Minutes of Galway City Council Plenary Meeting held on Monday 7 September 2026 at 12.00p.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, A. Curran, J. Forde, C. Higgins, E. Hoare, P. Keane, D. Lyons, J. McDonagh, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis, T. O'Flaherty, E. Seoighthe.
Elected Members Online:	Councillors: A. Burke, M. Cubbard, F. Fahy, S. Forde.
Executive Present:	Chief Executive: L. Cleary, Director of Services: P. Philbin, H. Kilroy, P. Greene, Acting Director of Service: E. Fanning, M. Cormican, Senior Planner: E. Lynch, Senior Executive Planner: P. Staunton, Meetings Administrator: A. Rohan, Administrative Officer: M. Duddy, Clerical Officer: C. Cormican.

The Meeting Administrator 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. The Meetings Administrator gave a presentation regarding the Ethics Framework and Code of Conduct and Regulation of Lobbying. The extracts below were also noted by Councillors:

Extract from Code of Conduct for Councillors under the Local Government Act 2001: Key decisions on planning matters such as the making of development plans are vested in the elected council as representatives of the local community acting in the interests of the common good and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. The planning system is a very open one allowing for input by all parties. It is all the more important therefore that consideration of planning matter by Councillors is carried out in a transparent fashion; follows due process; and is based on what is relevant while ignoring that which is irrelevant within the requirements of the statutory planning framework. The same applies as regards input by individual Councillors in relation to planning applications, decisions on which vest in the executive. Extra care must therefore be observed in dealing with planning matters and in this context the provision of this Code particularly as regards conflict of personal and public interest are very relevant.

Extract from Regulation of Lobbying; Guidelines on lobbying in relation to development and zoning of land from the Standards in Public Office Commission: When communicating with public officials or representatives regarding the zoning or development of land, individuals and groups who may not ordinarily regard themselves as carrying on lobbying activities, may find that the Act also applies to them. These guidelines deal specifically with lobbying in relation to zoning and development. When drawing up development plans or local area plans, local authorities engage in a formal consultation process. This means that the public may make a submission to the local authority setting out their views on the proposed plan. Making views known to a local authority as part of a formal public consultation process in not lobbying. Communication, however, with a Designated Public Official outside the formal public consultation process about a development plan or local area plan or a proposal to zone or re-zone particular lands may be lobbying.

For example, contacting a local TD or County Councillor about a development plan or a proposal to zone or re-zone particular lands outside the formal public consultation process.

Mr. E. Lynch, Senior Planner outlined Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029, which seeks to assign Agricultural (A) or Agricultural High Amenity (G) zoning objectives to ten parcels of land currently designated as unzoned following a Ministerial Direction issued in May 2023.

Members were informed that the proposed variation was on public display from 28 November 2025 to 5 January 2026, during which twelve submissions were received. Following consideration of the Chief Executive's Report, Elected Members resolved to make material alterations to the proposed variation at their meeting on 9 March 2026. It was further noted that the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) processes concluded that the proposed recommendations would not result in significant environmental impacts or adverse effects on any European site.

Cllr. F. Fahy queried the statutory obligations regarding the recording of zoning-related queries from members of the public and the obligations of staff dealing with such queries.

In response Ms. Rohan advised that there is no specific statutory requirement to maintain a record of zoning enquiries; however, the recording of such enquiries is considered good administrative practice in the interests of transparency and accountability. She further advised that staff are required to comply with their obligations under relevant ethics and governance provisions, including declaring any actual or potential conflicts of interest and take appropriate steps in accordance with the Council's ethics and governance requirements.

Cllr. A. Curran requested clarification on the different zoning classifications.

Mr. E. Lynch provided an overview of the relevant zoning classifications to include Residential (R), Agricultural (A), and Agricultural High Amenity (G), outlining their purpose and associated development considerations.

Mr. E. Lynch provided an overview of the Residential (R) zoning classification, outlining that it facilitates residential development at an indicative density of up to 50 dwellings per hectare through a mix of housing types.

3. Business Prescribed by Statute

(b) Section 13 of the Planning and Development 2000 (as amended) Variation No. 2 of Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029 – Material Alterations – to consider for adoption.

Mr. E. Lynch advised that no changes were proposed to Sites 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. He further noted that the commitment given by the Chief Executive at the June 2026 meeting was currently being progressed.

Mr. E. Lynch recommended that each Proposed Material Alteration be considered individually and put to a vote to consider the following -

- Rezone lands at Cappagh Road (Site 1) from unzoned to Residential (R).
- Rezone lands at Coolagh Road (Site 3) from unzoned to Agriculture (A).
- Rezone lands at Roscam (Site 9a) from unzoned to Agriculture (A).
- Rezone lands at Roscam (Sites 9b, 10a, 10b) from unzoned to Residential (R) and apply Specific Objectives.
- Rezone lands at Roscam (Site 10c) from unzoned to Residential (R2) and apply a Specific Objective.

Site 1 - Cappagh Road

On a point of accuracy, Cllr. A. Curran requested that an error in the National Transport Authority (NTA) submission reference to Ross Hill Road be amended. This was noted.

Concerns were expressed by Elected Members regarding infrastructure, transport, flood risk and future development considerations and clarification was provided in response to queries.

Cllr. A. Curran proposed accepting the Chief Executive's recommendation. This was seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons.

Cllr. D. Lyons requested a consideration of the lands and a review of the available infrastructure as part of the review of the City Development Plan. Mr. E. Lynch advised that there will be an assessment of the available infrastructure and suitability of the land as part of the comprehensive review in preparation for the 10-year development plan.

Area: 4.72ha
Recommendation as per Proposed Variation published 28/11/25:
Rezone to Agriculture (A)
Proposed Material Alteration:
Rezone to Residential (R)

Proposed By: Cllr. A. Curran		**Seconded By:** Cllr. D. Lyons		
To accept CE Recommendations to zone Site 1 - Cappagh Road, Area 4.72ha, as Agriculture (A)				
Present: 16	**In Favour:** 16	**Against:** 0	**Abstain:** 0	**Absent:** 2
Result: This Motion was carried.				

Site No. 2 - Ballindooley

Area: 4.128ha
Recommendation as per proposed variation: Rezone to Agriculture (A)
Proposed Material Alteration: No alteration (as per original proposal)
CE Response: No alteration (as per original proposal)
Mr. E. Lynch advised that no vote was required.

Site 3 - Coolagh Road

Area: 0.476ha
Recommendation as per Proposed Variation published 28/11/25:
Rezone to Agriculture High Amenity (G)
Proposed Material Alteration:
Agriculture (A)

Proposed By: Cllr. F. Fahy		**Seconded By:** Cllr. D. McDonnell		
To zone Site 3 – Coolagh Road, Area: 0.476ha as Agriculture (A) and include the following non-material amendment and clarification: "Any proposed development on the site shall be suitably designed to take account of the topography of the site and shall have regard to Protected View No. 2, as listed in Table 5.9 of the Galway City Development Plan 2023–2029."				
Present: 16	**In Favour:** 16	**Against:** 0	**Abstain:** 0	**Absent:** 2
Result: This Motion was carried.				

Site No. 4 – Quarry Road Menlo

Area: 0.47ha
Recommendation as per proposed variation: Rezone to Agriculture (A)
Proposed Material Alteration: No Alteration (as per original proposal)
CE Response: No alteration (as per original proposal)

Mr. E. Lynch advised that no vote was required.

Site No. 5 – Two sites on Monument Road Menlo

Area: Northern Lands: 0.45ha and Southern Lands: 0.2ha
Recommendation as per proposed variation: Rezone to Agriculture (A)
Proposed Material Alteration: No alteration (as per original proposal)
CE Response: No alteration (as per original proposal)

Mr. E. Lynch advised that no vote was required.

Site No. 6 – Off School Road Castlegar

Area: 3.7ha
Recommendation as per proposed variation: Rezone to Agriculture (A)
Proposed Material Alteration: No alteration (as per original proposal)
CE Response: No alteration (as per original proposal)
E. Lynch: Lands will be part of Castlegar Area Plan, consultants engaged regarding transport and urban design input. Commitment given in June is under.

Mr. E. Lynch advised that no vote was required.

Site No. 7 – School Road Castlegar

Area: 3.99ha
Recommendation as per proposed variation: Rezone to Agriculture (A)
Proposed Material Alteration: No alteration (as per original proposal)
CE Response: No alteration (as per original proposal)

Mr. E. Lynch advised that no vote was required.

Site No. 8 – Coast Road

Area: 2.39ha
Recommendation as per proposed variation: Rezone to Agriculture High Amenity (G)

Add Specific Objective: In compliance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines, uses under the Agriculture High Amenity (G) zoning objective at this site shall be limited to water compatible uses in Flood Zone A, and less vulnerable or water compatible uses in Flood Zone B subject to site specific flood risk assessment.
Proposed Material Alteration: No alteration (as per original proposal)
CE Response: No alteration (as per original proposal)

Mr. E. Lynch advised that no vote was required.

Roscam Zonings
In considering the proposed zoning amendments in Roscam Peninsula area, that had gone on display at material alterations stage, the Members considered that a targeted residential zoning would accommodate a pattern of limited new development that is consistent with the character of this part of the Roscam Peninsula. They noted near and distant views of these lands and considered that development of the type to be accommodated would not unduly impact on these views.

They noted archaeological potential as raised in submissions, that the subject lands lie outside of identified zones of archaeological potential and that appropriate investigation and mitigation measures could be considered as part of development management processes.

The members noted that this is a type of development that is not being accommodated elsewhere in the City Development Plan and stated that the proposed material alterations would have a contribution to meeting an identified housing need.

In considering the Material Alterations, the Members placed emphasis on the requirement that development of any new homes on the newly R zoned lands is contingent on connection to the water and wastewater services. Further they noted that this would be a planning gain, as it will lead to the extension of the wastewater network in the area and enable existing housing in the area, with aging individual

wastewater treatment systems, to connect to the public wastewater sewer when upgrading these systems as they reach end of life.

The members included a written objective restricting the type of development allowable in this area to low density residential type development – consistent with the existing area.

Site 9a – Roscam

Mr. E. Lynch advised the Proposed Material Alteration would not allow for multiple dwellings.

Elected Members sought clarification on when the outcome of a vote would take effect, whether affected properties could be sold on the open market, and whether any enurement clause would apply before a property could be resold.

Mr. E. Lynch responded to queries raised. The variation would take effect immediately, however there is a further process where the OPR would review the decisions made and could make a recommendation to the Minister regarding a direction. An enurement or occupancy clause - would apply to the development of a dwelling on lands where local need is a material consideration of the planning decision i.e. lands zoned agricultural.

Cllr. D. McDonnell proposed accepting the Proposed Material Alteration. This was seconded by Cllr. F. Fahy.

Area: Northern Lands: 0.95ha
Recommendation as per Proposed Variation published 28/11/25:
Rezone to Agriculture High Amenity (G)
Proposed Material Alteration:
Rezone to Agriculture (A)

Proposed By: Cllr. D. McDonnell		**Seconded By:** Cllr. F. Fahy		
To zone Site 9a - Roscam, Area: Northern Lands: 0.95ha as Proposed Zoning: Agriculture (A)				
Present: 16	**In Favour:** 16	**Against:** 0	**Abstain:** 0	**Absent:** 2
Result: This Motion was carried.				

Site 9b – Roscam

Elected Members raised a number of queries regarding the proposed residential zoning and future occupancy arrangements. In response, Mr. E. Lynch advised that the rezoning would facilitate a limited number of residential units, subject to planning permission, and that no occupancy restrictions could be applied to lands zoned residential.

Cllr. D. McDonnell proposed accepting the Proposed Material Alteration. This was seconded by Cllr. N. McNelis

Area: Southern lands: 1.145ha
Recommendation as per Proposed Variation published 28/11/25:
Rezone to Agriculture High Amenity (G)
Proposed Material Alteration:
Rezone to Residential (R)

Add Specific Objective:
Rezone to R for development of maximum 3 units subject to connection to water and wastewater services and subject to proper planning and sustainable development.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. McDonnell		**Seconded By:** Cllr. N. McNelis		
To zone Site 9b - Roscam, Area: Southern lands: 1.145ha as Proposed Zoning: Residential (R), with specific objective: Rezone to R for development of maximum 3 units subject to connection to water and wastewater services and subject to proper planning and sustainable development.				
Present: 16	**In Favour:** 14	**Against:** 2	**Abstain:** 0	**Absent:** 2
Result: This Motion was carried.				

Mayor Ogbu departed the meeting at this point and Cllr. J. McDonagh assumed the Chair.

Site 10a - Roscam

Cllr. D. McDonnell proposed accepting the Proposed Material Alteration. This was seconded by Cllr. F. Fahy.

Area: 0.88ha
Recommendation as per Proposed Variation published 28/11/25:
Rezone to Agriculture (A)
Proposed Material Alteration:
Rezone to Residential (R)

Add Specific Objective:
Rezone to R for a maximum 3 units subject to connection to water and wastewater services and subject to proper planning and sustainable development.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. McDonnell		**Seconded By:** Cllr. F. Fahy		
To zone Site 10a - Roscam, Area: 0.88ha as Proposed Zoning: Residential (R), with specific objective: Rezone to R for a maximum 3 units subject to connection to water and wastewater services and subject to proper planning and sustainable development.				
Present: 15	**In Favour:** 14	**Against:** 1	**Abstain:** 0	**Absent:** 3
Result: This Motion was carried.				

Mayor Ogbu returned to the meeting at 13:50pm and resumed the Chair.

Site 10b - Roscam

Area: 1ha
Recommendation as per Proposed Variation published 28/11/25
Rezone to Agriculture (A)
Proposed Material Alteration:
Rezone to Residential (R)

Add Specific Objective:
Rezone to R for a maximum of 12 units, subject to connection to water and wastewater services and subject to proper planning and sustainable development.

Cllr. D. McDonnell proposed to accept Proposed Material Alteration to Rezone to Residential (R) stating there was existing housing surrounding this land and the need for consolidation of needs this was seconded by Cllr F. Fahy.

Cllr. A. Curran proposed accepting the Chief Executive's recommendation to rezone the lands to Agriculture (A). The proposal was seconded by Cllr. E. Seoighthe.

Proposed By: Cllr. A. Curran		**Seconded By:** Cllr. E. Seoighthe		
To accept the CE recommendation to zone site 10b Roscam, Area 1ha as Agriculture (A).				
Present: 16	**In Favour:** 2	**Against:** 13	**Abstain:** 1	**Absent:** 2
Result: This Motion was defeated				

The following motion was then considered.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. McDonnell		**Seconded By:** Cllr. F. Fahy		
To zone Site 10b - Roscam, Area: 1ha as Proposed Zoning: Residential (R), with specific objective: Rezone to R for a maximum of 12 units, subject to connection to water and wastewater services and subject to proper planning and sustainable development.				
Present: 16	**In Favour:** 14	**Against:** 2	**Abstain**: 0	**Absent:** 2
Result: This Motion was carried.				

Cllr. D. Lyons proposed, at 2:00 p.m., that the meeting be extended to allow for completion of Variation. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty and agreed by the members.

Site 10c - Roscam

Area: Southern Lands: 0.91ha
Recommendation as per Proposed Variation published 28/11/25
Rezone to Agriculture (A)
Proposed Material Alteration:
Rezone to Residential (R2)

Add Specific Objective:
Rezone to R2 for a maximum of one additional unit subject to proper planning and sustainable development.

Cllr. J. McDonagh sought clarification regarding the potential for downsizing and whether this could be incorporated into the proposed amendment.
Cllr. M. Crowe noted that, for completeness, the word "Additional" should be included in the wording of the amendment.
Mr. E. Lynch responded to the queries, advising that the proposed change did not constitute a further material amendment. He further advised that the inclusion of the word "Additional" could be accommodated as part of the proposal.

Cllr. M. Crowe proposed accepting the Proposed Material Alteration to rezone the lands to Residential (R2). The proposal was seconded by Cllr. J. McDonagh.

Proposed By: Cllr. M.J. Crowe		**Seconded By:** Cllr. J. McDonagh		
To zone 10c Roscam, Area: Southern Lands 0.91ha as Proposed Zoning: Residential (R2), with specific objective: Rezone to R2 for a maximum of one additional unit subject to proper planning and sustainable development.				
Present: 15	**In Favour:** 14	**Against:** 1	**Abstain:** 0	**Absent:** 3
Result: This motion was carried.				

Ms. A. Rohan formally read the Final Resolution.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons		**Seconded By**: Cllr. D. McDonnell		
To approve Final Resolution Proposed Variation No. 2 That Galway City Council, having considered the Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Galway City Development Plan 2023–2029, the Chief Executive's Reports, the submissions and observations received, and the associated environmental assessments including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Appropriate Assessment screening reports and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, hereby resolves, pursuant to Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, to make Variation No. 2 to the Galway City Development Plan 2023–2029, comprising: 1. the Proposed Variation as considered by the Elected Members at the Plenary Meeting held on 9 March 2026; 2. the proposed material alterations arising from the resolutions of the Elected Members on 9 March 2026, as subsequently placed on public display, insofar as those material alterations have been approved by resolution of the Elected Members at the Plenary Meeting held on 7 September 2026; and 3. the non-material amendments and clarifications approved by resolution of the Elected Members at the Plenary Meeting held on 7 September 2026. The Variation shall be finalised and consolidated in accordance with the individual resolutions adopted by the Elected Members at the meeting of 7 September 2026, together with the associated final environmental reports including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Appropriate Assessment screening determinations and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.				
Present: 15	**In Favour:** 15	**Against:** 0	**Abstain:** 0	**Absent:** 3
Result: This Motion was carried.				

Cllr. F. Fahy queried whether the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) could overturn decisions made by the Council at the meeting.

Mr. E. Lynch advised that the OPR does not overturn decisions directly, however, it may review the decision and make recommendations to the Minister.

The meeting recessed for a break at 2.15p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 3p.m. At this stage, Mayor Ogbu proposed that the meeting conclude at 5:30p.m. This was proposed by Cllr. D. Lyons, seconded by Cllr. J. McDonagh and agreed by all members.

5. Consideration of Reports of Officials

(c) Merlin Woods Restoration - for noting.

The Chief Executive informed Members that the update on the Merlin Woods Restoration Project had been requested by the Corporate Policy Group (CPG) and was being provided for information purposes. He highlighted that the meeting was intended to update Members on the project and was not a public consultation process. He further noted the importance of addressing the identified health and safety risks within the woodland.

Ms. L. Smyth briefed Members on the condition of the woodland, the findings of technical and ecological assessments, and the rationale for the proposed restoration works.

Elected Members welcomed the presentation and raised a range of queries relating to the project's progress, funding, procurement process, stakeholder engagement, ecological impacts, biodiversity protection measures, and the proposed replanting programme.

Members raised concerns regarding communication of the project to local residents. In response, Ms. Smyth clarified a number of matters and noted that some concerns raised had arisen from misunderstandings of the technical reports and their recommendations.

A number of Members emphasised the importance of progressing the works to address identified health and safety risks.

Ms. L. Smyth and Mr. P. Greene responded to the matters raised, providing clarification on the condition of the woodland, the proposed restoration works, procurement and funding, biodiversity and proposed replanting programme. They also addressed concerns regarding stakeholder engagement and public communication.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

(a) Minutes of July Plenary Council Meeting held on 13 July 2026.

Proposed By: Cllr. N. McNelis	**Seconded By:** Cllr. J. McDonagh
Resolved to adopt the Minutes of the July Plenary Meeting held on 13 July 2026.	
The minutes were agreed and adopted.	

On Points of accuracy, Cllr. J. McDonagh requested that the Chief Executive's commitment to work with the residents of Shantalla be reflected in the minutes.
Cllr. D. Lyons stated that the reference to Ard Cré in the June Plenary Meeting minutes was not rectified and requested an update on the Taking in Charge Policy.
Cllr. A. Curran stated that he did not abstain from the vote on the Lands at Shantalla item but had voted against the proposal.

(b) Minutes of July Special Council Meeting held on 20 July 2026.

Proposed By: Cllr. N. McNelis	**Seconded By:** Cllr. D. Lyons
Resolved to adopt the Minutes of the July Special Meeting held on 20 July 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 – Cross Street Rejuvenation Project - to consider for approval.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons		**Seconded By:** Cllr. N. McNelis		
Resolved to adopt Cross Street Rejuvenation Project.				
Present: 16	**In Favour:** 16	**Against:** 0	**Abstain:** 0	**Absent:** 2
Result: The motion was carried.				

(c) Section 9, Road Traffic Act 2004 Galway City Council Special Speed Limit Bye Laws 2026 – to consider for adoption.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons		**Seconded By:** Cllr. N. McNelis		
Resolved to adopt under Section 9, Road Traffic Act 2004 Galway City Council Special Speed Limit Bye Laws 2026.				
Present: 16	**In Favour:** 16	**Against:** 0	**Abstain:** 0	**Absent:** 2
Result: The Motion was carried.				

(d) Circular Fin. 08/2026: 2027 Budget meeting and other budgetary matters. To fix the date of the Annual Budget Meeting proposed date: Monday 23 November 2026 at 3p.m.

Cllr. N. McNelis queried when the Draft Budget would be available for Members consideration.

Ms. H. Kilroy briefed Members on the budget timeline, advising that Government funding allocations were expected in the following week. She advised that the Draft Budget and Budget Book would be circulated to Members in advance of the Statutory Annual Budget Meeting and that a programme of budget workshops would be arranged.

Cllr. A. Curran queried whether a meeting would be scheduled with the Galway Business Forum in advance of the budget meeting.

The Chief Executive confirmed that a meeting would be arranged and advised on the budget that a funding gap existed, which would necessitate an increase in revenue collection.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. McDonnell	**Seconded By:** Cllr. D. Lyons
That Galway City Council, in accordance with Circular Fin. 08/2026: 2027 Budget Meeting and Other Budgetary Matters, hereby fixes the date of the Statutory Annual Budget Meeting for the adoption of the 2027 Budget as Monday, 23 November 2026 at 3:00p.m.	
Result: The Motion was carried.	

(e) Section 51, Local Government Act 2001 (as amended)

Tourism Development Strategic Policy Committee – Replacement of Galway City Community Network (GCCN) Representative.

Members considered the nomination of Ms. Eimear Greaney by Galway City Community Network (GCCN) to fill the vacancy on the Tourism Development Strategic Policy Committee arising from the resignation of Ms. Megs Morley. The appointment was approved.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. McDonnell		**Seconded By:** Cllr. D. Lyons		
Resolved to approve the appointment of Ms. Eimear Greaney as an external member of the Tourism Development Strategic Policy Committee.				
Present: 16	**In Favour:** 16	**Against:** 0	**Abstain:** 0	**Absent:** 2
Result: The appointment was approved.				

Social Development Strategic Policy Committee – Replacement of Galway Development / Construction Representative

Members were informed that Mr. Gerard McIntyre has been nominated to replace Mr. Eoin Waldron as the Construction Sector Representative on the Social Development Strategic Policy Committee. Members resolved to approve the appointment.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. McDonnell		**Seconded By:** Cllr. D. Lyons		
Resolved to approve the appointment of Mr. Gerard McIntyre as an external member of the Social Development Strategic Policy Committee.				
Present: 16	**In Favour:** 16	**Against:** 0	**Abstain:** 0	**Absent:** 2
Result: The appointment was approved.				

(f) Section 46, Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) – Amendment to Schedule of Ordinary Meetings: Change of Meeting Time to facilitate Galway Culture Company, proposed date: Monday 12 October 2026 at 12p.m.

Mayor Ogbu requested that the meeting commence at 2p.m. instead of 12p.m., and it was agreed that the meeting schedule would be amended accordingly.

Proposed By: Cllr. H. Ogbu	**Seconded By:** Cllr. A. Curran
Amendment to Schedule of Ordinary Meetings: Change of Meeting Time to facilitate Galway Culture Company, proposed date: Monday 12 October 2026 at 2p.m.	
Result: The Motion was carried.	

(g) Galway Regional Aquatic Centre Funding - To consider the raising of a loan

Ms. H. Kilroy outlined the proposed loan requirement for the Galway Regional Aquatic Centre.

Elected Members raised queries regarding the governance structure, the potential for a Council equity stake, loan repayment arrangements, funding of any future cost overruns and the long-term financial sustainability of the project.

Members also highlighted the importance of balanced sporting facility provision for the east of the city.

In response to queries, Ms. H. Kilroy provided clarification on the proposed loan arrangements, due diligence undertaken, and the legal and grant agreements being progressed.

Members requested further information prior to making a decision and following discussion it was agreed that consideration of the loan would be deferred pending completion of the tender process and further financial costings.

4. Reports of Committee Meetings

(a) Draft notes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 1 September 2026 - for noting.

Ms. A. Rohan informed Members that three vacancies existed on the Civic Naming Committee and invited nominations to support balanced representation on the Committee of both elected members and the executive.

Members were briefed on the development of a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system for Councillors and members invited to participate in the design phase.

Ms. A. Rohan also highlighted that the Councillors' Mid-Term Review of Strategic Priorities meeting would take place on 22 September 2026, with the Senior Management Team in attendance.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. McDonnell	**Seconded By:** Cllr. N. McNelis
Resolved to adopt the notes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held 1 September 2026.	
Result: The notes were adopted and agreed.	

(b) Report from the Grants Committee meeting held on 28 August 2026 - to consider for approval.

The Report from the Grants Committee Meeting held on 28 August 2026 was considered. The report contained recommendations in respect of the Galway City Council Shopfront Enhancement Scheme 2026, the Galway City Council Sports Club Grant 2026 and the CAIRDE 2027 Grant Programme.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. McDonnell		**Seconded By:** Cllr. D. Lyons		
Resolved that the Report from the Grants Committee Meeting held on 28 August 2026 be adopted.				
Present: 16	**In Favour:** 16	**Against:** 0	**Abstain:** 0	**Absent:** 2
Result: Agreed				

5. Consideration of Reports of Officials

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

Cllr. A. Curran queried the deadline for the submission of questions for inclusion in the Monthly Management Report.
The Chief Executive advised that the questions can be submitted at any time and will be responded to accordingly.

Proposed By: Cllr. E. Hoare	**Seconded By:** Cllr. J. McDonagh
Resolved to note the Monthly Management Report for August 2026.	
Result: Monthly Management report noted.	

(b) Parking Report - for noting.

Discussion took place regarding the timing of the Parking Report.
Cllr. T. O'Flaherty proposed that consideration of the item be deferred until after the Parking Workshop.

Cllr. N. McNelis stressed the importance of convening the Parking Workshop in advance of the Budget Meeting.

In response, Mr. P. Greene advised Members that dates would be circulated for the Parking Workshop, to take place before the end of October. Mr. Greene advised that a kerbside assessment is currently underway, the findings of which will assist and inform Members' consideration of the matter.

Proposed By: Cllr. T. O'Flaherty	**Seconded By:** Cllr. D. Lyons
Resolved that consideration of the Parking Report be deferred until after the Parking Workshop has been held, which is scheduled to take place before the end of October.	
Result: This Motion was carried.	

6. Notice of Motions

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 17/2026, submitted by Cllr. Eibhlín 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.

It was noted that this item was being reviewed by the Procedures Committee.
Ms. A. Rohan extended an invitation from Adam Stoneman to Councillors to visit the Museum.

NOM 32/2026, submitted by Cllr. Eddie Hoare on 06/06/2026

That Galway City Council commit to the roll out of beach wheelchair mats on suitable city beaches during the Summer months.

In 2023, the ownership of beach wheelchairs was transferred from Ability West to Galway City Council. It was hoped that this would promote more usage of the wheelchairs. Unfortunately, this hasn't been the case as the wheelchairs are not functional without the wheelchair mats.

Mayo County Council successfully implemented the beach wheelchair mats in Summer 2025 and this was a great successful and used by many.

We need to strive to make public spaces more accessible and this is another example where Galway City Council must show leadership.
Response issued 23 July 2026

Cllr. E. Hoare acknowledged the Parks and Environment Team for their work in relation to Notice of Motion 32/2026.

NOM 33/2026, submitted by Cllr. Eddie Hoare on 07/06/2026

That this Council write to the Minister of State for Road Transport Seán Canney T.D and the National Transport Authority expressing the support of the Elected Members for the revision of Route 44 under the new Bus Connects proposals for Galway put forward by the Galway City Council Active Travel team in January 2026.

This revised proposal was put forward by the Active Travel in Galway City Council in January 2026 and includes a minor revision of the new Route 44 to include Circular Road. This minor revision as proposed by Galway City Council would provide bus connectivity for all the new residents along Letteragh Road and the residents of Circular Road (c. 1,500 residents).

For clarity the existing proposal would see Route 44 run every 20 minutes from the Gateway Shopping Centre - Western Distributor Road - Clybaun Road Upper - Rahoon Road - - Seamus Quirke Road – Lower Newcastle Road - University Road - Cathedral - City Centre and onto Ballybrit Industrial Estate.
The revised route would see the bus turn left onto Circular Road Lower, continue up the hill and turn right onto Circular Road and then proceed along Newcastle Road along the N59 as per existing route.

This is now even more important given the recent revision of the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029 to incorporate further development in Letteragh Road and along Circular Road. These future planned developments will ensure that any concerns regarding road width in certain locations will be addressed before the proposed Bus Connects Routes commence.
This item should also be included on the next agenda of Galway City Council and the Galway Oireachtas Members.

NOM 34/2026, submitted by Cllr. Eddie Hoare on 07/06/2026

That this Council write to the relevant Ministerial Office to explore the potential to allow School Wardens to work after the age of 70 subject to medical certification. At present, there is a severe shortage of school wardens and existing panels are extremely difficult to fill.

In recent months, Bus Éireann in consultation with the Departments of Education and Transport commenced a 2-year trial to allow certain bus drivers to work up to the age of 72 subject to medical certification every 6 months. This trial provides an extension of 2 years and won't impact existing pension arrangements.

This proposal if accepted will help to alleviate the existing challenges in replacing school wardens in schools around the country and will have a positive impact on road safety of school going children.
Response issued 23 July 2026.

Cllr. E. Hoare proposed writing to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to explore the possibility of introducing a pilot scheme next year, noting that the number of school wardens is decreasing year on year.

Proposed By: Cllr. E. Hoare		**Seconded By:** Cllr. D. Lyons		
Resolved to approve Notice of Motion 34/2026				
Present: 13	**In Favour:** 13	**Against:** 0	**Abstain:** 0	**Absent:** 5
Result: This motion was carried.				

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.

Cllr. D. Lyons requested item be left on the agenda.

NOM 36/2026, submitted by Cllr. Alan Curran on 19/06/2026
That this council will issue an invitation to the Minister for Education, Hildegarde Naughton, to attend a special meeting on the provision of pre-school, primary and post-primary education in the city. With our population predicted to rise by over 40,000 by 2040, and with the recent variations of the city development plan, it is imperative that there is sufficient school capacity in our city to meet this increase in demand. Matter on the agenda of the Oireachtas meeting held 27 July 2026.

Cllr. A. Curran requested this invitation be extended to Minister for Education, Hildegarde Naughton.

Proposed By: Cllr. A. Curran		**Seconded By:** Cllr. E. Seoighthe		
Resolved to approve Notice of Motion 36/2026				
Present: 13	**In Favour:** 13	**Against:** 0	**Abstain:** 0	**Absent:** 5
Result: This motion was carried.				

NOM 38/2026, submitted by Cllr. Eibhlín Seoighthe on 02/07/2026
That this council recognises that the continued presence of a Seveso site in Galway docks is incompatible with the full regeneration potential of the city's waterfront. We resolve to seek funding from the government to facilitate the removal of the Seveso site from the docks. Furthermore, we call on the Government to introduce or re-establish a relocation support scheme modelled on the reliefs previously provided for in Part 11D of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997, including appropriate tax reliefs and other financial supports to facilitate the removal and relocation of Seveso establishments from Galway Docks.

The Chief Executive advised that there was a live appeal with An Coimisiún Pleanála and that engagement with the Government Department would be necessary to progress the matter.
Cllr. P. Keane suggested calling on the Government and Minister Canney involvement.

Proposed By: Cllr. E. Seoighthe		**Seconded By:** Cllr. P. Keane		
To write to Minister Canney to seek funding and support from the government to facilitate the removal of the Seveso site from the docks.				
Present: 13	**In Favour:** 13	**Against:** 0	**Abstain:** 0	**Absent:** 5
Result: This motion was carried.				

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.

Cllr. E. Seoighthe requested NOM 40/226 remain 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.

It was noted that Notice of Motion 41/2026 had been referred by the Corporate Policy Group to the Tourism Strategic Policy Committee.

Members discussed the potential for a future bid to host the Fleadh Cheoil, including the establishment of a working group and the likely costs involved.

The Chief Executive highlighted the lead-in time and financial commitments involved. It was agreed that the matter would be considered further by the Tourism Strategic Policy Committee, which would report back to Council.

NOM42/2026, submitted by Cllr. Terry O'Flaherty on 17/08/2026
I call on Galway City Council to contact the Department of Environment to resolve the long-running issues surrounding the quality of water 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.

Cllr. T. O'Flaherty NOM 42/2026 to remain on the agenda and would discuss with Mr. P. Greene regarding wording.

NOM 44/2026, submitted by Cllr. Alan Curran on 25/08/2026
This this council will ensure that a dedicated Youth Space of no less than 400 m2 is included in the masterplan for the redevelopment of the current city hall site, to be leased on a long-term basis to all stakeholders involved in the provision of said space. A 2022 report commissioned as a partnership between GRETB, CYSPC Galway and Galway City Council highlighted the absence of dedicated spaces in Galway City for young people to spend their unstructured time, and provided an overview of the urgent need for a dedicated Youth Space in the city to provide targeted youth work initiatives and universal supports to young people. That this Youth Space will be included in phase 1 of any future development at this site.

It was agreed to forward this item to Planning Strategic Policy Committee.

NOM45/2026, submitted by Cllr. Helen Ogbu on 27/08/2026
That Galway City Council: Recognises the serious physical, psychological and social impact of spiking on victims and the wider impact it has on people's confidence and sense of safety, particularly in nightlife and social settings; Acknowledges the work being undertaken by Spiking Ireland in raising awareness of spiking and advocating for stronger protections and supports for victims; Calls on the Minister for Justice to develop a national strategy to tackle spiking, including: 1. Consideration of standalone legislation specifically addressing spiking; 2. Enhanced support and information for victims, including appropriate medical, psychological and reporting supports; and 3. Greater public awareness and prevention measures, particularly in relation to nightlife and other social settings. Further calls on the Minister to engage with Spiking Ireland, An Garda Síochána, healthcare providers, local authorities, the hospitality sector, students' organisations and relevant community and victim-support organisations in developing the strategy.

Proposed By: Cllr. H. Ogbu		**Seconded By:** Cllr. E. Hoare		
Resolved to approve Notice of Motion 45/2026				
Present: 13	**In Favour:** 13	**Against:** 0	**Abstain:** 0	**Absent:** 5
Result: This motion was carried.				

7. Questions

Q07/2026, submitted by Cllr. Níall McNelis on 30/06/2026
Could the Chief Executive and the Director of Services for Housing and Planning provide the following information please? 1. The number of staff of Galway City Council who are currently dedicated to work in tackling vacancy and dereliction in our city and county? 2. The level of resources provided to our council since 2020 annually for dealing with vacancy and dereliction? 3. The number of enforcement cases taken against owners of premises in this regard? 4. The number of premises brought into housing or other uses as a result of these actions? 5. The level of resources which would be necessary, in terms of dedicated staff numbers and other resources, to substantially increase the results in this area?

Cllr. N. McNelis advised he is still awaiting response.

8. Correspondence

(a) Leitrim County Council, Dated 15 July 2026
Resolution: Renewable Energy Projects and Data Centre Demand
(b) Leitrim County Council, Dated: 15 July 2026
Resolution: Dedicated Cabinet Minister for Construction and Infrastructure Delivery
(c) Leitrim County Council, Dated: 15 July 2026
Resolution: National Investment in Existing Social Housing Stock
(d) Louth County Council, Dated: 15 July 2026
Resolution: Regulation of Vape Shops and Planning Controls
(e) Roscommon County Council, Dated: 29 July 2026
Resolution: Cost Rental Scheme Funding Motion
(f) Roscommon County Council, Dated: 29 July 2026
Resolution: Eligibility criteria for CE Schemes
(g) National Oversight and Audit Committee, Dated: 6 August 2026
Public Spending Code and Infrastructure Guidelines Report 2025
(h) The Electoral Commission, Dated: 13 August 2026
Public Consultation - Draft Democracy Education and Public Engagement Strategy
(i) Circular 25/2026 Delivering Homes, Building Communities 2025-2030, Housing Delivery Action Plans 2027-2030, **Dated:** 7 July 2026

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	**Seconded By:** Cllr. P. Keane
Correspondence was noted.	
Result: Noted.	

9. Items for Councillors Information

None raised

10. Conferences & Training

	Provider	Details	Date	Location
(a)	Imo Indigenes Ireland (Udo Na Idi N'Otu)	Omenimo 2026 Cultural Day – Invitation to Mayor	11 October 2026	Carlton Hotel, Blanchardstown, Dublin.
(b)	Celtic Conferences	A Practical Guide Budget 2027	16-18 October 2026	Four Season's Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth.
(c)	AILG	AGM	23 July 2026	Mullingar Park Hotel, Retrospective approval Cllr. A. Cheevers
(d)	Tolka Park, All Island Cup Final	Dublin	18 July 2026	Tolka Park Retrospective approval Cllr. M. Cubbard (deputising for Mayor)
(d)	Swim Ireland	Swim Ireland Infrastructure and Facility Local Authority Conference	7 October 2026	Cllr. J. McDonagh request for approval to attend.
(e)	LAMA	Autumn Seminar	7 October 2026	The Park Hotel, Dungarven Co. Waterford Cllr. N. Mc Nelis

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	**Seconded By:** Cllr. E. Hoare
Training and Conference were approved.	
Result: Approved	

11. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

Proposed By: Cllr. Cllr. D. Lyons	**Seconded By:** Cllr. T. O'Flaherty
Sonny Quirke R.I.P	Conor Fahy R.I.P
John Murray R.I.P.	Anthony (Tony) McCabe R.I.P.
Máire Uí Bheaglaoich R.I.P.	Tony Quinn R.I.P.
Shane O'Flaherty R.I.P.	Clarence O'Flaherty R.I.P.
Noreen O'Regan R.I.P.	Patricia Devaney (née Real) R.I.P.
Result: Resolved to extend sympathy to the families of the bereaved were offered by the council.	

Cllr. E. Hoare wished to convey his congratulations to the Senior Ladies Football Team on their All-Ireland victory.

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

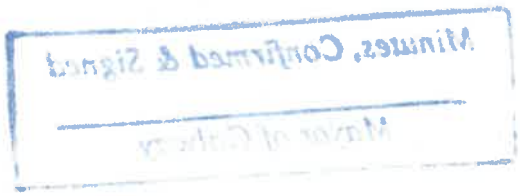
None.

1. Any Other Business

No other business was raised.

The meeting concluded at 5:24p.m.




Minutes, Confirmed & Signed
Mayor of Cache