

Adopted Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Galway City Council held in the Council Chamber, City Hall and Online via MS Teams on Friday 19 June 2026 at 4:00p.m.	
Presiding:	Cllr. M. Cubbard, Outgoing Mayor of Galway City. Cllr. H. Ogbu, Newly Elected Mayor of Galway City.
Present (Elected Members):	Councillors: A. Cheevers, M.J. Crowe, A. Curran, F. Fahy, J. Forde, C. Higgins, E. Hoare, P. Keane, D. Lyons, J. McDonagh, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis, T. O'Flaherty.
Apologies:	Councillors: A. Burke, S. Forde, E. Seoighthe.
Present (Executive):	Chief Executive Mr. L. Cleary; Director of Services: Ms. P. Philbin, Mr. P. Greene, Ms. H. Kilroy, Mr. D. Pender, Acting Director of Service: Ms. E. Fanning; Meetings Administrator; Ms. A. Rohan; Administrative Officer. Ms. M. Duddy.

The Meeting Administrator opened the meeting and welcomed the members. The meeting commenced with a statement of intent regarding the conduct of business, followed by a moment of silent reflection.

Mayor M. Cubbard, requested for the suspension of Standing Order 22 (Recording of Meetings) to facilitate photography and video recording.

The motion was proposed by Cllr. D. Lyons and seconded by Cllr. D. McDonnell and agreed.

Members agreed to take the agenda as presented.

Before taking nominations, the outgoing Mayor spoke of the honour and responsibility of representing Galway and serving every community. He outlined his commitment and engagement with community groups, businesses and residents and acknowledged collaborative efforts on water safety improvements, noting further developments to follow and paid tribute to Cllr. McNelis in this context.

In summarising his term, the Mayor highlighted how he promoted the visibility of the Office, engaged with community and voluntary organisations, and supported opening the Council Chamber to primary and post-primary schools to encourage participation. He noted that Galway's strength lies in its people and highlighted a key achievement: the conferring of the Freedom of the City on Catherine Connolly.

The Mayor thanked the Chief Executive, Directors of Service and Galway City Council staff. The Mayor extended his appreciation to elected members and Deputy Alan Cheevers for his assistance in that role throughout the term. The Mayor condemned abuse of public representatives and called for collective leadership. He concluded by thanking his family for their support and sacrifices throughout the year.

Members congratulated the outgoing Mayor and acknowledged his dedication, leadership and accessibility as well as his engagement with communities. Members thanked the Mayor for his fair and balanced chairing of meetings and wished him continued success in the future.

The Chief Executive congratulated the outgoing Mayor and acknowledged the strong working relationship developed during the term and expressed his appreciation and extended his congratulations on a successful year.

1. Election of Mayor

The outgoing Mayor invited nominations for the position of Mayor of the City of Galway.

Cllr. N. McNelis proposed Cllr. Helen Ogbu as Mayor of the City of Galway which was seconded by Cllr. J. McDonagh.

Cllr. N. McNelis emphasised the importance of selecting a Mayor who reflects the city's values and represents all communities and nominated Cllr. Helen Ogbu in recognition of her strong record of community engagement and leadership. He highlighted her work in volunteering and advocacy particularly for youth and empowering women, her commitment to inclusion, fairness and the betterment of the community.

In seconding the nomination, Cllr. J. McDonagh highlighted Helen Ogbu's commitment to public and community service, her proven leadership qualities, and her ability to bring communities together. He stated his confidence that she would fulfil the role of Mayor with distinction and provide strong and inclusive leadership for the city.

Mayor Cubbard asked if there were any further nominations. No other nominations were proposed.

The outgoing Mayor declared Cllr. H. Ogbu elected as Mayor of the City of Galway.

The Meeting Administrator announced the formal handing over of the Chain of Office and Cllr. H. Ogbu was invested by the outgoing Mayor, Cllr. M. Cubbard.

Cllr. H. Ogbu assumed the role as Chair.

Mayor Ogbu addressed the meeting and expressed her gratitude for the honour of the role. She thanked proposer Cllr. N. McNelis, seconder Cllr. J. McDonagh and paid tribute to her predecessor Cllr. M. Cubbard.

The Mayor expressed her appreciation for the trust and confidence placed in her by the elected members and acknowledged the dedication and professionalism of Galway City Council staff. She noted the significance of her election as the first person of migrant background to serve as Mayor of Galway City, describing it as reflective of the city's inclusiveness, diversity and strong sense of community.

The Mayor outlined key priorities for her term, focusing on belonging, young people and community, and the potential to explore a citizens assembly model to support engagement and help shape future policies and decisions.

The Mayor acknowledged the support of her family, colleagues, community organisations and the public. In concluding the Mayor pledged to serve the people of Galway with integrity and focus on strengthening communities and enhance quality of life for all who call this vibrant city home.

Members conveyed their congratulations and remarked positively on the Mayor's address. They acknowledged the significance of the occasion and noted her commitment to inclusivity, community engagement and public service. Members expressed their support for her term of office and committed to working together in the interests of the city.

Members noted the importance of the Mayoral role as the First Citizen of Galway and emphasised that the office should be afforded the appropriate respect and recognition.

The Chief Executive expressed congratulations and assured partnership and support of executive and staff and acknowledge hugely positive moment that reflects an inclusive city.

2. Election of Deputy Mayor

Mayor H. Ogbu invited nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor of Galway City.

Cllr. P. Keane proposed Cllr. Josie Forde, seconded by Cllr. M. Cubbard.

Cllr. Keane noted Cllr. Forde's strong commitment to public service and local community since her election in June 2024, highlighting her role as an effective advocate, particularly in supporting older members of the community. Her dedication to community engagement beyond political duties and understanding of the importance of family, community, service and local pride were acknowledged. It was further noted that she would bring energy, warmth and dedication to the role of Deputy Mayor and would provide strong support to the Mayor.

No other nominations were received.

Mayor H. Ogbu deemed Cllr. Josie Forde to be appointed as Deputy Mayor.

Cllr. J. Forde addressed the meeting, acknowledging the city and community which have shaped her and expressed her appreciation for the support received. She stated that it was a privilege to serve and confirmed commitment to working with the Mayor and members in representing the people of the city.

Deputy Mayor thanked her family and friends for their support and expressed pride in taking on the role, confirming her intention to serve with distinction and respect, and assured councillors, businesses, community groups and residents that she would represent them and bring credit to the Office.

Members congratulated the Deputy Mayor on her appointment and wished her every success. They expressed their support for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor working together and acknowledged the importance of the role in supporting the Office of Mayor. Members also acknowledged and thanked the outgoing Deputy Mayor Cllr. A. Cheevers for his dedication and contribution during his term of office.

The Chief Executive congratulated Deputy Mayor J. Forde and conveyed the support of all Council staff in her role. He also acknowledged the work of the outgoing Deputy Mayor Cllr. A. Cheevers over the past year in supporting the Mayor and promoting the City.

3. Appointment of Representative on Other Body

Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd (IPB) Appointment of One (1) Member (for a period of one year). (Non-Group – Appointment by Vote.)

Cllr. P. Keane proposed Cllr. Eddie Hoare, seconded by Cllr. D. McDonnell.

No other nominations were received.

Ms. A. Rohan conducted a vote on the proposal as follows:

Present: **15** In favour: **15**, Against: **0**, Abstain: **0**.

Cllr. E. Hoare was appointed unanimously for a further term.

4. To Fix Dates for Meetings of Galway City Council

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Lyons, seconded by Cllr. D. McDonnell, the following meeting schedule was agreed:

July Plenary meeting:	Monday, 13 July 2026
September Plenary meeting:	Monday, 7 September 2026
October Plenary meeting:	Monday, 12 October 2026
November Ordinary meeting:	Monday, 9 November 2026
December Ordinary meeting:	Monday, 14 December 2026
January Ordinary meeting:	Monday, 11 January 2027
February Ordinary meeting:	Monday, 8 February 2027
March Ordinary meeting:	Monday, 8 March 2027
April Ordinary meeting:	Monday, 12 April 2027
May Ordinary meeting:	Monday, 10 May 2027
June Ordinary meeting:	Monday, 14 June 2027

The Meetings Administrator invited Members to assemble for official photographs.

The Meeting concluded at 5:30p.m.