Minutes of Galway City Council Plenary Meeting held in the Council Chamber, City Hall and Online via MS Teams on Monday, 9 March 2026 at 12:00p.m.	
Presiding:	Cllr. P. Keane.
Elected Members Present:	Councillors: A. Burke, M.J. Crowe, A. Curran, F. Fahy, S. Forde, C. Higgins, E. Hoare, D. Lyons, J. McDonagh, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis, T. O'Flaherty, H. Ogbu, E. Seoighthe.
Elected Members Online:	Councillors: Mayor M. Cubbard, J. Forde.
Elected Members Apologies:	Councillor A. Cheevers.
Executive Present:	Chief Executive: L. Cleary, Director of Services: P. Philbin, H. Kilroy, A/DoS: E. Fanning. Senior Planner: E. Lynch, Senior Executive Officer: A. Rohan, Administrative Officer: M. Duddy, Clerical Officer: C. Cormican.

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.

As the Mayor was attending remotely and not present in the Chamber, and with the Deputy Mayor absent, Cllr. P. Keane was proposed by Cllr. D. McDonnell, seconded by Cllr. F. Fahy and agreed by all to chair the meeting.

1. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest (Section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended).

The Chair Cllr. P. Keane reminded Members of their obligation to declare any conflicts of interest. No declarations were made.

The Chair proposed to take Item No. 3(f).

3. Business Prescribed by Statute:

(f) Section 13 of the Planning and Development 2000 (as amended) Variation No. 2 of Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029.

The Chair welcomed Mr. Eoghan Lynch, Senior Planner to introduce the item.

Mr. Lynch outlined that the proposed variation regarding 10 un-zoned land parcels and that, in accordance with Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act, Members may adopt the variation, propose amendments, or reject the variation. He highlighted the statutory requirements governing the process, noting that Members must consider proper planning and sustainable development, statutory obligations, and relevant Government and local policies. Mr. Lynch clarified the limitations on making non-material modifications - they must be minor, cannot increase the area of land zoned for any purpose and cannot alter the record of protected structures.

Mr. E. Lynch introduced each item for consideration by the Elected Members.

Site No. 1 – Cappagh Road:

Area: 4.72ha,
Existing Zoning: Unzoned,
Proposed Zoning: Agriculture (A)

Cllr. E. Hoare proposed the following motion:

"I propose that we reject the Chief Executive's recommendation on Site No. 1 - Cappagh Road and propose a Residential Zoning on this Site."

Members sought clarification as to the number of units permitted under guidelines and the difference between R1 and R2 zoning..

Mr. Lynch addressed queries on compact growth guidelines, R1, R2 and A zoning and outlined the potential to consider zoning at the review stage of the Development Plan which is due to commence early 2027.

An amendment to the motion was proposed by Cllr. A. Curran, proposed to adopt the Chief Executive's recommendation. The amendment was seconded by Cllr. J. McDonagh.

In line with Standing Orders, the amendment motion was considered first and it was put to a vote.

Proposed By: Cllr. A. Curran		**Seconded By: Cllr. J. McDonagh**		
To zone Site No. 1 – Cappagh Road: Area: 4.72ha, as Proposed Zoning: Agriculture (A).				
Present: 17	**In Favour: 6**	**Against: 10**	**Abstain: 1**	**Absent: 1**
Result: This Motion was defeated.				

As the motion was defeated the Chair called for a vote on the original motion proposed by Cllr. E. Hoare and seconded by Cllr. F. Fahy.

Proposed By: Cllr. E. Hoare		**Seconded By: Cllr. F. Fahy**		
To reject the Chief Executive's recommendation and zone Site No. 1 – Cappagh Road: Area: 4.72ha as a Residential Zoning.				
Present: 17	**In Favour: 10**	**Against: 5**	**Abstain: 2**	**Absent: 1**
Result: The Motion was carried				

Site No. 2 – Ballindooley:

Area: 4.128ha,
Existing Zoning: Unzoned,
Proposed Zoning: Agriculture (A)

Mr. E. Lynch gave background to this item.

Cllr. F. Fahy proposed to accept the Chief Executive's recommendation which was seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons. No alternative proposals were raised. The Chair called for a vote to be taken.

Proposed By: Cllr. F. Fahy		**Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons**		
To accept the Chief Executive's recommendation to zone Site No. 2 – Ballindooley: Area: 4.128ha, as Agriculture (A).				
Present: 17	**In Favour: 17**	**Against: 0**	**Abstain: 0**	**Absent: 1**
Result: This Motion was carried				

Site No. 3 - Coolagh Road:

Area: 0.476ha,
Existing Zoning: Unzoned,
Proposed Zoning: Agriculture High Amenity (G).

Mr. E. Lynch gave background to this item.

Cllr. F. Fahy proposed the following motion:

"I propose that we reject the Chief Executive's recommendation to zone the land Agriculture and High Amenity and zone it Agriculture in the interest of proper planning and sustainable development."

The motion was seconded by Cllr. J. McDonagh.

Councillors raised queries regarding the area plan for Castlegar, the impacts of the N6 Galway City Ring Road, the possibility that the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) could revise these recommendations and a movement study.

Mr. Lynch detailed that it was important to consider how future development would interact with the proposed Ring Road, noting the intention subject to funding and resources to commence work on an Area Plan. He informed of the statutory obligations to notify the OPR and their role in the process.

The Chair called for a vote to be taken.

Proposed By: Cllr. F. Fahy			**Seconded By: Cllr. J. McDonagh**	
I propose that we reject the Chief Executive's recommendation to zone the land Agriculture and High Amenity and zone it Agriculture in the interest of proper planning and sustainable development.				
Present: 17	**In Favour: 17**	**Against: 0**	**Abstain: 0**	**Absent: 1**
Result: This Motion was carried				

Site No. 4 – Quarry Road Menlo:

Area: 0.47ha,
Existing Zoning: Unzoned,
Proposed Zoning: Agriculture (A)

Mr. E. Lynch gave background to this item.

The motion to accept the Chief Executive's recommendation was proposed by Cllr. F. Fahy and seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons. No alternative proposals were raised.

The Chair called for a vote to be taken.

Proposed By: Cllr. F. Fahy			**Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons**	
To accept the Chief Executive's recommendation to zone Site No. 4 – Quarry Road Menlo, Area: 0.47ha as Agriculture (A)				
Present: 17	**In Favour: 17**	**Against: 0**	**Abstain: 0**	**Absent: 1**
Result: This Motion was carried				

Site No. 5 – Two sites on Monument Road Menlo:

Northern lands: 0.45ha
Southern lands: 0.2ha
Existing Zoning: Unzoned,
Proposed Zoning: Agriculture (A)

Mr. E. Lynch gave background to this item.

The motion to accept the Chief Executive's recommendation was proposed by Cllr. F. Fahy and seconded by Cllr. D. McDonnell. No alternative proposals were brought forward. The Chair called for a vote to be taken.

Proposed By: Cllr. F. Fahy			**Seconded By: Cllr. D. McDonnell**	
To accept the Chief Executive's recommendation to zone Site No. 5 - Two sites on Monument Road Menlo, Northern lands: 0.45ha and Southern lands: 0.2ha as Agriculture (A)				
Present: 17	**In Favour: 17**	**Against: 0**	**Abstain: 0**	**Absent: 1**
Result: This Motion was carried				

Site No. 6 – Off School Road Castlegar:

Area: 3.70ha
Existing Zoning: Unzoned,
Proposed Zoning: Agriculture (A)

Mr. E. Lynch gave background to this item.

The motion to accept the Chief Executive's recommendation was proposed by Cllr. A. Curran and seconded by Cllr. H. Ogbu. No alternative proposals were raised. The Chair called for a vote to be taken.

Proposed By: Cllr. A. Curran			**Seconded By: Cllr. H. Ogbu**	
To accept the Chief Executive's recommendation to zone Site No. 6 – Off School Road Castlegar, Area: 3.70ha as Agriculture (A)				
Present: 17	**In Favour: 17**	**Against: 0**	**Abstain: 0**	**Absent: 1**
Result: This Motion was carried				

Site No. 7 - School Road Castlegar:

Area: 3.99ha
Existing Zoning: Unzoned,
Proposed Zoning: Agriculture (A)

Mr. E. Lynch gave background to this item.

Members raised matters concerning the Ring Road and impacts on families affected by the project, protected views, flood risk, potential housing needs on family lands, and whether multiple planning applications would be affected by any decision taken.

In response, Mr. Lynch advised that the same planning principles would apply within the future area plan. He confirmed that to his knowledge a flood risk had not been identified as an issue and policies on local housing need and site-specific assessments would guide any future applications for individual housing.

The motion to accept the Chief Executives' recommendation was proposed by Cllr. A. Curran and seconded by Cllr. E. Seoighthe. No alternative proposals were raised. The Chair called for a vote to be taken.

Proposed By: Cllr. A. Curran			**Seconded By: Cllr. E. Seoighthe**	
To accept the Chief Executive recommendation to zone Site No. 7 School Road Castlegar, Area: 3.99ha as Agriculture (A).				
Present: 17	**In Favour: 10**	**Against: 3**	**Abstain: 4**	**Absent: 1**
Result: This Motion was carried				

Site No. 8 - Coast Road:

Area: 2.39ha
Existing Zoning: Unzoned
Proposed Zoning: Agriculture High Amenity (G)

Mr. E. Lynch gave background to this item.

Cllr. A. Curran proposed to accept the Chief Executive's recommendation. This was seconded by Cllr. D. McDonnell. No alternative proposals were raised. The Chair called for a vote to be taken.

Proposed By: Cllr. A. Curran			**Seconded By: Cllr. D. McDonnell**	
To accept the Chief Executive recommendation to zone Site No. 8 - Coast Road: Area: 2.39ha as Agriculture High Amenity (G)				
Present: 17	**In Favour: 17**	**Against: 0**	**Abstain: 0**	**Absent: 1**
Result: This Motion was carried				

Site No. 9(a) - Roscam

Site A Northern Lands Area: 0.95ha
Existing Zoning: Unzoned
Proposed Zoning: Agriculture High Amenity (G)

Mr. E. Lynch gave background to sites 9 and 10 and the named registered owners.. He proposed that Councillors consider same in six parts dealing with each part separately for Site No. 9 (a) Northern, (b) Southern, and Site No. 10 (a), (b), (c) and (d).

Mr. Lynch informed the meeting of submissions received supporting the Chief Executive's recommendation and also requesting additional lands in the Roscam area to be zoned as Agriculture High Amenity (G).

Cllr. D. McDonnell proposed to zone lands as Agriculture. This was seconded by Cllr. F. Fahy. No alternative proposals were raised. The Chair called for a vote to be taken.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. McDonnell			**Seconded By: Cllr. F. Fahy**	
Propose to zone 9(a) – Roscam: Northern Lands Area: 0.95ha as Agriculture.				
Present: 17	**In Favour: 17**	**Against: 0**	**Abstain: 0**	**Absent: 1**
Result: This Motion was carried				

Site No. 9(b) - Roscam

Site B Southern Lands Area: 1.145ha
Existing Zoning: Unzoned
Proposed Zoning: Agriculture High Amenity (G)

Cllr. D. McDonnell proposed a motion to facilitate development of 3 units subject to proper planning and sustainable development.

Members questioned if a maximum limit to the number of units recommended can be placed as a condition and can applicants apply for planning permission on agriculture lands.

Mr. Lynch responded to queries and addressed queries on R2 and R zoning.

An amendment to the motion was proposed by Cllr. A. Curran and seconded by Cllr. E. Seoighthe, to zone lands at 9(b) Roscam Southern as Agriculture.

In line with Standing Orders, a vote was taken on the amendment motion first:

Proposed By: Cllr. A. Curran		**Seconded By: Cllr. E. Seoighthe**		
Propose to zone 9(b) – Roscam: Southern Lands Area: 1.145ha as Agriculture.				
Present: 17	**In Favour: 2**	**Against: 14**	**Abstain: 1**	**Absent: 1**
Result: This Motion was defeated.				

The Chair proceeded to take a vote on the original motion proposed by Cllr. D. McDonnell and seconded by Cllr. S. Forde.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. McDonnell		**Seconded By: Cllr. S. Forde**		
That lands contained in parcel 9(b) be zoned R to facilitate a development of a maximum of 3 units subject to connection to water, wastewater services and subject to proper planning and sustainable development.				
Present: 17	**In Favour: 14**	**Against: 2**	**Abstain: 1**	**Absent: 1**
Result: This Motion was carried				

Site No. 10(a):

Mr. Lynch outlined recommendation of the Chief Executive's report to zone the land as Agricultural.

Cllr. D. McDonnell proposed a motion to facilitate 3 units subject to planning. This was seconded by Cllr. S. Forde.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. McDonnell		**Seconded By: Cllr. S. Forde**		
That lands contained in parcel 10(a) be zoned R to facilitate a development of a maximum of 3 units subject to connection to water, wastewater services and subject to proper planning and sustainable development.				
Present: 17	**In Favour: 17**	**Against: 0**	**Abstain: 0**	**Absent: 1**
Result: This Motion was carried				

Site No. 10(b):

Mr. Lynch outlined the Chief Executive's recommendation to zone the lands as Agricultural.
Members discussed the lands where houses were already serviced with lighting and footpaths.

Cllr. D. McDonnell proposed that lands contained in parcel 10(b) to rear of Ros Odhrain be zoned R to maximum 12 units subject to proper planning and sustainable development.

The Chair took a vote on an amendment motion proposed by Cllr. A. Curran and seconded Cllr. E. Seoighthe to accept the Chief Executive's recommendation.

Proposed By: Cllr. A. Curran		**Seconded By: Cllr. E. Seoighthe**		
To accept the Chief Executive's recommendation to zone as Agriculture.				
Present: 17	**In Favour: 2**	**Against: 15**	**Abstain: 0**	**Absent: 1**
Result: This Motion was defeated.				

As the amendment motion was defeated, the Chair proceeded to take a vote on the original motion.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. McDonnell		**Seconded By: Cllr. H. Ogbu**		
That lands contained in parcel 10(b) to rear of Ros Odhrain (Folio No. GY34071F) be zoned R, to facilitate a development of a maximum of 12 units, subject to connection to water, wastewater services and subject to proper planning and sustainable development.				
Present: 17	**In Favour: 15**	**Against: 2**	**Abstain: 0**	**Absent: 1**
Result: This Motion was carried.				

Site No. 10(c):

Mr. Lynch outlined the Chief Executive's recommendation to zone the lands as Agricultural (A) to allow for a development of a family home by landowners subject to planning.

The Chief Executive's recommendation was proposed by Cllr. J. McDonagh. This was seconded by Cllr. A. Curran.

Cllr. M.J. Crowe proposed an amendment motion to accept the submission no. GLWC-C34-09, this was seconded by Cllr. D. McDonnell. The applicant submission was to zone lands R2 subject to proper planning and development.

Mr. Lynch advised some of the issues raised in the submission fall outside the scope of the current decision and would be addressed through the appropriate statutory processes if required.

As an amendment motion was proposed, this was considered first.

Proposed By: Cllr. M.J. Crowe		**Seconded By: Cllr. D. McDonnell**		
That lands contained in parcel 10(c) be zoned R2 to facilitate a development of 1 unit subject to connection to water, wastewater services and subject to proper planning and sustainable development.				
Present: 17	**In Favour: 14**	**Against: 3**	**Abstain: 0**	**Absent: 1**
Result: This Motion was carried				

As the amendment motion was carried, it was now considered as the original motion. The Chair called for a vote:

Proposed By: Cllr. M.J. Crowe		**Seconded By: Cllr. D. McDonnell**		
That lands contained in parcel 10(c) be zoned R2 to facilitate a development of 1 unit subject to connection to water, wastewater services and subject to proper planning and sustainable development.				
Present: 17	**In Favour: 14**	**Against: 3**	**Abstain: 0**	**Absent: 1**
Result: This Motion was carried				

Site No. 10(d):

Mr. Lynch outlined that the relevant lands are not zoned and the Chief Executive's recommendation is to zone A for further development.

Members discussed matters including public awareness of the proposal, the implications of an agricultural zoning, whether applications would proceed under the normal planning processes and how the lands became unzoned.

In response, Mr. Lynch confirmed that all statutory procedures have been followed, and informed that lands had been left unzoned following the OPR intervention during the previous Development Plan review.

Cllr. M.J. Crowe proposed to accept the Chief Executive's recommendation. This was seconded by Cllr. D. McDonnell.

As no alternative proposals were raised, the Chair called for a vote to be taken:

Proposed By: Cllr. M.J. Crowe		**Seconded By: Cllr. D. McDonnell**		
To accept the Chief Executive's recommendation to zone Site No. 10(d) as zone A.				
Present: 17	**In Favour: 17**	**Against: 0**	**Abstain: 0**	**Absent: 1**
Result: This Motion was carried				

The Chair confirmed that all voting had concluded and enquired in regard to subsequent steps for Members.

Mr. Lynch advised that under Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act, the Chief Executive will now review the proposed alterations with the Planning Department and will indicate within two weeks what is required to facilitate any necessary assessments, including the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA).
He noted that the Planning Department is required to notify the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) and the Minister, after which the proposed variations must be published for a four-week public consultation period during which written submissions will be invited.

In response to a query on Variation No. 3, given the comprehensive nature of the variation Mr. Lynch confirmed that notification will issue to Councillors with scheduled workshops to be arranged for further discussion.

Cllr. F. Fahy commented that Coolough is referred to in the variation and requested to reference as Mionlach.

Cllr. D. Lyons referred to submission GLWC-C34-1, which proposed that the lands off Ballymoneen Road be rezoned from Natural Heritage, Recreation and Amenity (RA) to Residential (R). Cllr. D. Lyons stated that the area is already heavily built-up and should remain zoned for Recreation and Amenity. Cllr. D. Lyons therefore proposed that the Chief Executive's recommendation be accepted and that the variation proceed without this change. The motion was seconded by Cllr. C. Higgins.

Mr. Lynch explained to Members that the submission requesting to rezone a kidney shaped portion of land in Knocknacarra was outside the scope of this variation and that the existing zoning will be maintained.

As no alternative proposals were received the Chair called for a vote.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons			**Seconded By: Cllr. C. Higgins**	
Proposed to accept the Chief Executive's recommendation to make the variation without this change in respect to GLWC-C34-1 submission.				
Present: 17	**In Favour: 15**	**Against: 0**	**Abstain: 1**	**Absent: 2**
Result: This Motion was carried.				

The meeting adjourned at 1.40p.m. and reconvened at 3 p.m. As part of Seachtain na Gaeilge it was agreed that the meeting be conducted in Irish. A translation facility was provided and Councillors agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow the use of video and photography in the Chamber.

The Chair P. Keane noted that this was the second plenary meeting to be conducted in the Council Chamber through Irish and expressed his pride in being part of the occasion. He stated that this development represented a positive step for the future bilingual city of Galway. The Chair encouraged Elected Members and the Executive to use whatever level of Irish they possessed, to use it with confidence, and to take pride in doing so.

The Chair noted that the Mayor Mike Cubbard was representing the city in Seattle and that Cllr. A. Cheever was unable to attend for medical reasons. The Chair invited the Chief Executive L. Cleary to address the meeting.

The Chief Executive referenced new approach signage in the city displaying "Anois Teacht an Earraigh" which means "Now Spring Is Coming". He highlighted that spring is also upon us in Galway City Council, with several major projects scheduled in the months ahead. He further emphasised the increasing presence of the Irish language across the organisation. To support this, he announced the impending creation of a panel for Clerical Officers with Irish, who will engage with the public across all sections of the business. He reinforced the Council's commitment to strengthen the delivery of service through Irish.

Cllr. D. Lyons expressed his gratitude to the Corporate team and Gaeilge Strategic Committee for their hard work.

1. **Disclosure of Conflict of Interest**
   (Section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended).

No disclosures raised.

2. **Confirmation of Minutes**

(a) February Plenary Council meeting held on 9 February 2026.

A synopsis of matters arising included:

Cllr. A. Curran requested an update on the date for the proposed special meeting on Parking. Ms. A. Rohan advised that no date has been set.

Cllr. D. Lyons requested an update on the audit of lighting at bus shelters in the city and when will it be carried out. He also requested a response to NoM 74/2025.
Ms. A. Rohan advised that the relevant department are preparing a response and follow up with department regarding the bus shelter audit.

Cllr. F. Fahy requested an update regarding lands at Shantalla and the need for a meeting between the Health Service Executive (HSE) and the residents.
The Chief Executive advised that discussions with the HSE are ongoing and that a report will be brought to Council on the matter.
Cllr. E. Hoare requested an update on the Browne Roundabout and the Multimodal Project.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	**Seconded By:** Cllr. C. Higgins
Resolved to adopt the Minutes of the Plenary Meeting held on 9 February 2026.	
Result: The minutes were agreed and adopted.	

3. **Business Prescribed by Statute**

(a) Section 128B (1)(i) of the Local Government Act 2001, as inserted by Section 36(2) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 - Local Community Development Committee Annual Report 2025 - for noting only.

The Chair P. Keane invited Cllr. H. Ogbu as Chair of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) to address the meeting.

Cllr. H. Ogbu advised the annual Local Community Development Committee Report for 2025 has been prepared and approved by the Committee and requested Members to note the item.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	**Seconded By: Cllr.** F. Fahy
Resolved to note the Local Community Development Committee Annual Report 2025	
Result: This report was noted.	

(b) Section 22 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998, Appointment to Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee - to consider for approval.

Ms. L. Fanning presented the proposed committee members and sought the approval of the Elected Members to confirm their appointment.

Proposed By: Cllr. F. Fahy			**Seconded By:** Cllr. D. Lyons	
Elected members of Galway City Council resolved to formalise the appointment of Cllr. John McDonagh Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee to fill the casual vacancy created by the election of Deputy John Connolly. The following Elected Members of Galway City Council are appointed to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee: Cllr. E. Seoighthe, Cllr. A. Curran, Cllr. H. Ogbu, Cllr. A. Cheevers, Cllr. A. Burke, and Cllr. John McDonagh.				
Present: 15	**In Favour:** 15	**Against:** 0	**Abstain:** 0	**Absent:** 3
Result: This Motion was approved and adopted.				

(c) Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001, Raising of a Loan under the Capital Assistance Scheme for the construction of properties by Approved Housing Bodies – to consider for approval.

Cllr. A. Curran sought clarity on the money requested by the Simon Community under this scheme.
Ms. L. Fanning advised process is cost neutral for Galway City Council as the money is recouped.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons			**Seconded By:** Cllr. F. Fahy	
Resolved to approve Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) loan of €7,393,768.00 for the construction of 16 units of supported transitional homeless accommodation on the Tuam Road, Galway, to be developed by the Approved Housing Body, Galway Simon Community.				
Present: 15	**In Favour:** 15	**Against:** 0	**Abstain:** 0	**Absent:** 3
Result: This Motion was approved.				

(d) Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, Disposal of Units at Na Blátha Creige to Clúid Housing Association - to consider for approval.

Cllr. A. Curran noted that the houses were constructed eight years ago and queried whether there were additional homes that had not yet been transferred.
Ms. L. Fanning explained that this was a legacy issue and that the process to rectify it was already underway. She further advised that an additional seven homes were affected.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	**Seconded By:** Cllr. F. Fahy
Resolved to adopt the proposal under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 for the disposal of seven voluntary units at Na Blátha Creige to Clúid	

Housing Association, under the Capital Assistance Scheme, in order to regularise and complete the transfer of these properties.				
Present: 15	**In Favour: 15**	**Against: 0**	**Abstain: 0**	**Absent: 3**
Result: This Motion was approved.				

(e) Section 44 of the Local Government Act 2001, Schedule 10 to hold Plenary Meeting 11 May 2026 in the Michael D. Higgins Auditorium (Aula Maxima Lower) in University of Galway - to consider for approval.

Cllr. E. Hoare asked whether there was a specific reason for the request.
Ms. A. Rohan informed the meeting that the Potier declaration has been signed to collaborate with the Atlantic Technological University (ATU) and the University of Galway.

The Chair highlighted the importance of maintaining a strong relationship with the University and noted that the committee looks forward to holding the May Plenary meeting on Campus.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons		**Seconded By:** Cllr. F. Fahy		
Section 44 of the Local Government Act 2001, Schedule 10 to hold Plenary Meeting 11 May 2026 in the Michael D. Higgins Auditorium (Aula Maxima Lower) in University of Galway				
Present: 15	**In Favour: 15**	**Against: 0**	**Abstain: 0**	**Absent: 3**
Result: This Motion was approved.				

4. Reports of Committee Meeting:

(a) Draft notes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 2 March 2026 – for noting.

Cllr. A. Curran queried the process for selecting participants of the Large-Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund board. Ms. H. Kilroy responded to the query.
Cllr. D. Lyons asked whether Galway Cultural Company had responded to the invitation. Ms. A. Rohan responded and advised she will revert with a confirmed date.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	**Seconded By:** Cllr. F. Fahy
Draft notes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 2 March 2026	
Result: The report was noted.	

(b) Procedures Committee meeting 3 March 2026 recommendation to bestow the Freedom of the City of Galway - to consider for approval.

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

(c) Galway City Council's Gaeilge Subcommittee - An update on advancing Council commitments and obligations.

Mr. M. Ó Conaire provided an update on the Gaeilge Subcommittee and outlined the Council's obligations under the Official Languages Act, the work completed to date, and the work planned going forward. He noted that Galway City is poised to be first Local Authority to implement the legislation, as a Gaeltacht city and strong Irish speaking community there is an opportunity where provision of services through Irish will be normalised.

Cllr. D. Lyons, as a member of the sub-committee, wished to acknowledge the work carried out by all staff on its behalf.

Elected Members expressed their gratitude to the Irish Officer, the team, and the Naming Committee for their efforts in promoting the language and highlighted the recent study trip to Acadamh na hOllscoilaíochta Gaeilge, An Cheathrú Rua as both beneficial and successful.

Proposed By: Cllr. F. Fahy	**Seconded By:** Cllr. D. Lyons
Galway City Council's Gaeilge Subcommittee - An update on advancing Council commitments and obligations	
Result: Noted.	

(d) Potential Section 183 Lands adjacent to University Hospital - Standing Item.

This item was considered under Agenda Item 2(a) it was confirmed that a report will be presented to full Council.

(e) Report from Grants Committee Meeting 27 February 2026 - to consider for approval.

Cllr. S. Forde requested clarification on the funding and specifically requested details about which group received grants historically and those currently in receipt of funding. He stressed the importance of transparency and understanding exactly where the money is being allocated.

Cllr. D. McDonnell responded that all applications are reviewed and were agreed by the Committee in line with the Terms of Reference for the committee.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons			**Seconded By:** Cllr. F. Fahy	
To approve the Report from Grants Committee Meeting 27 February 2026 - per Report circulated.				
Present: 15	**In Favour: 15**	**Against: 0**	**Abstain: 0**	**Absent: 3**
Result: This Motion was adopted.				

5. Consideration of Reports of Officials:

(a) Monthly Management Report for March 2026 - for noting.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	**Seconded By:** Cllr. F. Fahy
Resolve to note the Monthly Management Report for March 2026.	
Result: This Report was noted.	

(b) Customer Service Action Plan and Charter 2025-2029 – to consider revision for approval.

Ms. A. Rohan outlined that the City and County Management Agency (CCMA) in collaboration with the Ombudsman, have developed a national complaints-handling policy. Ms. Rohan noted that this forms the basis for the recommendations incorporated into the Council's Customer Action Plan and sought approval from the Members. The Customer Service Action Plan has been revised to reflect recommendations.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons			**Seconded By:** Cllr. F. Fahy	
Customer Service Action Plan and Charter 2025-2029 - To consider revision for approval.				
Present: 15	**In Favour: 15**	**Against: 0**	**Abstain: 0**	**Absent: 3**
Result: This Motion was adopted				

6. Notice of Motions

NOM 33/2025, submitted by Cllr. J. McDonagh on 02/06/2025
That this Council affirms its commitment to transparency and public engagement and hereby 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 first conducting a full and proper consultation process with the local residents and relevant community.

Notice of Motion 33/2025 will remain as a standing item for the next meeting.

NOM 58/2025, submitted by Cllr. C. 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. **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.**

Notice of Motion 58/2025 will remain as a standing item for the next meeting.

NOM 02/2026, submitted by Cllr. F. Fahy 08/01/2026
That Galway City Council take in charge roads - An Sean Bothar in Menlo for 101 metres and Gortnahoe in Ballindooley for 108 metres. **Referred from Corporate Policy Group to Central Area Committee for a report to issue to the Central Area Committee by the Operational Directorate.**

Cllr. F. Fahy requested an update on the report. Ms. A. Rohan confirmed that she would follow up. Notice of Motion 02/2026 has been referred to the Central Area Committee.

NOM 06/2026, submitted by Cllr. A. Curran on 28/01/2026
That in advance of a review of the Traveller Accommodation Program, approved by this council in 2024, this council will work to identify new sites not included in the program, and consider why previous sites identified in the previous TAP were excluded from the current program. **Agreed 9 February 2026 to remain on Agenda - Response issued 19 February 2026**

Notice of Motion 06/2026 will remain as a standing item for the next meeting.

NOM 09/2026, submitted by Cllr. S. Forde on 30/01/2026
Use of 3D VR and Digital Twin Technology That Galway City Council commits to the use of 3D Virtual Reality (VR) technology for future presentations of major projects to be delivered across the city. This innovative technology provides a high-quality visual representation of proposed developments, enabling elected members and the public to better understand how future projects will look and function in practice. Similar technology is already in use

across Dublin local authorities and has received three national awards for its application in Fingal County Council. Furthermore, that Galway City Council commits to producing a digital twin for all significant public projects. If adopted, this would make Galway City Council the first local authority in Ireland to implement such an approach, demonstrating both political leadership and technical innovation, while improving transparency, public engagement, and decision-making.

Cllr. S. Forde outlined the benefits of using 3D VR and Digital Twin technology. He informed of opportunity to demonstrate functionality.
Elected Members raised concerns and stressed the importance of adhering to the tender and procurement process, while also acknowledging that some of the technologies discussed are already in use within Galway City Council. Cllr. A. Curran proposed that this item be referred to the Corporate Development SPC. The Chair suggested waiting to see the response before doing so. Cllr. D. Lyons requested that the item remain on the agenda.
Ms. H. Kilroy addressed queries raised.

Notice of Motion 09/2026 to remain as a standing item for the next meeting.

NOM 17/2026, submitted by Cllr. E. 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.

Ms. A. Rohan extended an invitation from Adam Stoneman to visit Galway City Museum. Notice of Motion 17/2026 to remain on the agenda.

NOM 18/2026, submitted by Cllr. H. Ogbu on 25/02/2026
That Galway City Council prioritise the housing needs of individuals and families fleeing domestic abuse, adopting a trauma-informed, safety-led approach that protects survivors and their children; and that a report be brought to Council on current supports, waiting times and actions required to prevent homelessness. That Galway City Council affirms that, where legally permissible and safe, the perpetrator not the survivor or children should be required to leave the family home and calls on the Minister for Justice and the Minister for Housing to strengthen legislation and housing policy accordingly.

Cllr. H. Ogbu noted that she had received a written response and asked for clarification regarding the eviction of any perpetrator.
Ms. L. Fanning responded to the motion.
Cllr. M. Crowe suggested that the motion should receive further consideration and suggested to refer the motion to the Social Development SPC.
It was agreed that Notice of Motion 18/2026 would be referred to the Social Development SPC for review.

NOM 19/2026, submitted by Cllr. D. Lyons on 25/02/2026
I am requesting the Parks Department, Galway City Council to examine the possibility of relocating the large signs erected at Silver Strand as the signs in their present location are blocking people from sitting on the seats provided. **Referred by Corporate Policy Group to West Area Committee.**

Notice of Motion 19/2026 was referred to the West Area Committee meeting.

NOM 22/2026, submitted by Cllr. A. Curran on 09/03/2026
That this council condemns the Israeli and US governments illegal military war against Iran and condemns the Iranian military response against civilian infrastructure in neighbouring countries. That this council will write to the Taoiseach calling on the Irish Government to immediately halt the US military's use of Shannon Airport for refuelling.

Elected members suggested a minor amendment to the motion which Cllr. A. Curran agreed to. Several members emphasised the importance of maintaining a relationship noting the extensive business links between the United States and Ireland.

Proposed By: Cllr. A. Curran		**Seconded By:** Cllr. H. Ogbu		
That this council condemns the Israeli and US governments illegal military war against Iran, and condemns the Iranian military response against civilian infrastructure in neighbouring countries. That this council will write to the Taoiseach calling on the Irish Government to immediately halt the US military's use of Shannon Airport for refuelling.				
Present: 15	**In Favour: 15**	**Against: 0**	**Abstain: 0**	**Absent: 3**
Result: This Motion was carried.				

7. Questions

Q17/2025, submitted by Cllr. J. McDonagh on 02/06/2025
Can the Chief Executive detail what consultations, if any, have taken place between Galway City Council and the HSE regarding (a) the proposed helipad in Shantalla Park, and (b) any potential disposal or transfer of lands within Shantalla Park? Furthermore, can all relevant correspondence, meeting notes, and records of communication between the Council and the HSE on this matter, from January 2025 to the present, be provided to elected members?

Question 17/2025 was agreed to remain on the agenda.

8. Correspondence

(a) **Clare County Council,** Dated: 10 February 2026
Resolution: Irish Beekeepers' Association.
(b) **Wexford County Council**, Dated: 10 February 2026
Resolution: Outlaw Anonymous Social Media Accounts.
(c) **Wicklow County Council,** Dated: 10 February 2026
Resolution: Call to suspend Investor Court System ICS pending assessment.

(d) Wexford County Council, Dated: 17 February 2026
Resolution: Task Irish Public Bodies with the provision of insurance cover for residential and commercial properties in flood zone areas.
(e) Westmeath County Council, Dated: 18 February 2026
Resolution: Increase thresholds Social Housing Provision and Housing Assistance Payment.
(f) Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme, Dated: 3 March 2026

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	**Seconded By:** Cllr. F. Fahy
Correspondence was noted.	

9. Items for Councillors Information

None

10. Conferences & Training

	Provider	Details	Date	Location
(a)	AILG	Briefing on New Housing Plan - Delivering Homes, Building Communities 2025-2030	21 March 2026	Radisson Blu, Sligo.
(b)	AILG	Ending Violence Against Women and Girls	24–25 March 2026	Slieve Russell Hotel, Co. Cavan. Approval for Cllr. H. Obgu
(c)	AILG	OPR Planning Training PDA Planning Training	27 March 2026	Webinar 10.00-11.30a.m.
(d)	AILG	Annual Conference	22 - 23 April 2026	Hotel Minella, Clonmel Tipperary. Approval for Cllr. J. McDonagh

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	**Seconded By:** Cllr. F. Fahy
Result: Training and Conference approved.	

11. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	**Seconded By:** Cllr. T. O'Flaherty
Patsy Moloney R.I.P.	Richard (Dick) Keane R.I.P.
J.J Murray R.I.P.	Damian Delaney R.I.P.
Alexandra (Sandy) Hehir-Mullagh R.I.P.	Thomas (Tommy) Feeney R.I.P.
Resolved to extend the sympathy of the Council to the bereaved.	

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

13. Any Other Business

Ms. A. Rohan presented a video providing an overview of the recent study trip by some Councillors, the Chief Executive and senior management to An Cheathrú Rua.

Cllr. S. Forde acknowledged the contribution of journalist Stephen Corrigan resigning his current role from the Connacht Tribune group noting his commitment to reporting in Galway city.

Ms. A. Rohan thanked Edel de Paor for interpreting the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 16.32p.m.

Minutes, Confirmed & Signed

Mayor