	
Library Service: L1 Approved	A. Number of visits to libraries per head of population for the local authority area per the 2022 Census	
	B. Number of items issued to library borrowers in the year	
	C. Library active members per head of population (External Dataset)	
	D. Number of registered library members in the year	
	Number of visits to its libraries from 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025 per automatic counters if used	
Library Service: L2 Approved	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme F data for 2025 divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2022 Census	
	B. The annual per capita expenditure on collections over the period 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025	
	AFS Programme F data consisting of F02 - Operation of Library and Archival Service (inclusive of the relevant proportion of the central management charge for Programme F) for 2025	
	The annual expenditure on new stock acquired by the library in the year	

Topic	Indicator	Value
Youth and Community: Y1 & Y2 Approved	Y1A. 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 31/12/2025	10
	Number of second level schools in the local authority area from which representatives attended the local Comhairle na nÓg AGM held in 2025	8
	Y2A. The number of organisations included in the County Register at 31/12/2025 and the proportion of those organisations that opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN	26.37
	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 31/12/2025	201
	Total number of those organisations that registered for the first time in 2025	30
	Number of organisations that opted to join the Social Inclusion Electoral College on whatever date they registered for the PPN	53
Corporate: C1, C2, C4 & C5 Approved	C1A. The wholetime equivalent staffing number as at 31 December 2025 (External Dataset)	656.31
	C2A. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2025	3.72 %
	C2B. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2025	0.26 %
	Total number of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2025	6780 day
	Total number of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2025	381.5 day
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of self-certified sick leave days in 2025	0 day
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of medically certified sick leave days in 2025	1233 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	61 staff members were out for a period of 4 consecutive weeks or more in 2025

Topic	Indicator	Value
	C4A. All ICT expenditure in the period from 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025, divided by the WTE no.	€4649.54
	Total ICT expenditure in 2025	€3051539.75
	C5A. All ICT expenditure calculated in C4 as a proportion of Revenue expenditure	192.16
	Total Revenue expenditure from 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025 before transfers to or from reserves	1588015.54
Corporate: C3 Approved		
	A. The per capita total page views of the local authority's websites in 2025	23.45
	B. The per capita total number of followers at end 2025 of the local authority's social media accounts (if any)	0.48
	The cumulative total page views of all websites operated by the local authority for the period from 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025 obtained from a page tagging on-site web analytics service or equivalent	1979359
	The total number of social media users who, at 31/12/2025, were following the local authority on any social media sites	40749
	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	No material change.
Finance: M1 to M4 Approved		
	M1A. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2021 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS (External Dataset)	€67765
	M1B. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2022 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS (External Dataset)	€2646046
	M1C. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2023 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS (External Dataset)	€2693758

Topic	Indicator	Value
	M1D. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2024 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS (External Dataset)	€2721672
	M1E. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2025 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€2732036
	M1F. Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2025 as a percentage of Total Income in 2025 from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	1.99 %
	M1G. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2025	€1607.42
	M1H. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2025 excluding significant out of county/shared service expenditure	
	The 2025 Total Income figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€137187776
	The 2025 Total Expenditure figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€135689007
	The 2025 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	
	M2A. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2021 (External Dataset)	67.0 %
	M2A. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2021 (External Dataset)	80.0 %
	M2A. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2021 (External Dataset)	88.0 %
	M2B. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2022 (External Dataset)	84.0 %
	M2B. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2022 (External Dataset)	80.0 %
	M2B. c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2022 (External Dataset)	88.0 %
	M2C. a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2023 (External Dataset)	86.0 %
	M2C. b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2023 (External Dataset)	80.0 %
	M2C. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2023 (External Dataset)	88.0 %
	M2D. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2024 (External Dataset)	86.0 %
	M2D. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2024 (External Dataset)	79.0 %

Topic	Indicator	Value
	M2D. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2024 (External Dataset)	88.0 %
	M2E. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2025	91 %
	M2E. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2025	80 %
	M2E. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2025	88 %
	M2E. (d) Collection level of HAP SSC for 2025	
	M3A. Per capita total cost of settled claims for 2025	€6.68
	IPB Insurance: Number of notified claims for 2025 (External Dataset)	90
	IPB Insurance: Number of settled claims for 2025 (External Dataset)	25
	IPB Insurance: Total cost of settled claims for 2025 (External Dataset)	€563790.74
	Total cost of claims settled under excess for 2025	€0
	Self-insured: Number of notified claims for 2025	0
	Self-insured: Number of settled claims for 2025	0
	Self-insured: Total cost of settled claims for 2025	€0
	M4A. Overall central management charge as a percentage of total expenditure on revenue account	11.98 %
	M4B. Total payroll costs as a percentage of revenue expenditure	31.09 %
	Overall central management charge from the Local Authority FMS and defined in the Annual Budget	€16256812
	Total payroll costs from Appendix 1 of the AFS for 2025 (including Salaries, Wages and Pensions)	€42185477
Economic Development: J1 to J5 Approved	J1A. The number of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025 per 100,000 of population (External Dataset)	0.00
	The number of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025 (External Dataset)	0.0
	J2A. The number of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2025 per 100,000 of population (External Dataset)	0.00
	J2B. The number of trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2025 per 100,000 of population (External Dataset)	0.00

Topic	Indicator	Value
	The number of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2025 (External Dataset)	0
	The number of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2025 (External Dataset)	0
	J3A. The number of participants who received mentoring during the period 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025 per 100,000 of population (External Dataset)	0.00
	The number of participants who received mentoring during the period 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025 (External Dataset)	
	J4A. Does the local authority have a current tourism strategy?	Yes
	J4B. Does the local authority have a designated Tourism Officer?	Yes
	J5. The spend on local economic development by the local authority in 2025 per head of population	€286.41
	The spend on local economic development by the local authority in 2025	€24176863

Appendix 5

Statement of Internal Financial Control (SIFC)

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 2025, 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 and Expenditure, summarised by Division. The Statement of Financial Position outlines the Galway City Council overall financial position as of the 31st of December 2025.

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 and Services	28,716,780	28,178,964
Grants and Subsidies	56,172,902	63,072,340
Rates	44,318,625	41,389,648
Local Property Tax	7,605,616	6,116,487

Activity on the Income and Expenditure account for 2025 is as follows:

Total income has decreased slightly by €2.1m since 2024 mainly due to a reduction in income from grants and subsidies of approximately 11%. The income from Rates and LPT has increased from 2024 to 2025 by €4.4m.

The expenditure remains similar to 2024 at €136m before transfers. Despite the budgetary pressure on expenditure, Galway City Council has maintained a small surplus for the year.

Payroll continues to be the most significant cost, with a total payroll cost of €42m. The uplift in payroll costs from 2024 of €3.9m is mainly due to increased staff numbers together with national pay increases.

	Current Year €	Previous Year €
Income	137,187,776	139,295,702
Expenditure	135,689,007	136,940,974
Transfers to Capital	1,498,769	2,354,726
Surplus for Year	10,365	27,915
Opening Revenue Reserve	2,721,672	2,693,757
Closing Revenue Reserve	2,732,036	2,721,672

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 2025 amount to €1,415m and are as follows:

	Current Year €	Previous Year €
Fixed Assets	1,376,065,924	1,332,991,702
Works in Progress	18,859,127	39,329,569
Long Term debtors	121,574,122	112,652,131
Current Assets	88,920,215	68,173,999
Current Liabilities	(30,651,906)	(23,128,702)
Net Current Assets/ (Liabilities)	58,268,309	45,045,297
Creditors (Amounts greater than 1 year)	(159,785,249)	(137,190,825)
Net Assets/(Liabilities)	1,414,982,234	1,392,827,874

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:

- to review financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within the local authority that has established it;
- to foster the development of best practice in the performance by the local authority of its internal audit function;
- 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;
- to assess and promote efficiency and value for money with respect to the local authority's performance of its functions; and
- 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 2026 and thereafter included in the published Annual Report prepared and adopted by the Council by 30 June 2026.

Leonard Cleary

Chief Executive

Date: _____

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.

Major

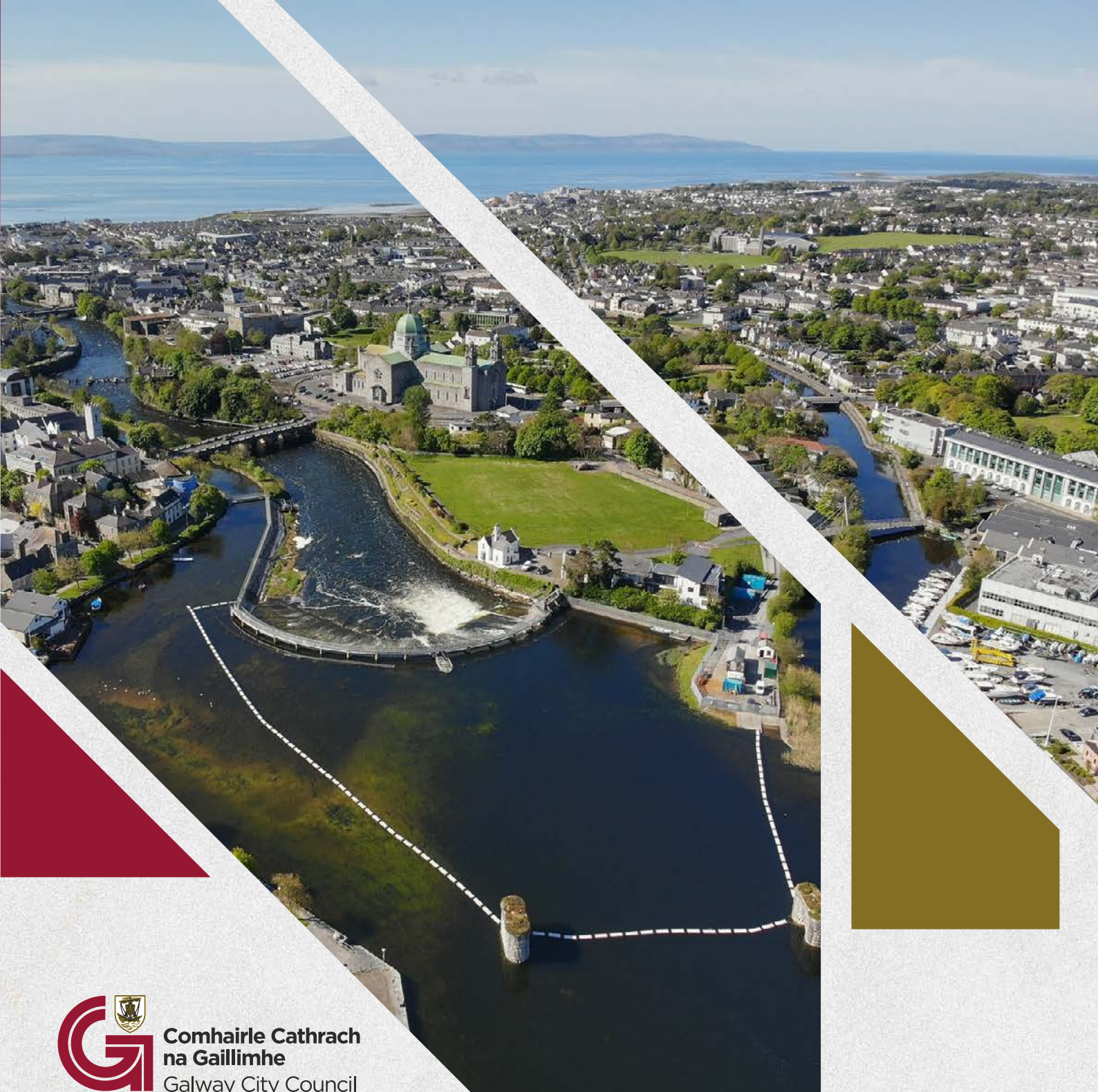
Date

Chief Executive

Date





**Comhairle Cathrach
na Gaillimhe**
Galway City Council





**Comhairle Cathrach
na Gaillimhe**
Galway City Council

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