Comhairle
Cathrach na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council

Fáiltítear roimh
chomhfhreagras i nGaeilge
Correspondence in Irish is welcome

4 Samhain 2026
4 November 2026

Fógra/Notice

Cruinnithe Chomhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council Meeting

Do Gach Ball de Chomhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe:

A Chara,

Tionólfar Gnáthchruinniú de Chomhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe **Dé Luain, 9 Samhain 2026 ag 3.00i.n. i Seomra na Comhairle, Halla na Cathrach, Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe agus ar líne trí MS Teams.**
Tá cóip de Chlár an Chruinnithe seo ar fáil ag an bhFáiltiú ar mhaithe le hiniúchadh.

Tá clár an chruinnithe leagtha amach faoi seo.

A Plenary Meeting of Galway City Council will be held on **Monday, 9 November 2026 at 3.00p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Galway City Council and online via MS Teams**.

A copy of the agenda for this meeting is available at Reception for inspection.

The agenda for the meeting is set out hereunder.

Members are requested to send queries regarding Matters Arising relating to Item 2(a) in writing, in advance of the meeting, to the undersigned.

Ailish Rohan,
Riarthóir na gCruinnithe / Meetings Administrator.

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www.GalwayCity.ie

Clár/Agenda
Plenary Meeting, Monday, 9 November 2026 at 3.00p.m.

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

2. **Confirmation of Minutes**

(a) Minutes of October Plenary Council Meeting held on 12 October 2026.

3. **Business Prescribed by Statute**

(a) Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) – Proposed Housing Development of 14 No. Residential Units at Clybaun Road, Knocknacarra – to consider for approval.

(b) Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) – Monivea Road East Active Travel Scheme – to consider for approval.

(c) To consider the recommendation of the Operational Development Strategic Policy Committee regarding the appointment of Galway City Councillor to the Road Safety Together Committee.

4. **Reports of Committee Meetings**

(a) Draft notes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 2 November 2026 – for noting. Recommendation from Civic Naming Committee – Maolra Seoighe.

5. **Consideration of Reports of Officials**

(a) Monthly Management Report for October – for noting.

6. Notice of Motions

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 05/10/2026 to place this motion as first NOM on the agenda. Response issued 12/10/2026.

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.

NOM39/2026, submitted by Cllr Donal Lyons on 04/07/2026 (previous NoM 43/2025)

I am requesting Galway City Council to examine the feasibility of installing a pedestrian crossing at the junction of the Cappagh Road and Barna Road to facilitate pedestrians to cross the busy Barna Road.

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.

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.

Response issued 02/11/2026.

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."

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.

NOM56/2026, submitted by Cllr. Níall 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.

NOM57/2026, submitted by Cllr. Eddie Hoare on 10/10/2026

That this Council commits to completing an extensive review with other relevant authorities of all major lighted junctions in Galway City.
This review should include the consideration of installing filter lights and also improved technologies at junctions to help improve traffic flow and operational effectiveness for all road users.

NOM58/2026, submitted by Cllr. Josie Forde on 21/10/2026

"That Galway City Council formally agree to support the delivery of outdoor dining and work with eligible businesses to get outdoor dining licences for 2027 operating in Woodquay and the West End area, subject to the necessary requirements and regulations."

Outdoor dining makes a significant contribution to Galway's local economy, providing an important source of income for businesses while enhancing the atmosphere and attractiveness of our city for residents and visitors alike.

Our local businesses face considerable financial pressures, including commercial rates, rent, staffing costs and other operating expenses. Many rely heavily on outdoor dining to generate additional revenue and sustain their businesses throughout the year, particularly during the busier tourism months. These businesses contribute significantly to Galway's economy, support local employment and help make our city a vibrant and welcoming destination. Given the considerable charges and costs they already incur, it is important that they receive certainty regarding their outdoor dining arrangements for 2027 so they can plan ahead with confidence.

I believe Galway City Council has a responsibility to work collaboratively with these businesses, support the continuation of outdoor dining and ensure that the licensing process is progressed in a timely manner.

7. Questions

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.

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

Response issued 22/10/2026

Q17/2026, submitted by Cllr. Shane Forde on 06/10/2026

During the East Area Committee Meeting Cllr. Forde has requested an update be circulated in writing to all elected members of the East Ward in relation to the status of the proposed cemetery on the Dublin Road.

Response issued 29/10/226.

Q18/2026, submitted by Cllr. J. McDonagh 29/10/2026

Can the Chief Executive confirm what percentage of Galway City Council's housing stock has been tested for radon, what percentage of those tested recorded levels above the recommended reference level of 200 Bq/m³, and what remedial measures have been taken?

Can the Chief Executive also provide any available information on radon testing and levels recorded in privately owned homes across Galway City?

8. Correspondence

(a) Monaghan County Council, Dated: 12 October 2026.
Resolution: Reform Emergency Care for Mental Health.

(b) Wexford County Council, Dated: 13 October 2026.
Resolution: Transparency in Crime Data Reporting.

(c) Roscommon County Council, Dated: 22 October 2026.
Resolution: School Transport Scheme.

(d) Limerick City & County Council, Dated: 22 October 2026.
Resolution: Increase Paternity Leave.

(e) Department of Education and Youth, Dated: 20 October 2026.
Response to Notice of Motion 36-2026 RE: Future School Provision.

9. Items for Councillors Information

10. Conferences & Training

	Provider	Details	Date	Location
(a)	ECCAR (European Coalition of Cities Against Racism)	ECCAR General Assembly and Steering Committee Meeting	11-12 November 2026	Oslo, Norway Approval for Mayor H. Ogbu
(b)	AILG	AILG Autumn Seminar	30 September to 1 October 2026	Clanree Hotel, Co. Donegal. Retrospective approval for Cllr. J. McDonagh
(c)	AILG	National SPC Development Series – Module 2: Developing Effective Local Policy through SPCs	04 November 2026	Sligo Park Hotel
(d)	AILG	National SPC Development Series Module 3: Stakeholder Engagement and Collaborative Policy Development	10 November 2026 10am - 12pm	Online Webinar
(e)	AILG	AILG-OPR-HA Training – Compact Development & Multi Unit Developments	13 November 2026	Online Webinar
(f)	AILG	Local Authority Archives – Protecting Community Heritage, Infrastructure and Democracy.	14 November 2026	Clayton Hotel, Galway.
(g)	AILG	Empowerabilities	27 November 2026	Webinar
(h)	NWRA	Rural proof Meeting (Regional Vacancy and Dereliction)	02 December 2026 10am -2pm	Harvey's Point Hotel, Lough Eske, Co. Donegal.
(i)	Celtic Conferences	ChatGPT for Councillors	11 – 13 December 2026	O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.

11. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

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

13. Any Other Business