



Comhairle Cathrach
na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council

**2 Meán Fómhair 2026
2 September 2026**

Fógra/Notice

Cruinnithe Chomhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe Galway City Council Meeting

Do Gach Ball de Chomhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe:

A Chara,

Tionólfar Gnáthchruinniú de Chomhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe **Dé Luain, 7 Meán Fómhair 2026 ag 12i.n. i Seomra na Comhairle, Halla na Cathrach, Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe agus ar líne trí MS Teams.**

Tá cóip de Chlár an Chruinnithe seo ar fáil ag an bhFáiltiú ar mhaithe le hiniúchadh.

Tá clár an chruinnithe leagtha amach faoi seo.

A Plenary Meeting of Galway City Council will be held on **Monday, 7 September 2026 at 12p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Galway City Council and online via MS Teams.**

A copy of the agenda for this meeting is available at Reception for inspection.

The agenda for the meeting is set out hereunder.

Members are requested to send queries regarding Matters Arising relating to Item 2(a) in writing, in advance of the meeting, to the undersigned.

Ailish Rohan,
Riarthóir na gCruinnithe / Meetings Administrator.



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Clár/Agenda Plenary Meeting Monday 7 September 2026 at 12p.m.
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1. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

(Section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended).

2. Confirmation of Minutes

(a) Minutes of July Plenary Council Meeting held on 13 July 2026.

(b) Minutes of July Special Council Meeting held on 20 July 2026.

3. Business Prescribed by Statute

(a) Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) Part VIII of Planning and Development Regulations 2001 – Cross Street Rejuvenation Project - to consider for approval.

(b) Section 13 of the Planning and Development 2000 (as amended) Variation No. 2 of Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029 – Material Alterations – to consider for adoption.

(c) Section 9, Road Traffic Act 2004 Galway City Council Special Speed Limit Bye Laws 2026 – to consider for adoption.

(d) Circular Fin. 08/2026: 2027 Budget meeting and other budgetary matters.
To fix the date of the Annual Budget Meeting proposed date:
Monday 23 November 2026 at 3p.m.

(e) Section 51, Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) - Tourism Development Strategic Policy Committee – Replacement of Galway City Community Network (GCCN) Representative.

(f) Section 46, Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) – Amendment to Schedule of Ordinary Meetings: Change of Meeting Time to facilitate Galway Culture Company, proposed date: **Monday 12 October 2026 at 12p.m.**

(g) Galway Regional Aquatic Centre Funding - To consider the raising of a loan



4. Reports of Committee Meetings

- (a) Draft notes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 1 September 2026 - for noting.
- (b) Report from the Grants Committee meeting held on 28 August 2026 - to consider for approval.

5. Consideration of Reports of Officials

- (a) Monthly Management Report for August - for noting.
- (b) Parking Report - for noting.
- (c) Merlin Woods Restoration - for noting.

6. Notice of Motions

NOM 58/2025, submitted by Cllr. Clodagh Higgins on 01/09/2025

That Galway City Council commit to:

1. That the Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) meets with the Galway City water sports groups to begin meaningful consultation.
2. That Galway City Council develops a Beach Management and Zoning plan **(that fully meets Criterion 30 of the Blue Flag beach criteria document)** for all Galway City Beaches.
3. That Galway City Council engages with all stakeholders to develop Zoning plans and maps for all Galway City Beaches **(consistent with Criterion 5 and Criterion 30 of the Blue Flag beach criteria document)** that allows for dedicated launch zones, improved access routes to the water, and provides for safe, inclusive use of our beaches for swimmers, watersports and beach users.

Blue Flag Criterion 30. There must be management of different users and uses of the beach so as to prevent conflicts and accidents.

Beaches that support multiple activities must have management plans to prevent accidents and conflicts. This must include zoning for swimmers, surfers, windsurfers and motor craft. At the same time, recreational use of the beach must be managed without a negative impact on the natural environment or the biodiversity of the beach, and with consideration for aesthetic issues.

Swimmers should be protected from all sea craft (motor, sail or pedal). Where necessary, zoning through the use of buoys, beacons or signs must be in place. The same must be done for surfing areas. Distinctions should be made between motor, paddle or sail craft. The use of these various activities must be separated.



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Blue Flag Criterion 5. A map of the beach indicating different facilities must be displayed.

A map showing the boundaries of the Blue Flag beach area and the location of key facilities and services must be posted on the Blue Flag information board. The required map elements should show the location of: zoning (swimming, surfing, sailing, boating, etc.)

Response issued 03/10/2025. Request to leave on the agenda.

NOM 17/2026, submitted by Cllr. Eibhlín Seoighthe on 24/02/2026

That Galway City Council retire the ceremonial Sword and Mace to the Galway City Museum to ensure their proper preservation and protection, and that they be used for display purposes only going forward. Furthermore, that the Council initiate an open call for artists to create new ceremonial pieces to be used for official and public events, reflecting the culture, values, and identity of contemporary Galway.

NOM 32/2026, submitted by Cllr. Eddie Hoare on 06/06/2026

That Galway City Council commit to the roll out of beach wheelchair mats on suitable city beaches during the Summer months.

In 2023, the ownership of beach wheelchairs was transferred from Ability West to Galway City Council. It was hoped that this would promote more usage of the wheelchairs. Unfortunately, this hasn't been the case as the wheelchairs are not functional without the wheelchair mats.

Mayo County Council successfully implemented the beach wheelchair mats in Summer 2025 and this was a great successful and used by many.

We need to strive to make public spaces more accessible and this is another example where Galway City Council must show leadership.

Response issued 23 July 2026

NOM 33/2026, submitted by Cllr. Eddie Hoare on 07/06/2026

That this Council write to the Minister of State for Road Transport Seán Canney T.D and the National Transport Authority expressing the support of the Elected Members for the revision of Route 44 under the new Bus Connects proposals for Galway put forward by the Galway City Council Active Travel team in January 2026.

This revised proposal was put forward by the Active Travel in Galway City Council in January 2026 and includes a minor revision of the new Route 44 to include Circular Road. This minor revision as proposed by Galway City Council would provide bus connectivity for all the new residents along Letteragh Road and the residents of Circular Road (c. 1,500 residents).

For clarity the existing proposal would see Route 44 run every 20 minutes from the Gateway Shopping Centre - Western Distributor Road - Clybaun Road Upper - Ragoon Road - - Seamus Quirke Road – Lower



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Newcastle Road - University Road - Cathedral - City Centre and onto Ballybrit Industrial Estate.

The revised route would see the bus turn left onto Circular Road Lower, continue up the hill and turn right onto Circular Road and then proceed along Newcastle Road along the N59 as per existing route.

This is now even more important given the recent revision of the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029 to incorporate further development in Letteragh Road and along Circular Road. These future planned developments will ensure that any concerns regarding road width in certain locations will be addressed before the proposed Bus Connects Routes commence.

This item should also be included on the next agenda of Galway City Council and the Galway Oireachtas Members.

NOM 34/2026, submitted by Cllr. Eddie Hoare on 07/06/2026

That this Council write to the relevant Ministerial Office to explore the potential to allow School Wardens to work after the age of 70 subject to medical certification.

At present, there is a severe shortage of school wardens and existing panels are extremely difficult to fill.

In recent months, Bus Éireann in consultation with the Departments of Education and Transport commenced a 2-year trial to allow certain bus drivers to work up to the age of 72 subject to medical certification every 6 months. This trial provides an extension of 2 years and won't impact existing pension arrangements.

This proposal if accepted will help to alleviate the existing challenges in replacing school wardens in schools around the country and will have a positive impact on road safety of school going children.

Response issued 23 July 2026.

NOM 35/2026, submitted by Cllr. Donal Lyons on 16/06/2026

With planning permission now being granted for a Park & Ride facility on Cappagh Road, I am proposing that no work would be carried out in the meantime on upgrading the pedestrian and cycle infrastructure on the Western Distributor Road so that an urgent meeting be sought (at the earliest opportunity) with representatives of the National Transport Authority with priority be given to funding being allocated and planning sought so that bus lanes could be introduced on the Western Distributor to make the Park & Ride facility a viable option.

NOM 36/2026, submitted by Cllr. Alan Curran on 19/06/2026

That this council will issue an invitation to the Minister for Education, Hildegard Naughton, to attend a special meeting on the provision of pre-school, primary and post-primary education in the city.

With our population predicted to rise by over 40,000 by 2040, and with the recent variations of the city development plan, it is imperative that there is sufficient school capacity in our city to meet this increase in demand.

Matter on the agenda of the Oireachtas meeting held 27 July 2026.

NOM 38/2026, submitted by Cllr. Eibhlín Seoighthe on 02/07/2026

That this council recognises that the continued presence of a Seveso site in Galway docks is incompatible with the full regeneration potential of the city's waterfront. We resolve to seek funding from the government to facilitate the removal of the Seveso site from the docks.

Furthermore, we call on the Government to introduce or re-establish a relocation support scheme modelled on the reliefs previously provided for in Part 11D of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997, including appropriate tax reliefs and other financial supports to facilitate the removal and relocation of Seveso establishments from Galway Docks.

NOM40/2026, submitted by Cllr. Eibhlín Seoighthe on 22/07/2026

This council write to RSA for a discussion on road safety. The council needs to look at the behaviour of road users and work collaboratively.

NOM41/2026, submitted by Cllr. Shane Forde on 10/08/2026

Joint Bid to Host Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann That Galway City Council supports the submission of a joint bid, in partnership with Galway County Council, to host a future Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in Galway City and County. This annual celebration of Irish music, song and dance was last held in County Galway in Loughrea in 1955. In 2026, Belfast hosted a hugely successful Fleadh, attracting over 1.6 million visitors to the city, with more than 1.7 million public transport journeys recorded during the week. I believe the success of the Fleadh in locations outside the country's largest city demonstrates what can be achieved when local authorities and communities come together with ambition.

Notice of Motion referred to Tourism Strategic Policy Committee.

NOM42/2026, submitted by Cllr. Terry O'Flaherty on 17/08/2026

I call on Galway City Council to contact the Department of Environment to resolve the long-running issues surrounding the quality of water at city beaches, particularly Ballyloughane and Grattan Road, before any consideration is given to carrying out year-round testing, which has been suggested by an Oireachtas member in the Dáil recently. The testing of sea water during off-season could impact greatly on those beaches, particularly with the amount of rainfall during the winter months - a contributory factor to a deterioration of water quality - and could result in a permanent ban on swimming.



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NOM44/2026, submitted by Cllr. Alan Curran on 25/08/2026

This this council will ensure that a dedicated Youth Space of no less than 400 m2 is included in the masterplan for the redevelopment of the current city hall site, to be leased on a long-term basis to all stakeholders involved in the provision of said space.

A 2022 report commissioned as a partnership between GRETB, CYSPC Galway and Galway City Council highlighted the absence of dedicated spaces in Galway City for young people to spend their unstructured time, and provided an overview of the urgent need for a dedicated Youth Space in the city to provide targeted youth work initiatives and universal supports to young people.

That this Youth Space will be included in phase 1 of any future development at this site.

NOM45/2026, submitted by Cllr. Helen Ogbu on 27/08/2026

That Galway City Council: Recognises the serious physical, psychological and social impact of spiking on victims and the wider impact it has on people's confidence and sense of safety, particularly in nightlife and social settings; Acknowledges the work being undertaken by Spiking Ireland in raising awareness of spiking and advocating for stronger protections and supports for victims; Calls on the Minister for Justice to develop a national strategy to tackle spiking, including:

1. Consideration of standalone legislation specifically addressing spiking;
2. Enhanced support and information for victims, including appropriate medical, psychological and reporting supports; and
3. Greater public awareness and prevention measures, particularly in relation to nightlife and other social settings.

Further calls on the Minister to engage with Spiking Ireland, An Garda Síochána, healthcare providers, local authorities, the hospitality sector, students' organisations and relevant community and victim-support organisations in developing the strategy.

7. Questions

Q07/2026, submitted by Cllr. Níall McNelis on 30/06/2026

Could the Chief Executive and the Director of Services for Housing and Planning provide the following information please?

1. The number of staff of Galway City Council who are currently dedicated to work in tackling vacancy and dereliction in our city and county?
2. The level of resources provided to our council since 2020 annually for dealing with vacancy and dereliction?
3. The number of enforcement cases taken against owners of premises in this regard?
4. The number of premises brought into housing or other uses as a result of these actions?
5. The level of resources which would be necessary, in terms of dedicated staff numbers and other resources, to substantially increase the results in this area?

8. Correspondence

- (a) **Leitrim County Council, Dated** 15 July 2026
Resolution: Renewable Energy Projects and Data Centre Demand
- (b) **Leitrim County Council, Dated:** 15 July 2026
Resolution: Dedicated Cabinet Minister for Construction and Infrastructure Delivery
- (c) **Leitrim County Council, Dated:** 15 July 2026
Resolution: National Investment in Existing Social Housing Stock
- (d) **Louth County Council, Dated:** 15 July 2026
Resolution: Regulation of Vape Shops and Planning Controls
- (e) **Roscommon County Council, Dated:** 29 July 2026
Resolution: Cost Rental Scheme Funding Motion
- (f) **Roscommon County Council, Dated:** 29 July 2026
Resolution: Eligibility criteria for CE Schemes
- (g) **National Oversight and Audit Committee, Dated:** 6 August 2026
Public Spending Code and Infrastructure Guidelines Report 2025
- (h) **The Electoral Commission, Dated:** 13 August 2026
Public Consultation - Draft Democracy Education and Public Engagement Strategy
- (i) **Circular 25/2026** Delivering Homes, Building Communities 2025-2030, Housing Delivery Action Plans 2027-2030, **Dated:** 7 July 2026

9. Items for Councillors Information

10. Conferences & Training

	Provider	Details	Date	Location
(a)	Imo Indigenes Ireland (Udo Na Idi N'Otu)	Omenimo 2026 Cultural Day – Invitation to Mayor	11 October 2026	Carlton Hotel, Blanchardstown, Dublin.
(b)	Celtic Conferences	A Practical Guide Budget 2027	16-18 October 2026	Four Season's Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth.
(c)	AILG	AGM	23 July 2026	Mullingar Park Hotel, Retrospective approval Cllr. A. Cheevers
(d)	Tolka Park, All Island Cup Final	Dublin	18 July 2026	Tolka Park Retrospective approval Cllr. M. Cubbard (deputising for Mayor)
(d)	Swim Ireland	Swim Ireland Infrastructure and Facility Local Authority Conference	7 October 2026	Cllr. J. McDonagh request for approval to attend.

11. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

12. Other Business set forth in the notice convening the meeting

13. Any Other Business