

Adopted Minutes of Galway City Council Special Meeting held in the Council Chamber, City Hall and Online via MS Teams on Monday, 20 July 2026 at 3.00p.m.	
Presiding:	Mayor H. Ogbu
Elected Members Present in person:	Councillors: A. Cheevers, D. Lyons.
Elected Members Online:	Councillors: M.J. Crowe, A. Curran, F. Fahy, J. Forde, S. Forde, E. Hoare, J. McDonagh, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis, E. Seoighthe.
Elected Members Apologies:	Councillors: A. Burke, M. Cubbard, C. Higgins, P. Keane, T. O'Flaherty.
Executive Present:	Chief Executive: L. Cleary, Director of Services: P. Philbin, H. Kilroy, Senior Executive Officer: A. Rohan, Administrative Officer: M. Duddy, Senior Executive Engineer: C. Mitchell, Executive Engineer: K. McGlynn.

The Meeting commenced with a statement of intent to conduct the business of the meeting in line with Standing Orders followed by a moment of silent reflection.

At the Mayor's request, it was proposed by Cllr. D. Lyons, seconded by Cllr. A. Cheevers, and agreed that the meeting would conclude at 4.30 p.m.

1. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

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

No disclosures.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

None

3. Business Prescribed by Statute

(e) Section 114, Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024

Nomination of one Elected Member from the West Ward to the Galway City Local Community Safety Partnership – to consider for approval.

On the proposal of Cllr. N. McNelis, seconded by Cllr. F. Fahy, Cllr. D. Lyons was nominated. There were no other nominations

Proposed By: Cllr. N. McNelis		Seconded By: Cllr. F. Fahy		
Resolved to appoint Cllr. D. Lyons to the Galway City Local Community Safety Partnership.				
Present: 12	In Favour: 12	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 6
Result: Cllr. D. Lyons was appointed to represent the west ward on the Galway City Local Community Safety Partnership.				

4. Reports of Committee Meetings

(a) Draft notes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 6 July 2026.

Cllr. D. Lyons sought clarification regarding the increase in LPT funding allocated to Taking in Charge matters including surveys and any subsequent works.

The Chief Executive informed of a recent staff appointment to the Department and committed to providing a written report on Taking in Charge matters.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Cllr. A. Cheevers
Noted Draft notes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 6 July 2026.	
Result: Noted Corporate Policy meeting notes.	

Recommendation from Corporate Policy Group:

Invitation to sign the Poitiers-Granada Declaration on the collaboration between Coimbra Group Universities and Cities.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Cllr. N. McNelis
Resolved to sign the Poitiers-Granada Declaration.	
Present: 13	In Favour: 13
Against: 0	Abstain: 0
Absent: 5	
Result: Carried unanimously.	

Recommendation from Corporate Policy Group:

(b) Finance Report to be issued to Full Council for consideration - for noting.

At the request of Cllr. N. McNelis, Notice of Motion No. 37/2026 was taken under this item. The motion was seconded by Cllr. D. McDonnell.

NOM 37/2026, submitted by Cllr. N. McNelis on 02/07/2026
This council calls on the Minister for Finance that the derelict sites levy, being collected by revenue commissioners, will be fully retained in Galway for reinvestment in regeneration of our city by Galway City Council.

Members expressed concern that any income generated could be retained centrally and stressed the importance of retaining such income for use within Galway City.

Cllr. D. Lyons proposed that this be the first item on the agenda for the forthcoming meeting of the Corporate Policy Group and Oireachtas members. This was agreed.

The Chief Executive welcomed measures to improve collection rates and advised that the Council had raised the issue of retaining income locally with Oireachtas Members. A discussion took place regarding collection of the levy, implications for budget 2027, role of the team if collection transfers to Revenue and the challenges with recovering outstanding levies.

Ms. H. Kilroy advised that the Government had not yet provided detailed information on the proposed arrangements. Ms. Kilroy advised that collection of outstanding levies can be complex. In response to a query regarding the future of the Derelict Sites team, Ms. H. Kilroy advised that team will continue to maintain the Derelict Sites Register and engage with property owners.

The Mayor agreed that the matter would be included on the agenda for the forthcoming meeting with Oireachtas Members, seeking assurances that Derelict Site Levy income would continue to be retained by Galway City Council.

Cllr. D. Lyons requested this noted as 4(b) on the minutes and next item 4(c), this was seconded by Cllr. D. McDonnell and agreed.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons		Seconded By: Cllr. N. McNelis		
Resolved to note Finance Report.				
Present: 13	In Favour: 13	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 5
Result: Finance Report noted.				

(c) Procedures Committee Minutes meeting held 3 July 2026 - for noting.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons		Seconded By: Cllr. J. Forde		
Resolved to note Procedures Committee Minutes meeting held 3 July 2026				
Present: 13	In Favour: 13	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 5
Result: Minutes of Procedures Committee noted.				

(iii) Recommendation from Procedures Committee:

Amendment to Standing Orders:

To note the Monthly Management Report, without debate. Quarterly Report details to be included in the Monthly Management Report.

Cllr. E. Hoare referred to the decision taken at the May Council meeting that the Monthly Management Report would be noted. He noted the additional proposal for quarterly reporting information to be incorporated into the monthly report as there is no statutory requirement for same.

Cllr. Hoare expressed concern that, while the information would continue to be provided, members would have limited opportunity to discuss and debate matters arising from the reports. He suggested that discussion on the Monthly Management Reports be facilitated on a quarterly basis, while the reports themselves would continue to appear on the agenda monthly. This was noted.

Ms. A. Rohan outlined the intention to review Standing Orders annually. She advised that members have the option to suspend Standing Orders, where appropriate, to facilitate discussion on specific items.

Ms. Rohan advised that Area Meetings provide an opportunity to discuss operational matters in the presence of the media. She also informed Members that a Councillor CRM Portal is planned for development, with workshops to support Councillors in its design and testing during Q3 2026. The portal will allow Members to submit and track queries, reduce duplication and improve response times.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons		Seconded By: Cllr. F. Fahy		
Resolved to amend Standing Orders: To note the Monthly Management Report, without debate. Quarterly Report details to be incorporated into the Monthly Management Report.				
Present: 13	In Favour: 13	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 5
Result: Resolved to amend Standing Orders				

5. Consideration of Reports of Officials

(a) Monthly Management Report for July and Quarterly Report Q2 2026 - for noting.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons		Seconded By: Cllr. F. Fahy		
Noted Monthly Management Report for July and Quarterly Report Q2 2026				
Present: 13	In Favour: 13	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 5
Result: Noted				

(b) Annual Service Delivery Plan 2026 Mid-Year Review - for noting.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons		Seconded By: Cllr. F. Fahy		
Noted Annual Service Delivery Plan 2026 Mid-Year Review				
Present: 13	In Favour: 13	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 5
Result: Noted				

(c) Traffic Calming Policy - to consider for approval.

Engineers Mr. C. Mithcell and Mr. K. McGlynn from Roads Section presented the Traffic Calming Policy and discussed element contained therein. Mr. Mitchell advised that adoption of the policy would enable the Council to seek funding for safety and improvement works in residential estates.

Members welcomed the proposed policy and acknowledged the work through engagement with the Strategic Policy Committee. Members raised concerns regarding traffic speeds at estate entrances, queried how estates would be selected, how the works would be prioritised and the availability of future funding.

Cllr. A. Curran suggested a pilot programme across each of the three wards.

Queries were also raised regarding communications with Resident Associations and An Garda Síochána, how private estates and Management Companies would be considered. Discussion ensued regarding speed ramps, and the need to consider e-scooters as road users. Members discussed engagement with residents and persons with disabilities. Questions were raised as to level of funding required on an annual basis.

Cllr. D. Lyons suggested that schemes should be selected by the Executive based on a needs assessment rather than local representations to ensure a fair and transparent process.

In response Mr. Mitchell advised that proposed schemes would be assessed and prioritised using a scoring matrix, road length, vulnerable users, speed surveys and collision history but not limited to collision history as to inform appropriate measures. Mr. McGlynn informed that speed surveys have been conducted and design will be guided by the Traffic Management Guidelines and Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) which have standards geared towards accessibility. Members were informed that new developments will be considered at pre-planning stage in line with current design standards.

Mr. Mitchell advised that the priority was to get the policy adopted which will support funding applications. He outlined funding opportunities through SÍÓL funding for traffic-calming measures or to include in the budget from revenue funding.

Cllr. N. McNelis raised concern regarding faded road markings at estate entrances and exits. Mr. McGlynn advised that this was an operational matter outside the scope of the policy and would be referred to the Roads Operations Section.

A vote was taken as follows:

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons		Seconded By: Cllr. A. Curran		
Resolved to adopt Traffic Calming Policy.				
Present: 9	In Favour: 9	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 9
Result: Adopted Traffic Calming Policy				

Cllr. D. Lyons proposed that Agenda Items 6 and 7 be deferred to allow the meeting to conclude before the agreed finish time. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. A. Cheevers and agreed by the Members

6. Notice of Motions

Not considered

NOM 33/2025, submitted by Cllr. J. McDonagh on 02/06/2025 amend:31/03/2026

That this Council affirms its commitment to transparency and public engagement and resolves that no decision will be made to dispose of, sell, or otherwise transfer any part of Shantalla Park — including lands associated with the proposed helipad — without prior public consultation.

The Council further requests that the Chief Executive provide elected members with details of any consultations with the HSE and all related correspondence and records from January 2025 to present.

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

That Galway City Council commit to:

That the Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) meets with the Galway City water sports groups to begin meaningful consultation.

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.

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.

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. E. Seoigthe 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 24/2026, submitted by Cllr. S. Forde on 30/03/2026

That this Council write to the Minister for Transport, Darragh O'Brien, requesting that the National Transport Authority (NTA), in conjunction with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), establish a dedicated, ring-fenced fund for the ongoing maintenance of active travel infrastructure, including cycling and pedestrian facilities, with funding allocated to local authorities on a sustainable, multi-annual basis.

NOM 32/2026, submitted by Cllr. E. 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 success 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.

NOM 33/2026, submitted by Cllr. E. 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 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. E. 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.

NOM 35/2026, submitted by Cllr. D. 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. A. 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.

NOM 38/2026, submitted by Cllr. E. Seoighe 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.

NOM 43/2025, submitted by Cllr. D. Lyons on 4/07/2025

I am requesting Galway City Council to examine the feasibility of installing a pedestrian crossing at the junction of the Cappagh Road and Barna Road to facilitate pedestrians to cross the busy Barna Road.

Raised at Corporate Policy Group meeting 6 July 2026, agreed to refer to West Area Committee.

7. Questions**Q4/2026, submitted by Cllr. H. Ogbu on 01/04/2026**

Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) Eligibility Clarification

To ask the Chief Executive to clarify the scope of projects eligible for funding under the Local Improvement Scheme (LIS), specifically in relation to environmental and community-support initiatives.

In particular, can the Chief Executive confirm whether projects such as the provision of refuse bins or similar environmental measures are deemed ineligible under the scheme, as I have received conflicting information in this regard?

Furthermore, can the Chief Executive:

- Provide a clear outline of the categories of works currently permitted under the LIS
- Clarify whether any discretion exists at local authority level to include environmental or ancillary community-support measures.

This clarification is important, as a number of my proposed LIS projects fall within this remit.

Response issued 09/06/2026

Q05/2026, submitted by Cllr. A. Curran on 01/05/2026

It's my understanding that a specific change of tenancy crew was to be taken on as agreed in November during discussions with the union on the strategic workforce plan. Can you provide an update on why this crew have not been hired? How many apprentices are currently working for the city council housing department? Can you provide the numbers of apprentices in housing over the last 3 years? How many staff are currently employed in maintain the housing stock in the city, and how many are specifically employed in turning over voids? How many private contractors do we currently have under contract in housing maintenance and turning over voids? What is our plan on reducing the number of private contractors employed and increasing the inhouse maintenance team?

Q06/2026, submitted by Cllr. M. J. Crowe on 12/05/2026

Following on from the response received to Q5/2025, can Galway City Council clarify the following:

Has the planning department now carried out an examination of all 'Vape Shops' operating within the City?

If the answer to No.1 is yes, during what time periods was this examination done?

What, precisely was the outcome of this exercise?

What measures have been taken to ensure that compliance will be adhered to by any non-compliant operators?

Response issued 18 June 2026

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?

The number of staff of Galway City Council who are currently dedicated to work in tackling vacancy and dereliction in our city and county?

The level of resources provided to our council since 2020 annually for dealing with vacancy and dereliction?

The number of enforcement cases taken against owners of premises in this regard?

The number of premises brought into housing or other uses as a result of these actions?

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?

Q08/2026, submitted by Cllr E. Seoighthe on 03/07/2026

In the minutes of a meeting held on the 11th of September 2017 (See 4 H) that a sum of money had been given to the local authority towards the refurbishment of Lenaboy Castle. Can we be provided information on how that money has been spent and the remaining balance of same?

8. Correspondence

None

9. Items for Councillors Information

None

10. Conferences & Training

Provider	Details	Date	Location
AILG	Plenary Meeting	28 May 2026	Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo Retrospective approval Cllr. D. McDonnell, Cllr. A. Cheevers, Cllr. T. O'Flaherty.
AILG	Councillor Planning Programme Module 4	20 June 2026	Hudson Bay Hotel, Athlone. Retrospective approval Cllr. T. O' Flaherty, Cllr. J. McDonagh,

			Cllr. D. McDonnell.
MacGill Summer School 2026 In association with University of Notre Dame	MacGill Summer School 2026 www.macgillsummerschool.com	23–25 July 2026	The Highlands Hotel, Glenties, Co. Donegal Request to attend: Cllr. N. McNelis.
AILG	AILG-NILGA Webinar – Bystander Intervention Training	24 July 2026	Online
PFH Technology Group	ICT Skills Training	2 Days in July	Murrough, Merlin Park, Galway Cllr. J. McDonagh
Environment Ireland	Environment Ireland Conference	3 September 2026	Croke Park, Dublin.
AILG	HA – Vacancy & Dereliction	25 September 10a.m.-11:30a.m.	Webinar Online
AILG	AILG Autumn Seminar	30 September – 1 October 2026	Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Cllr. D. McDonnell
Resolved that the Conferences and Training agreed.	
Result: Agreed.	

11. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Cllr. A. Cheevers.
Resolved that Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations agreed.	
Result: Agreed.	

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

None

13. Any Other Business

The members were informed that the Galway Cultural Company will be available to attend a Council meeting during the period September to December 2026. Cllr. D. McDonnell proposed that the invite be issued for attendance at the October Plenary meeting. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. A. Cheevers and agreed.

Ms. Rohan informed of a Strategic Priority Review Workshop for Councillors and the Senior Management Team facilitated by Dr. Seán Ó Riordáin tentatively scheduled for 4pm on Tuesday 22 September 2026 with Councillor attendance is encouraged.

The Mayor wished members a safe and enjoyable break and advised that the next meeting would take place on Monday 7 September 2026 at 3.00 p.m.

The meeting concluded at 4:30p.m.

Minutes, Confirmed & Signed

Mayor of Galway