

Adopted Minutes of Galway City Council Plenary Meeting held in the Council Chamber, City Hall and Online via MS Teams on Monday, 8 June 2026 at 3.00p.m	
Presiding:	Mayor M. Cubbard
Elected Members Present:	Councillors: A. Cheevers, M.J. Crowe, A. Curran, F. Fahy, S. Forde, C. Higgins, E. Hoare, D. Lyons, J. McDonagh, T. O'Flaherty, H. Ogbu.
Elected Members Online:	Councillor: D. McDonnell.
Apologies	Councillor: A. Burke, J. Forde, P. Keane, N. McNelis, E. Seoighthe.
Executive Present:	Chief Executive: L. Cleary, Director of Services: P. Philbin, H. Kilroy, D. Pender, A/DoS: E. Fanning, S. Connolly Senior Executive Officer: A. Rohan, Senior Staff Officer: Michael Coleman, 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.

It was agreed, on the proposal of Mayor Cubbard, that the meeting would break at 4:45p.m. for fifteen minutes and conclude at 6:30p.m.

Cllr. T. O'Flaherty paid tribute to Mr. Pat Philbin on his recent retirement from Galway City Council following 37 years of dedicated service, having begun his career with Galway Corporation before its transition to Galway City Council. She noted Mr. Philbin's exceptional work ethic and commitment throughout his career. Starting work at 5.00 a.m. each morning, after setting his alarm for 3.45 a.m., he was renowned for his punctuality, diligence, and impeccable standards. His dedication ensured that every task was completed to the highest standard.

Cllr. T. O'Flaherty also highlighted Mr. Philbin's role as an outstanding ambassador for both the Council and the city. His pleasant manner, professionalism, and respect for others made him a valued colleague. When the Council required a spokesperson for local and national media interviews, Mr. Philbin was frequently called upon and represented the organisation with distinction.

She further acknowledged his many interests outside of work, including his award-winning garden, which has received numerous first-prize awards, his passion for photography, and his keen interest in the history of Galway. Mr. Philbin will be greatly missed by his colleagues, particularly Brian Kelly and the entire team with whom he has worked closely over many years.

Cllr. T. O'Flaherty wished Pat Philbin good health, happiness, and many enjoyable years of retirement with his family, friends and neighbours. This sentiment was echoed by all present and was met with a round of applause.

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

The Mayor reminded Members of their obligation to declare any conflicts of interest. No declarations were made.

Cllr. D. Lyons and Cllr. S. Forde advised that they had previously made representations regarding Item 3(d) on the agenda but there was no conflict of interest.
The Mayor noted this.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

(a) May Plenary Council meeting held on 11 May 2026

On points of accuracy, Cllr. F. Fahy requested that additional detail be included regarding his query on funding for the Oyster Festival and contribution regarding porridge spreading in the city.

Elected members requested an update on the invitation issued to Minister Canney regarding a meeting on the Galway Port.

Ms. A. Rohan advised that she would follow up with Minister Canney's office regarding a meeting date

Cllr. A. Cheevers requested an update on the HSA objection received by the Land Development Agency (LDA) for Housing LRD (Large-scale Residential Development) at Galway Port.

Cllr. T. O'Flaherty requested an update on the Ring Road and queried whether there had been any communication with the affected residents.

Cllrs. S. Forde and F. Fahy expressed concern about the spread of porridge in the city, noting that they had been advised of incidents. Cllr. S. Forde stated that he believed that this constitutes a public health emergency.

Cllr. E. Hoare requested an update on the safety improvements for Cnocán Glas, Pálás cinema and queried whether the Council has the capacity to investigate properties under the Derelict Sites Register.

The Executive addressed the queries raised. Ms. S. Connolly advised that she would revert directly to Cllr. E. Hoare regarding Cnocán Glas.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Cllr. T. O'Flaherty
Resolved to adopt the Minutes of the May Plenary Meeting held on 11 May 2026.	
Result: The minutes were agreed and adopted.	

(b) Minutes of Special Council meeting held on 5 June 2026.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Cllr. J. McDonagh
Resolved to adopt the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 5 June 2026.	
Result: The minutes were agreed and adopted.	

3. Business Prescribed by Statute:

(a) Section 44 of the Local Government Act 2001, Schedule 10 to hold Plenary Meeting 13 July 2026 at 3p.m. in the Atlantic Technological University (ATU) Galway City, Old Dublin Road, Galway, H91 T8NW - to consider for approval.

Proposed By: Cllr. F. Fahy		Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons		
Agree to hold Plenary Meeting 13 July 2026 at 3p.m. in the Atlantic Technological University (ATU) Galway City, Old Dublin Road, Galway, H91 T8NW.				
Present: 13	In Favour: 13	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 5
Result: This motion was agreed and carried.				

(b) Section 221 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) Draft Galway City Council Annual Report 2025 - to consider for adoption.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons		Seconded By: Cllr. F. Fahy		
Resolved to approve Draft Galway City Council Annual Report 2025.				
Present: 13	In Favour: 13	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 5
Result: This motion was agreed and carried.				

(c) Section 13 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997 – Proposed Litter Management Plan 2025 to 2027 - to consider for adoption.

Proposed By: Cllr. A. Curran		Seconded By: Cllr. H. Ogbu		
Resolved to adopt, in accordance with Section 13 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997 – Litter Management Plan 2025 to 2027.				
Present: 13	In Favour: 13	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 5
Result: This motion was agreed and carried.				

(d) Section 179, Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) Part 8 Cappagh Social and Affordable housing scheme – to consider for approval

Cllr. M. Crowe thanked Ms. E. Murphy for her communication on this item.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons		Seconded By: Cllr. A. Curran		
Resolved to approve, in accordance Section 179, Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) Part 8 Cappagh Social and Affordable housing scheme as recommended.				
Present: 13	In Favour: 13	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 5
Result: This motion was carried.				

(e) Appointment of external Audit Committee member

Ms. H. Kilroy outlined the vacancy and provided an overview of the proposed new member Majella Malone's experience and qualifications.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons		Seconded By: Cllr. M. Crowe		
Resolved to approve, appointment of external Audit Committee member Majella Malone.				
Present: 13	In Favour: 13	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 5
Result: This motion was carried.				

4. Reports of Committee Meeting:

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

On points of accuracy, Cllr. E. Hoare highlighted Ms. M. Malone professional experience included the IPA and not IPB.

Cllr. A. Curran referenced a motion he had submitted regarding the Ballyburke Development. He advised that he had spoken with Ms. E. Murphy and would resubmit it for the next meeting but wished this to be noted.

NOM 31/2026, submitted by Cllr. A. Curran to CPG on 15/05/2025
That provision would be made at the new social housing development at Ballyburke on the Ballymoneen Road in Knocknacarra, to retain two of the ground floor commercial units for community purposes. This could be in the form of a community library, a social enterprise, a youth space, a cooperative grocery store, or similar.

Elected members raised concerns regarding public lighting and grass cutting in Ard Cré and requested an update on public lighting. They also sought an update on the repair of the wall in Tara Grove and on tree stumps remaining following damage caused by Storm Éowyn. Members further requested an update on the meeting with the National Transport Authority to address concerns regarding the Western Distributor Road, as well as clarification on grass-cutting arrangements for estates taken in charge. The Executive addressed the queries raised.

Recommendation: To hold the September Council Plenary meeting on Monday 7 September 2026 at 3p.m. due to European Alliance Group Conference in Galway on Monday 14 September 2026.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons		Seconded By: Cllr. F. Fahy		
Resolved to approve, Recommendation to hold the September Council Plenary meeting on Monday 7 September 2026 at 3p.m. due to European Alliance Group Conference in Galway on Monday 14 September 2026.				
Present: 13	In Favour: 13	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 5
Result: This motion was carried.				

Recommendation: Expressions of Interest to be sought by Galway City Council for non-residential units as part of Ballyburke Development

Following a discussion on this item, the Mayor sought a vote on same.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons		Seconded By: Cllr. M. Crowe		
Resolved to approve the recommendation that Expressions of Interest be sought by Galway City Council for non-residential units as part of the Ballyburke Development.				
Present: 13	In Favour: 13	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 5
Result: This motion was carried.				

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

Elected members requested an update on the item and queried whether a meeting with members who missed the public consultation could be facilitated.

The Chief Executive reported that engagement with the Health Service Executive (HSE) remains positive and active. He advised that both parties are very close to agreeing a solution and developing a final proposal. However, he noted that he cannot brief elected members until a complete package has been confirmed. He emphasised that maintaining transparency with the community is important, particularly in demonstrating the overall community gain.

5. Consideration of Reports of Officials:

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

Some Elected Members sought clarity on a range of matters, including the level of interest for the 'Gaeilge Cois Trá' scholarship initiative, whether discussions could be held with the National Transport Authority (NTA) to progress works further into Parkmore, the reinstallation of a ladder in Blackrock tower, an update on the move to Crown Square including costs and parking for employees, the status of a derelict site and the potential for Compulsory Purchase Order, the possibility of resurfacing works near the Blue Teapot, the timeline for the Newcastle Community Centre, whether Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) works on Thomas Hynes Road will include the Browne Roundabout, the commencement of painting and fence repairs at Walter Macken Flats, the start and completion dates for Uisce Éireann works on Ballyloughane Road, how individuals with disabilities are prioritised on the housing list, an update on the Hydro project, Whitehall apartment complex considered to retrofit, the replacement of the bus shelter on Kingston Road, and a review of fading road markings.

Elected Members wished to acknowledge the resurfacing works carried out throughout the city, the works undertaken at Walter Macken Flats, and the efforts of the Waste Enforcement Unit and the Environment Team for their workshop and ongoing work in Ballybane.

The Chief Executive advised that the queries raised would be responded to directly by the relevant departments.

Cllr. D. Lyons queried why the item was being discussed, stating his understanding is that the report was for noting only following a motion passed by Council at the previous meeting and that any queries were to be submitted in writing for a response.

The Executive responded to the query, acknowledging that the Standing Orders will be amended following consultation with the Procedures Committee to reflect the change. It was noted that the intention is for Council meetings to focus on high-level strategic and statutory matters.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Cllr. F. Fahy
Monthly Management Report for June 2026 - for noting.	
Result: This report was noted.	

(b) Draft Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws 2026 – approval to proceed to public consultation.

Elected Members sought clarity on a range of matters, including whether the public can make submissions during the public consultation period, whether estates not taken in charge are covered under the bye-law, whether any State funding is available for traffic-calming measures, whether An Garda Síochána have sufficient resources to enforce the new speed limits, and whether data had been collected to support the implementation.

The Executive addressed the queries raised and advised that the bye-laws are in accordance with legislation.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons		Seconded By: Cllr. A. Curran		
Resolved to approve Speed Limit Bye-Laws 2026 to proceed to public consultation.				
Present: 13	In Favour: 13	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 5
Result: This motion was carried.				

(c) Local Authority Allocation Report to Elected Members Circular Housing 20/2026 – for noting.

Elected Members sought clarity on a range of matters, including how the Choice-Based Letting (CBL) system operates, the process by which positions are allocated, and the need for greater transparency and improved communication for applicants. Members also queried whether they are notified when CBL properties become available, how older persons or those with limited digital literacy are supported in the process, and what obligations the Council has in relation to providing CBL.

Cllr F. Fahy proposed that a workshop be run on how the process works.
Cllr. D. McDonnell suggested these queries be sent to the Social Development SPC and have a workshop in September.

Ms. S. Carroll addressed the queries raised and advised that a campaign could be undertaken to provide further information on the CBL process. She agreed that bringing queries to the SPC and subsequently to a workshop would be beneficial.

Proposed By: Cllr. F. Fahy		Seconded By: Cllr. J. McDonagh		
Resolved to approve, Local Authority Allocation Report to Elected Members Circular Housing 20/2026 – for noting.				
Present: 13	In Favour: 13	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 5
Result: This motion was carried.				

6. Notice of Motions

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:

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. Leave item on agenda as Cllr. E. Seoighthe was not present

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.

To leave on the agenda

NOM 29/2026, submitted by Cllr. C. Higgins on 07/05/2026

Shingles Vaccination for Older Adults

That Galway City Council recognises the significant health risks posed by shingles (herpes zoster), particularly for older adults, including the debilitating condition of post-herpetic neuralgia (PHN), which can result in chronic pain, reduced mobility, and loss of independence.

That this Council further acknowledges the recommendation of the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) in 2024 that the recombinant zoster vaccine (Shingrix) be administered to all adults aged 65 years and over.

That Galway City Council notes with concern that the current cost of the shingles vaccine, estimated at €480–€500, presents a substantial financial barrier for many older people, effectively limiting access to this important preventative healthcare measure.

That this motion is brought on foot of engagement with the Knocknacarra Active Retirement Group and in support of the wider campaign led by Active Retirement Ireland, representing over 24,000 older people nationwide, advocating for equitable access to the shingles vaccine.

Therefore, Galway City Council calls on: The Minister for Health, The Department of Health, The Health Service Executive (HSE) to:

Introduce the shingles vaccine free of charge for all adults aged 65 years and over as part of the National Immunisation Programme from 2026.

Remove financial barriers to ensure equitable access for all older people, regardless of income.

Recognise the long-term benefits of prevention, including reduced GP visits, lower hospital admissions, and support for independent living and healthy ageing.

Align Ireland with international best practice, where countries such as the UK, Germany, France, Spain, Canada, Australia, and the United States already provide this vaccine at low or no cost. That a copy of this motion be forwarded to the Minister for Health, the Department of Health, the HSE and all Council's.

Proposed By: Cllr. C. Higgins

Seconded By: Cllr. J. McDonagh

Resolved to approve Notice of Motion 29/2026

Present: 13 In Favour: 13 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 5

Result: This motion was carried.

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 Alan 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 Michael 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?

1. If the answer to No.1 is yes, during what time periods was this examination done?
2. 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?

8. Correspondence

(a) **Galway County Council**, Dated: 11 May 2026

Resolution: Healthcare capacity West and North-West Region.

(b) **Clare County Council**, Dated: 12 May 2026

Resolution: Cost of Living Package.

(c) **Waterford City and County Council**, Dated: 15 May 2026

Resolution: Rights of people with disabilities.

(d) **Longford County Council**, Dated: 15 May 2026

- Resolution:** Retain the Just Transition Tourism Activators
(e) West Ireland Airport Knock Annual Review 2025
(f) Galway County Council, Dated: 28 May 2026
Resolution: Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA)
(g) National Transport Authority, Dated: 08 May 2026
Response: Meeting request regarding Western Distributor Road

Proposed By: Cllr. A. Curran	Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons
Correspondence was noted.	

9. Items for Councillors Information
None raised

10. Conferences & Training

	Provider	Details	Date	Location
(a)	AILG	AILG Annual Conference	22-23 April 2026	Hotel Minella, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary. Retrospective approval Cllr. A. Cheevers
(b)	AILG	OPR-AILG Councillor Planning Training	20 June 2026	Hudson Bay Hotel, Athlone.
(c)	AILG	Elected Member Training Programme	April – December 2026	

Cllr. F. Fahy asked if the brochure booklet was available to browse.

Ms. A. Rohan responded to the query, advising that details of all conferences and training opportunities are circulated to Members via the Councillors' Extranet.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Cllr. C. Higgins
Result: Training and Conferences were approved.	

11. Votes of Sympathy

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Cllr. M. Cubbard
Bridget (Dell) Maye R.I.P. Frank Mangan R.I.P. Seán King R.I.P. Ernie (Ernest) Caffrey R.I.P.	Michael (Mick) Monaghan R.I.P. Donie Sexton R.I.P. Fergal McDonough R.I.P.
Resolved to extend sympathy to the families of the bereaved were offered by the Council.	

11. Votes of Congratulations

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Cllr. M. Cubbard
Canon Tadhg Quinn	Christina Callaghan
Resolved to extend congratulations were offered by the Council.	

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

No other business was raised.

13. Any Other Business

Cllr. F. Fahy asked whether the Chief Executive's Orders are available for inspection. Upon request, Ms. A. Rohan responded that they are available to view, as the system is now online.

Ms. A. Rohan informed members that the Women's Caucus Conference will be held on 17–18 June hosted by Galway City Council and Galway County Council and advised that it is open to all elected members and members of the public to attend free of charge.

Cllr. D. Lyons highlighted the need for diary entries to be kept up to date to ensure meetings do not overlap and to facilitate member attendance.

Cllr. A. Curran noted that some of the SPC folders on the extranet have not been updated and highlighted the importance of ensuring members can view what is being discussed at all SPCs.

Cllr. E. Hoare requested an update on Galway airport. The Chief Executive advised that a meeting is taking place this week regarding the expression of interest and that they are awaiting recommendations.

Elected Members sought an update on the provision of a wheelchair-access mat for beaches for this summer and requested that resources be allocated on specific days to install it and ensure it is communicated. They noted that the mats have been in the Council's ownership for a number of years and expressed disappointment that they have never been implemented.

Ms. S. Connolly advised that they are working with the Irish Wheelchair Association but have been unable to identify a suitable location for the mats at this time.

Cllr. S. Forde requested that a letter be issued to the retiring Chief Superintendent, Gerry Roche, acknowledging his service, and to his successor to extend best wishes. He further requested that consideration be given to the development of train stations in Murrough and Renmore, with a view to promote public use of the rail services.

Cllr. D. Lyons proposed that a vote of congratulations be extended to the Senior Galway Hurling Team on their recent success in the Leinster Final. This was **Proposed by** Cllr. D. Lyons and **Seconded by** Cllr. Frank Fahy and agreed.

Elected members requested an update on light rail/Gluas and a meeting held with the Gluas committee for Galway City.

The Chief Executive provided an update on the meeting with the committee and advised that there is ongoing weekly dialogue with the Northern and Western Regional Assembly.

Mr. D. Pender informed members that Gluas forms part of the transport strategy for the city and will be led by the National Transport Authority. He encouraged members to review the GMATS transport strategy and advised that this can be considered by the relevant Strategic Policy Committee

The meeting concluded at 4:55p.m.

Minutes, Confirmed & Signed

Mayor of Galway