Minutes of Galway City Council Plenary Meeting held on Monday 12 October 2026 at 2.00p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Galway City Council and online via MS Teams.	
Presiding:	Mayor H. Ogbu
Elected Members Present:	Councillors: A. Cheevers, M.J. Crowe, M. Cubbard, A. Curran, F. Fahy, J. Forde, S. Forde, C. Higgins, E. Hoare, P. Keane, D. Lyons, J. McDonagh, N. McNelis, T. O'Flaherty, E. Seoighthe.
Elected Members Online:	Councillors: A. Burke, D. McDonnell.
Executive Present:	Chief Executive: L. Cleary, Director of Services: P. Philbin, D. Pender, H. Kilroy, Acting Director of Service: E. Fanning, P. Mac Ghiolla Bhride; Meetings Administrator: A. Rohan, Administrative Officer: M. Duddy, Clerical Officer: C. Cormican.

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

Mayor Ogbu suggested the suspension of Standing Orders to allow media to take photographs and video in the Council Chamber for a few moments. This was proposed by Cllr. D. Lyons and seconded by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty and agreed.

Mayor Ogbu welcomed Mr. Brendan McGrath, Chairperson, Galway Culture Company and Mr. David Leahy, Board member of the Galway Culture Company. The Mayor also acknowledged the attendance of media students from the University of Galway.

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

No Conflicts were disclosed.

Presentation Galway Culture Company

Due to technical difficulties on the proposal of Cllr. F. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. N. McNelis, the meeting was suspended. The meeting reconvened once the connection was restored.

Mr. Brendan McGrath and Mr. David Leahy (GRETB) delivered a presentation on behalf of the Galway Culture Company. The presentation outlined the outcomes and legacy of the Culture Company, its support for cultural development across Galway, and work on European funding opportunities. Members were also briefed on

proposals for the future development that proposed transition to a new governance structure involving the University of Galway and Údarás na Gaeltachta.

The Mayor thanked the presenters and invited questions from Members.

Members raised a number of queries in relation to the legacy of European Capital of Culture 2020, including the lasting benefits and tangible outcomes delivered for Galway. Members also sought clarification on the proposed future arrangements for the company, the involvement of the University of Galway and Údarás na Gaeltachta, and the rationale for the proposed new structure.

Discussion also took place regarding governance, accountability and the management of public funding, and queries regarding the oversight arrangements that would apply going forward.

Members sought clarification on the level of engagement and consultation that had taken place with Galway City Council in relation to the proposed transition and future engagement and the potential for local authority involvement in future governance arrangements.

In response, Mr. McGrath explained that the Galway Culture Company had been established as an independent company as part of the requirements of the European Capital of Culture process. He advised that the organisation had been subject to regular audits and reviews throughout and that all statutory obligations had been met.

Mr. McGrath clarified that the role had been to support organisations, communities, public bodies and projects in developing funding applications. He further advised that the proposed transition followed an independent review and due diligence process and that legal agreements were currently being finalised

Mr. Leahy advised that the proposed model would support continued access to European funding opportunities and strengthen regional collaboration. He stated that the company would work alongside existing agencies and would not duplicate their functions.

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Lyons, seconded by Cllr. F. Fahy, it was agreed to give additional time to conclude the item.

The Mayor requested that a copy of correspondence from the European Commission, referred to during discussion, be circulated to Members.

The Chief Executive thanked Mr. McGrath and Mr. Leahy for their presentation. He noted that the organisation was entering a transition phase involving new stakeholders and partners and stated that Galway City Council would continue with engagement and wished them every success.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of 7 September 2026

Mayor Obgu invited matters of accuracy and matters arising from the minutes.

Matters Arising from Minutes of 7 September 2026:

Cllr. A. Curran sought an update on the proposed Aquatic Centre.
Ms. H. Kilroy advised that there was no update available at this time.

Cllr. M. Cubbard raised matters relating to inner-city parking and parking provision for residents.

Cllr. E. Hoare sought an update on the Thomas Hynes Road and whether there had been any material developments.

Cllr. D. Lyons noted that the Corporate Policy Group recommended that Motion No. 55/2026 would be taken as the first item under Notices of Motion. This was agreed.
Ms. A. Rohan advised that the response to Motion No. 55/2026 had also issued on Monday 12 October 2026.

Cllr. F. Fahy enquired whether any correspondence had been received from the Planning Regulator regarding decisions taken by the Council in relation to Planning Variation No. 3 and whether affected parties could now proceed with planning applications arising from the variation.
Ms. P. Philbin advised that no correspondence had been received to date and confirmed that planning applications may be submitted at any stage.

Elected Members sought clarification regarding the upcoming Parking and Kerbside Strategy Workshop. In particular, the in-person format and external venue arrangements. Members queried why they had been advised by email that the workshop was not intended to debate specific proposals relating to parking machines and why this issue would not form part of the discussions. Members also highlighted the need to address resident parking within the city.

Mr. P. Mac Giolla Bhríde advised that the workshop would consider the wider use of kerbside space, including parking, loading bays, disability parking and outdoor dining. It was clarified that parking machines would form part of the discussion. Members were also advised that Mr. Alan Dunne, Iregan Advisors Consultant would attend as an industry expert, with Council staff facilitating the workshop.

Members sought clarification regarding recent commentary in a local newspaper relating to the Salmon Weir Bridge. Mr. D. Pender advised that a presentation on the matter had been made to the Project Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC). He clarified that the SPC did not have authority to approve any proposal and that any such proposal would be subject to the appropriate statutory processes, including consideration under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act and any other required approvals. He further advised that the matter would need to be considered

in the context of the wider BusConnects proposals and associated transport planning processes.

Cllr. D. Lyons sought clarification regarding existing BusConnects proposals and the current policy position of the Council.

A discussion followed during which Members raised concerns regarding recent public commentary on the matter, the consultation process, and the communication of transport proposals.

Following the discussion, Cllr. P. Keane proposed that "The proposal as presented by the Galway Commuter Coalition group at the Project Development SPC in relation to Salmon Weir Bridge be rejected." This proposal was seconded by Cllr. F. Fahy. A vote was taken on the proposal.

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Keane		**Seconded by:** Cllr. F. Fahy		
The Proposal as presented by the Galway Commuter coalition group to the Project Development SPC in relation to Salmon Weir Bridge be rejected.				
Present: 9	**In Favour:** 9	**Against:** 0	**Abstain:** 0	**Absent:** 9
Result: This motion was carried unanimously.				

The Mayor requested that clarification issue from the Director of Services in relation to the matter.

Cllr. J. McDonagh sought an update regarding Merlin Woods. Cllr. N. McNelis sought clarification regarding the injunction proceedings, including the associated costs, funding arrangements and implications for the project.

Mr. L. Flynn advised that Galway City Council and the Friends of Merlin Woods had agreed to engage in mediation. He noted that the associated legal costs were not yet known.

Cllr. F. Fahy emphasised the importance of ensuring compliance with all relevant legal requirements and procedures.

The Chief Executive advised that where legal proceedings are initiated, the Council is obliged to defend those proceedings. He stated that the Council had remained available for engagement throughout the process and was committed to continuing efforts to resolve the matter.

Cllr. E. Hoare sought clarification as to whether bus lanes were being considered as part of the proposed Thomas Hynes Road scheme. In response, Mr. D. Pender advised that bus lanes are not currently proposed as part of the scheme. He noted that both the Thomas Hynes Road and Monivea Road projects are identified as Priority 2 routes and further advised that dedicated bus lanes are not currently required on the routes.

Cllr. S. Forde sought an update on the proposed Fleadh Cheoil proposal and, noting the support expressed by Galway County Council for the initiative, enquiring whether any further work had been undertaken by the relevant SPC or by the Council in relation to the proposal.
It was confirmed that the Tourism team will revert with an update to same.

Proposed By: Cllr. F. Fahy	**Seconded By:** Cllr. N. McNelis
Resolved to adopt the Minutes of the Plenary Meeting held on 7 September 2026.	
The minutes were agreed and adopted.	

3. Business Prescribed by Statute

(a) Planning and Development Act 2000, (as amended) Part VIII of Planning and Development Regulations 2001 – Eyre Square Tourist Office – to consider for approval.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons		**Seconded by:** Cllr. F. Fahy		
Resolved that the Part VIII proposal for the Eyre Square Tourist Office pursuant to the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) be approved.				
Present: 9	**In Favour:** 9	**Against:** 0	**Abstain:** 0	**Absent:** 9
Result: This motion was carried unanimously.				

(b) Local Government Act 2001 (as amended), Section 106 - Borrowing and Lending of Money - Approval of Overdraft Facility for 2027 - to consider and approve.

Cllr. S. Forde queried the rate of interest being applied to the overdraft.
Ms. H. Kilroy provided clarification on the overdraft interest rate and the associated borrowing arrangements.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons		**Seconded by:** Cllr. F. Fahy		
Resolved to approve, in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended), an overdraft facility of €8 million for Galway City Council for the period 1 January 2027 to 31 December 2027.				
Present: 15	**In Favour:** 15	**Against:** 0	**Abstain:** 0	**Absent:** 3
Result: This motion was carried unanimously.				

(c) Consideration of a Variation of Local Property Tax.

Ms. H. Kilroy outlined the proposal to vary the Local Property Tax adjustment factor by a further 10%, with the additional income ringfenced for a €3 million Footpath Improvement Programme over the remaining term of the Council. She advised that footpaths continue to be a significant source of public liability claims and that existing funding levels are insufficient to meet the scale of footpath repair and maintenance required across the city. Members were advised that the proposed funding would

facilitate additional footpath improvement works across the city, increasing the number of estates benefiting from improvement works. The average cost to households was estimated at approximately €29 per annum.

The Chief Executive advised that the matter was a reserved function of the Elected Members. He stated that the proposed increase would provide an opportunity to address needs and support the delivery of footpath improvements sooner than would otherwise be possible. He noted that alternative funding options would include borrowing or identifying additional revenue through the annual budget.

Members debated the proposal and acknowledged the need for continued investment in footpaths and local services. A number of Members expressed concern regarding the impact of any increase in Local Property Tax on households and the timing of the proposal in the current economic climate. Members also discussed Government funding for Galway City, the redistribution of Local Property Tax receipts, the potential introduction of a tourist tax/accommodation levy and the need to explore alternative sources of income for Galway City Council.

Members highlighted the importance of securing a fairer funding model for Galway City and raised issues relating to national funding allocations, housing funding, tourism impacts, student accommodation, short-term letting activity and other potential revenue-generating measures.

Cllr. D. Lyons proposed that a delegation of Elected Members meet with the Tánaiste and local Oireachtas Members to discuss Galway City's funding position and future funding requirements.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons		**Seconded by:** Cllr. H. Ogbu		
To send a delegation to meet the Tánaiste and his Department.				
Present: 17	**In Favour:** 17	**Against:** 0	**Abstain:** 0	**Absent:** 1
Result: This motion was carried unanimously.				

Cllr. F. Fahy proposed to reject the proposed increase in the Local Property Tax. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons.

In response to matters raised by Members, Ms. H. Kilroy provided clarification regarding the Council's funding position, advising that a proportion of Local Property Tax generated within Galway City is redistributed nationally. She further advised that 88% of properties in Galway City fall within the four lowest valuation bands and outlined the Council's current expenditure commitments, including housing funding arrangements.

The Chief Executive acknowledged the challenges associated with the proposal and advised that the Executive will continue to engage with Government regarding Galway City's funding position, including Local Property Tax and a tourist tax. He stated that the proposal formed part of a broader effort to diversify the Council's funding sources and reduce reliance on existing income streams.

Following discussion, a vote was taken on the proposal to reject the variation.

Proposed by: Cllr. F. Fahy		**Seconded by:** Cllr. D. Lyons		
Resolved to reject the 10% variation of Local Property Tax.				
Present: 17	**In Favour:** 17	**Against:** 0	**Abstain:** 0	**Absent:** 1
Result: That Galway City Council reject the proposed 10% increase in the Local Property Tax adjustment factor for 2027.				

(d) Approval of a Waiver Scheme of Rates.

Ms. H. Kilroy presented the proposed Commercial Rates Incentive Scheme and advised that Section 15 provides for schemes aimed at encouraging economic growth. She outlined that the proposal, which had previously been considered by the Corporate Development SPC, was designed to support the occupation of long-term vacant commercial properties and contribute to the revitalisation of the city centre. Members sought clarification regarding the eligibility criteria for the scheme, the rationale for excluding certain business categories, its alignment with the Retail Strategy, the potential financial impact on the Council and the legal basis for the proposed exclusions.

In response, Ms. H. Kilroy advised that the proposed categories had been informed by the Retail Strategy and considered by the SPC. She clarified that while certain business types would not qualify for the rates incentive, they would not be prevented from operating within the city. She confirmed that the financial implications of the scheme had been factored into the Council's budget projections.

The Chief Executive advised that the scheme was intended to support the desired mix of commercial activity within the city and encourage the occupation of vacant premises.

A discussion followed on the proposed eligibility and exclusion criteria.

On the proposal of Cllr. M.J. Crowe, seconded by Cllr. F. Fahy, Members agreed to remove betting shops from the list of excluded businesses under the scheme.

Proposed by: Cllr. M.J. Crowe		**Seconded by:** Cllr. F. Fahy		
Amendment to remove betting shops from the list of excluded business under the scheme				
Present: 16	**In Favour:** 12	**Against:** 4	**Abstain:** 0	**Absent:** 2
Result: This motion was carried.				

The Commercial Rates Incentive Scheme, as amended, was then put to the meeting and a vote conducted.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons		**Seconded by:** Cllr. M. Cubbard		
Resolved to approve Waiver Scheme of Rates.				
Present: 15	**In Favour:** 15	**Against:** 0	**Abstain:** 0	**Absent:** 3
Result: This motion was carried.				

(e) Section 51, Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) - Social Development Strategic Policy Committee - Replacement of Construction Representative.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons	**Seconded by:** Cllr. F. Fahy
Resolved to approve the appointment of Mr. Thomas Cavanagh as the replacement Construction Sector representative on the Social Development Strategic Policy Committee.	
Result: This motion was carried.	

(f) Civic Naming Committee of Galway City Council.
Appointment of 3 additional Committee Members – one from each Ward.

Resolved that, following consultation through the Group Leaders and in accordance with the agreed nomination process, the following Members be appointed to the Civic Naming Committee:

Central Ward Nomination: Cllr. Frank Fahy,
Proposed by: Cllr. C. Higgins, Seconded by: Cllr. E. Hoare
West Ward Nomination: Cllr. Níall McNelis,
Proposed by: Cllr. M. Cubbard, Seconded by: John McDonagh
East Ward Nomination: Cllr. Helen Ogbu,
Proposed by: Cllr. N. McNelis, Seconded by: Cllr. M. Cubbard

Present: 16	**In Favour:** 16	**Against:** 0	**Abstain:** 0	**Absent:** 2
Result: This motion was carried.				

4. Reports of Committee Meetings

(a) Draft notes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 5 October 2026 - for noting.

Cllr D. Lyons requested Notice of Motion 43/2025 should be referred to main Council to be included on agenda.

On a point of accuracy, Cllr. E. Hoare stated that Notice of Motion 49/2026 should have been referred to the Central Area Committee for consideration.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	**Seconded By:** Cllr. A. Curran
Noted Draft notes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held 5 October 2026.	
Result: Noted Corporate Policy meeting notes.	

Recommendation to full Council to establish an International Relations Advisory Council and that the Chairperson of the Tourism Strategic Policy Committee be included in its membership.

Proposed by Cllr. D. Lyons and seconded by Cllr. F. Fahy and agreed.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	**Seconded By:** Cllr. F. Fahy
Resolved to establish an International Relations Advisory Council and that the Chairperson of the Tourism Strategic Policy Committee be included in its membership.	
Result: The motion was carried.	

5. Consideration of Reports of Officials

(a) Monthly Management Report for September - for noting.

Item not considered

6. Notice of Motions

Item not considered.

NOM55/2026, submitted by Cllr. Clodagh Higgins on 30/09/2026

Notice of Motion - Section 254 Telecommunications Infrastructure

That Galway City Council, in light of concerns arising regarding the operation of the Section 254 licensing process for telecommunications infrastructure in established residential areas, undertake an urgent review of its procedures for the consideration and granting of such licences.

That this review examine, subject to statutory requirements and legal advice:

- Direct notification of adjoining and nearby residents and recognised Residents' Associations.
- The erection of a site notice at the proposed location.
- Publication online of the application, site-location map, drawings, supporting documentation and decision.
- The assessment and documentation of alternative locations, co-location opportunities, residential amenity and visual impact.
- The arrangements governing commencement of works where a statutory right of appeal remains available, and
- A clear internal protocol for coordination between Planning, Roads, Recreation & Amenity and Planning Enforcement before works commence.

That the review have particular regard to Galway City Development Plan Policy 9.9.3 concerning new freestanding telecommunications infrastructure in proximity to residential areas and community facilities, and that a report, including recommendations for any procedural changes considered legally permissible, be brought before the elected members.

Decision made by CPG to place this motion as first NOM on the agenda.

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

That Galway City Council commit to:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Request to leave on the agenda

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

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

Request to leave on the agenda.

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

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

Request to Leave on Agenda. Referred to the Tourism SPC.
At CPG meeting it was proposed by Cllr. N. McNelis and seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons that the Tourism Department met with members of the local Ceoltas group

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

I call on Galway City Council to seek funding under the EU LIFE Programme, to allow domestic misconnections to be examined and improved, helping to resolve water quality issues at city beaches, particularly Ballyloughane and Grattan Road, before any consideration is given to carrying out year-round testing, which has been suggested by an Oireachtas member in the Dáil recently. The testing of sea water during off-season could impact greatly on those beaches, particularly with the amount of rainfall during the winter months - a contributory factor to a deterioration of water quality - and could result in a permanent ban on swimming.

NOM48/2026, submitted by Cllr. Alan Curran on 14/09/2026

"That this Council opposes planned fare increases for public transportation and will write to the Minister for Transport to ask him to reverse such action.

Increasing public transport fares during a cost-of-living crisis pushes additional costs onto those least able to pay. It will incentivise private car use, increasing traffic, congestion and CO2 emissions. In turn, increased traffic and congestion makes the public transport system more costly to operate. Public transport should not be expected to be financially self-supporting: it is a public service that leads to reduced congestion, improved road safety and lower carbon emissions. It should be strongly supported by central funding."

To remain on agenda. Project Development SPC previously wrote to the Minister & a letter issued

NOM50/2026, submitted by Cllr. Helen Ogbu on 27/09/2026

Extreme Weather – Cooling and Warm Spaces, that Galway City Council:

1. Identify and compile a citywide list of publicly accessible buildings and facilities that can provide a suitably cool or warm indoor environment during periods of extreme heat or cold, including libraries, community centres, sports and leisure facilities, arts and cultural venues and other appropriate public facilities;

2. Explore the feasibility of establishing a network of designated Cooling and Warm Spaces across the city, which could be activated and promoted during periods of extreme weather; and
3. Develop and publish, where feasible, a citywide Cooling and Warm Spaces Map or Directory, including locations, accessibility information and opening hours, to ensure residents can readily identify safe and welcoming indoor spaces during periods of extreme temperatures, with particular consideration given to older people, people with disabilities, people experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity, and others who may be particularly vulnerable to extreme heat or cold.

NOM51/2026, submitted by Cllr. Helen Ogbu on 27/09/2026

Damp, Mould and Cold Homes - Urgent Action and Accountability, that Galway City Council:

1. Recognises the serious concerns being raised by tenants regarding dampness, mould, inadequate heating and cold conditions in Council, HAP, RAS and other rented accommodation, and the potential impact on the health and wellbeing of residents, particularly children and vulnerable households.
2. Requests the Chief Executive to develop a Galway Damp, Mould and Cold Homes Action Plan, setting out clear procedures and target response times for reporting, risk assessment, inspection, remediation, follow-up and escalation of serious cases.
3. Calls for a risk-based approach which prioritises cases involving children, older people, people with disabilities, respiratory conditions or other vulnerabilities, and ensures that remedial works address the underlying cause of damp, mould or cold wherever practicable.
4. Calls on the Council to make full use of its existing enforcement powers where landlords fail to meet minimum housing standards, including Improvement Notices, Prohibition Notices and other available enforcement measures.
5. Requests a review of persistent landlord non-compliance in HAP and RAS accommodation, including the effectiveness of existing mechanisms and, where permitted under legislation and scheme rules, the consequences for landlords who repeatedly fail to remedy serious housing defects.
6. Requests that appropriate measures are put in place to protect households where serious housing hazards cannot be remedied promptly, including consideration of temporary or alternative accommodation where necessary.
7. Requests that the Chief Executive report to the Housing Strategic Policy Committee and Plenary within three months, providing data on damp, mould and cold-related complaints, inspections, outstanding cases, enforcement action, response times and proposed measures under the Action Plan.
8. Calls on the Government to consider stronger national protections for tenants experiencing serious damp, mould and cold-related housing hazards, including defined duties and response times, taking account of developments such as Awaab's Law in England.

NOM52/2026, submitted by Cllr. Helen Ogbu on 27/09/2026

Migrant Support and Integration Centre

That Galway City Council:

Recognises Galway as a diverse and welcoming city, with migrants making an important contribution to its social, cultural and economic life.

Acknowledges the valuable work already undertaken by Galway City Council, the Local Authority Integration Team, community and voluntary organisations, State agencies and migrant-led organisations to support integration and inclusion.

Recognises that migrants can face difficulties navigating public services and accessing reliable information and support in areas including housing, healthcare, employment, education, language, social welfare, immigration and community participation.

Believes that a Migrant Support and Integration Centre could provide a welcoming and accessible point of information, advice, guidance and signposting, while strengthening coordination between existing services and avoiding duplication.

Further believes that any such centre should be developed in partnership with migrant communities, migrant-led organisations, community and voluntary organisations, statutory agencies and other relevant stakeholders, and be informed by local needs and lived experience.

Calls on Galway City Council - to undertake an initial feasibility and needs assessment, map existing supports, consult with migrant communities and relevant stakeholders, explore partnership and funding opportunities, and bring a report back to Council with options and recommendations for establishing such a centre.

That this work be aligned with Galway City Council's Intercultural and Anti-Racism Strategy 2026–2030 and its wider objectives on equity, equality, inclusion and community participation.

NOM54/2026, submitted by Cllr. Niall McNelis on 29/09/2026

That this Council expresses its Solidarity with all workers engaged in industrial action currently in the public sector and will send that note of solidarity to An Taoiseach, An Tanaiste and the Minister for Public Expenditure to urge full engagement with public sector trade unions across all sections.

NOM56/2026, submitted by Cllr. Niall McNelis on 01/10/2026

Galway City Council Motion: Support for a Permanent 8% Section 481 Regional Uplift

That Galway City Council:

- Recognises the importance of the screen and audiovisual sector as a source of employment, investment, cultural expression, and economic development throughout the West of Ireland;

- Notes the evidence presented by the Western AV Forum (WAVF), Screen Producers Ireland (SPI), Animation Ireland, Film in Limerick and other regional industry stakeholders in their pre-budget submissions, showing that the previous Section 481 Regional Uplift supported production activity outside the Dublin Metropolitan Area and Ashford, Co. Wicklow (DMAA);
- Notes that regional production activity declined significantly as the uplift was reduced and ultimately expired, while production activity reconcentrated around the DMAA;
- Further notes that productions undertaken outside the main production centres face an estimated structural cost premium of 8–12%, and that a meaningful, stable and long-term regional incentive is required to offset these additional costs and support production activity throughout regional Ireland.

Galway City Council therefore supports the call by the Western AV Forum (WAVF), Screen Producers Ireland (SPI), Animation Ireland, Film in Limerick and other regional industry stakeholders for the Minister for Finance and the Government to introduce, as part of Budget 2027, a permanent, non-tapering 8% Section 481 Regional Uplift for eligible audiovisual productions undertaking production activity outside the Dublin Metropolitan Area and Ashford, Co. Wicklow.

The Council believes that such a measure would:

- Act as a targeted levelling mechanism that helps rebalance production activity and correct the structural cost disadvantage faced by projects outside the DMAA;
- Increase Ireland's overall production capacity by enabling additional activity in the regions, rather than displacing established production in the DMAA;
- Support regional employment and enterprise growth;
- Strengthen crew, supplier and infrastructure development in the regions;
- Improve the competitiveness of Ireland's audiovisual sector;
- Ensure that the economic and cultural benefits of State investment in screen production are more evenly distributed throughout the country.

A copy of this motion shall be forwarded to the Minister for Culture, Communication and Sport, the Minister for Finance, the Department of Finance, Screen Ireland, the Northern and Western Regional Assembly and local authorities within the Northern and Western Region.

7. Questions - Not considered

Q09/2026, submitted by Cllr Alan Curran on 04/08/2026

With regards to the JC Decaux digital advertising billboards installed on footpaths around the city, could you provide information on the following: a. A list of the locations of each of the digital billboards. b. Total income per year from JC Decaux to the council for the permission. c. Total income accrued to date from JC Decaux to the council. d. Details of the contract between the council and JC Decaux e. Years remaining on the current contract. f. Is the income from JC Decaux ringfenced for a particular expenditure stream, or is it used as part of current expenditure.

Q10/2026, submitted by Cllr Helen Ogbu on 26/09/2026

Can the Chief Executive review the current Scheme of Letting Priorities to consider whether households experiencing domestic abuse can be given a clearly identifiable priority category for housing, rather than having such cases considered under the broader category of "medical or compassionate grounds"? Many individuals and families experiencing domestic abuse are already facing significant trauma, insecurity and, in some cases, homelessness or the need to leave unsafe accommodation at short notice. The additional uncertainty of navigating the housing system can compound that trauma and create further barriers to safety. I would therefore ask whether domestic abuse could be given a specific reference and clearly stated priority within the housing allocations framework, with appropriate safeguards around confidentiality and supporting documentation.

Q11/2026, submitted by Cllr Níall McNelis on 28/09/2026

Can the Chief Executive please outline the issues causing the outrageous delay in the installation of the Gailbhe/Galvia sculpture by acclaimed artist Alan Clarke at Droichead an Dochas despite the piece having been completed for two years? Will the Chief Executive provide a realistic timeline for the installation of this significant artistic, cultural, historic and civic piece of work for the enjoyment and amenity of Galway residents and visitors?

In particular, I call on the Chief Executive to address the following queries:

1. Galway City Council undertook a Percent For Art Scheme as part of the works associated with the design, build and installation of the pedestrian bridge from Cathedral Square to Newtownsmith and associated works. The Arts Office in collaboration with the Active Travel Section undertook a commissioning project which resulted in the project adjudicating panel agreeing to contract the acclaimed artist/sculptor Alan Clarke to create a figurative sculpture of Gailbhe or Galvia after whom the town and city of Galway is named - why has there been such an inordinate delay in installing this sculpture?

2. Can the CE (or whichever of the Directors of Services is currently responsible for this issue) outline the full monetary value of the commission; how much of the commission fee has been remitted to the artist to date and how much is outstanding to be paid?

3. Will the CE (or whichever of the Directors of Services is currently responsible for this issue) explain why despite the sculpture, having been completed for the last 2 years, has not yet been installed at Droichead an Dochas?

4. Will the CE (or whichever of the Directors of Services is currently responsible for this issue) explain if there has been a 'turf war' about the location and installation of the Gailbhe Statue between staff in different directorates both with responsibility for the construction and installation of the bridge and ancillary works and/or the ongoing maintenance and operation of the surrounds of the bridge?
   If this is the case, why haven't these issues been resolved and the installation been progressed?

5. Will the CE (or whichever of the Directors of Services is currently responsible for this issue) investigate the suggestion that one or more directorate staff members have purposely delayed the installation of the Gailbhe sculpture because of their personal opposition and dislike of the subject and form of the sculpture?
Is this purported personal opposition related to the statue's representation of a strong female form and its proposed location adjacent to Galway Cathedral, The Mercy Convent, Newtownsmith and/or Galway County Club, Weir House, Cathedral Square

8. Correspondence

(a) National Oversight and Audit Commission, Dated: 17 September 2026
Performance Indicator Report 2025
(b) Local Government Management Agency, Dated: 17 September 2026
LGMA Summary 2025
(c) National Oversight and Audit Commission, Dated: 17 September 2026
Letter from Claire Gavin
(d) Leitrim County Council, Dated: 21 September 2026
Resolution: Eir's Telecommunications Infrastructure.
(e) Uisce Éireann, Dated: 17 September 2026
Compulsory Purchase Order 2026, Growth and Development – Ardaun Network Extension.
(f) Mid Ulster District Council, Dated: 1 October 2026
Resolution: UEFA Nations League Fixtures.
(g) Cavan County Council, Dated: 5 October 2026
Resolution: Awarding DEIS status to schools.
(h) Cavan County Council, Dated: 5 October 2026
Resolution: Betting in licensed premises.
(i) Roscommon County Council, Dated: 5 September 2026
Resolution: Synthetic cannabinoid products.
(j) Roscommon County Council, Dated 05 September 2026
Resolution: Flooding Review.
(k) Limerick City & County Council, Dated 28 September 2026
Resolution: Additional Road Budget.
(l) Donegal County Council, Dated 30 September 2026
Resolution: Independent Building Standards Regulatory Authority.
(m) Donegal County Council, Dated1 October 2026
Resolution: Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	**Seconded By:** Cllr. F. Fahy
Members noted correspondence received.	

9. Items for Councillors Information

None

10. Conferences & Training

	Provider	Details	Date	Location
(a)	WHO EU Summit of Mayors	Health and Climate Action	4-6 October 2026	Cork
(b)	Limerick City & County Council	National Age Friendly Achievement and Recognition Awards 2026	8 October 2026	Limerick Strand Hotel Retrospective approval for Cllr. J. McDonagh (Deputising for Mayor)
(c)	Omenimo 2026	Cultural day	11 October 2026	Dublin
(d)	NEMDA	Launch NEMDA Strategic Plan 2027–2030	21 October 2026	Tullamore
(e)	Local Authorities Members Association	LAMA Autumn Seminar	21-22 October	The Park Hotel, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford.
(f)	North-West Migrants Forum	Black History Month Summit event	23 October 2026	Belfast
(g)	Association of Irish Local Government	AILG-OPR Planning Training – Town Centre First	23 October 2026 10am – 11.30am	Webinar
(h)	Association of Irish Local Government	AILG-OPR-HA Training – Compact Development & Multi Unit Developments	13 November 2026 10am – 11.30am	Webinar
(i)	Association of Irish Local Government	County Archivist /Heritage Ireland - Local Authority Archives Services	14 November 2026	Clayton Hotel, Galway

Proposed By: Cllr. F. Fahy	**Seconded By:** Cllr. J. McDonagh
Resolved that the Conferences and Training Programme be approved.	
Result: Agreed.	

11. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	**Seconded By:** Cllr. T. O'Flaherty
Patricia Carroll R.I.P	Agnes Teresa Glynn R.I.P
Mary (Mary Rose) Purcell R.I.P	Seamus Tuohy R.I.P
Margaret Keaney R.I.P	Carmel Callan R.I.P

The Elected Members wished to convey their sympathies to colleagues Jimmy Callan and Deirdre Keaney Cunningham on their recent bereavement.
Result: The Council extended its sympathies to the families of the bereaved.

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

None

13. Any Other Business

None

The meeting concluded at 6:10p.m.

