Galway City Council

Annual Report 2014
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FOREWORD BY THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR DÓNAL LYONS, AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, MR. BRENDAN MC GRATH

Is mór againn Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2014 de chuid Chomhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe a chur in bhur láthair i mbliana. We are pleased to present the 2014 Annual Report of Galway City Council, which records the progress and outlines the achievements across the full spectrum of Galway City Council’s activities for the calendar year, marking the actions and achievements of the Council in further developing and promoting our city. We have been committed to the continued maintenance and delivery of levels of service expected of their Council by the people of Galway.

Ours is an international city with strong links overseas and we are delighted to have represented Galway at home and abroad in 2014. It has given us great satisfaction to see the awarding of both the Purple Flag accreditation – an international award which recognises our city as a safe, welcoming and vibrant one - and the designation of Galway as a UNESCO City of Film, which brings the highest internationally recognised standard of excellence in the creative industries to the west.

Galway City Council has worked to promote co-ordination and co-operation between local and public authorities and other organisations and to harness the energies of all in the best interests of the city. Over the past year, we have laboured determinedly to strengthen and develop the unique characteristics of Galway and enhance its standing as a place that people are proud to call home, where investors and businesses are keen to commit and where visitors enjoy a positive and welcoming experience. Against a background of constricted financial, administrative and human resources, it is a tribute to our staff that Galway City Council has succeeded in maintaining services across all sections.

We would like to express our appreciation to all the staff of Galway City Council for their hard work, enthusiasm and commitment to Galway and its people, and to all who have contributed to the formulation of the 2014 Annual Report. We also wish to compliment the Elected Members and to express our gratitude to everyone else in Galway and beyond for their ongoing contribution to the wellbeing of our city, and all who helped and supported us in our work during 2014.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Councillor Dónal Lyons, Mayor of the City of Galway
Mr. Brendan McGrath, Chief Executive, Galway City Council.
Galway City is the gateway city for the West of Ireland. Located on the shores of Galway Bay, within sight of the Atlantic Ocean, the city is surrounded by the phenomenal landscape of Connemara to the west and Lough Corrib to the north. The city is bisected by the river whose stony bed (Gaill Aimh) gave it its name and the city centre is interwoven with canals and mill races which have their origins in the commercial heritage of earlier centuries.

The population of the city has continued to grow from just over 47,000 in 1986 to now stand at 75,114 according to the 2011 Census. This growth not only reflects a national and international trend of increased urbanisation but more specifically reflects the attractiveness of Galway as a city to study in, to work in, to visit and to live in. The rate of population growth has slowed to 4.10% between the 2006 and 2011 Censuses while the population of Galway County has continued to grow at a faster pace of 10%. Throughout the recent years from the 1990s through to the last number of years, employment in the city has increased with areas such as biotechnology, medical devices, information technology and peripherals combining with strong commercial, retail, health, education and public service sectors bolstering employment figures.

Galway is a young, vibrant, learning city. There are close to 40,000 pupils and students in primary, secondary, further and third-level schools and colleges across city. Education and learning is part of the past, the present and the future of the city. Learning and the knowledge society will sustain and develop our city into the 21st century. The challenge of securing the resources and infrastructure required for a learning city is one that City Council is rising to in both the identification of locations for educational and training development and providing the networks for broadband, a basic requirement for the knowledge economy.

Galway is a vibrant multi-cultural city. More than one in ten of the population of the city was born outside of Ireland. This diversity presents everyone in the city with opportunities and challenges. The opportunity exists to integrate people from differing ethnic and national origins in a sustainable intercultural way into the life of the city. The challenge is to build communities, which acknowledge diversity and at the same time work together. These challenges impact on many aspects of the work of City Council including the areas of housing, community development and social inclusion.

Over the years, our city's reputation in Ireland and overseas has been enhanced by the presence of world leaders in the arts like Druid Theatre Company and Galway Arts Festival and festivals such as the Volvo Ocean Race and the Galway Races. Locally based visual artists, writers, musicians, film makers, actors, producers and directors all contribute to the collective gaiety, creative atmosphere, economic mix and cultural identity of the city. Our joint endeavours as a creative city pay dividends,
which nurture and recognise artistic excellence but also infuse the city with a sense of the possibilities which imagination brings.

Galway City Council recognises that a City is constantly changing and evolving to meet the needs of the current generation while also respecting the historical legacy of the City. Working in close association with business, tourism, cultural and community interests the City Council has led the way in infrastructure development, urban generation, service provision enhancements, development of amenities and in creating an environment from which the City can plan into the future.

The challenge of the current economic situation, has been to provide both the immediate supports required by the recently unemployed and also to have in place the mechanisms for re-training, for further and higher education, for personal development and for nurturing local enterprise. Galway City Council is working with its colleagues on Galway City Development Board and with other stakeholders in the city to ensure that these supports are in place and the economy and workforce of the city will be ready to take advantage of the recovery when it comes. The commercial and retail sectors of Galway have learned resilience over the years. The joint challenge for both City Council and the business community will be to provide a sustainable and ultimately thriving local economy.

The role of the local authority continues to change and develop. The centrality and leadership that City Council brings to all aspects of life in the city is growing even stronger. The historic commitment of City Council to infrastructural and service provision is not diminished. However, the lead roles that we now take in sustainable economic development, social inclusion and community development will be further enhanced by the more cohesive, integrated and co-ordinated approach to economic, social, cultural, political and environmental development that City Council will drive with the stakeholders in Galway's future. At the same time, we will work to preserve and conserve the city's unique identity, its heritage and its ecology.
GALWAY CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Galway City East
Councillor Mairéad Farrell (SF)
Councillor Michael Crowe (FF)
Councillor John Walsh (FG)
Councillor Declan McDonnell (NP)
Councillor Noel Larkin (NP)
Councillor Terry O’Flaherty (NP)

Galway City Central
Councillor Billy Cameron (Lab)
Councillor Pádraig Connelly (FG)
Councillor Anna Marley (SF)
Councillor Ollie Crowe (FF)
Councillor Mike Cubbard (NP)
Councillor Frank Fahy (FG)

Galway City West
Councillor Catherine Connolly (NP)
Councillor Peter Keane (FF)
Councillor Dónal Lyons (NP)
Councillor Niall McNelis (Lab)
Councillor Cathal Ó Conchúir (SF)
Councillor Pearce Flannery (FG)

The following were elected members up to June 2014:
Councillor Colette Connolly;
Councillor Michelle Murphy;
Councillor Nuala Nolan; and
Councillor Tom Costello.
Service Objective
To provide suitable and appropriate accommodation in a tenure of choice, at a price or rent that is affordable, in an appropriate environment, to those who are not in a position to provide accommodation from their own resources.

Housing Supply and Demand
The focus on the provision of Social Housing has changed dramatically over the last couple of years. In the past finance was available for the purchase and building of houses to cater for the needs of those on our housing waiting list. Prior to the downturn in the economy Galway City Council had a significant Capital Programme to cover construction and acquisition of dwellings, However, the reduction in capital spending necessitated a restructuring of the social housing investment programme to allow for the delivery of new social housing through more flexible funding models for the years ahead. The Social Housing Leasing Initiative, and in particular the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS), was introduced as new housing options for long-term social housing supports.

Throughout 2014, the City has experienced a lack of supply of new and second-hand housing units across the social spectrum. This has impacted on the delivery of housing options to applicants on the housing waiting list. With rents on an increasing curve, landlords are in a position of strength as to choice of tenants. This is to be seen in the case of individuals or families claiming rent supplement.

The National Social Housing Strategy 2020 that was launched in November 2014 commits to supplying 35,000 additional social housing units nationally over the next 6 years at a cost of €3.8bn. The strategy is based on a multi-annual approach to deliver in two phases over the 6 years. Under the proposals in the strategy, social housing supports will be made more flexible, progressive and targeted over the delivery period.

Construction
In March 2014, the City Council were approved an allocation in the amount of €2.5 million for the construction of 15 housing units under the 2014-2015 Construction and Job Stimulus programme. This allocation included funding in the amount of €335,091 for projects at No. 1 St. Nicholas Road and No. 1 St. Ignatius Terrace in the Claddagh. Work is ongoing on site and expected completion date is February 2015.

The remaining monies € 2,164,909 for 13 units approx. are for the construction of Phase 1 of the Ballymoneen Road housing development. Galway City Council has planning permission for 69 units on the relevant lands. This site is in the Land Aggregation Scheme and the City Council will be applying to have lands released to build all of the units. Approval & appointment of consultants is awaited from the Department and the project will be advanced in early 2015.
Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)
The RAS housing initiative is aimed at persons who are in receipt of rent supplement for a period in excess of 18 months and who have a long term housing need. The main objective of the scheme is that Rent Supplement recipients in Galway City will have their long term housing need catered for by Galway City Council using a combination of accommodation-based solutions. Galway City Council enters into agreements with landlords on a tenancy-by-tenancy arrangement under the administrative options of RAS. In 2014 Galway City Council continued to promote the RAS Scheme. There are currently 487 households on the scheme.

Long Term Leasing (LTL)
The long term leasing initiative is a variation of the RAS scheme. Applicants must be on the City Council’s housing waiting list but do not need to be on rent supplement to qualify for this scheme. Properties are leased from the private sector and used to accommodate households from local authority waiting lists. Leased properties are allocated to tenants in accordance with the local authorities allocations schemes. The City Council enter into lease arrangements with the property owners for periods of between 4 to 10 years. The landlords are responsible for the maintenance of the properties with rent being guaranteed for the whole lease period. Tenants can transfer to either the RAS or LTL Scheme at their current address if their landlord is willing to participate in the schemes and the property meets the requirements of the schemes. The City Council has 112 households on this scheme at the end of 2014.

Voluntary Housing
The principle housing bodies operating in the city are Carraig Dubh, Cheshire, Clúid, COPE, Irish Wheelchair Association, Newgrove, Peter Triest, Respond, Simon and Tuath housing association. There is regular liaison between the City Council and the voluntary bodies having regard to the important role this sector plays in addressing the social housing waiting list. To date, over 570 units have been delivered by the Voluntary sector in the city. The streams of Government funding under this area are the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) and Capital Advance Leasing Facility (C Alf).

A Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) Call for Proposals was launched by the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government in March 2014. The City Council advertised a notice to Approved Voluntary Housing bodies in the local newspaper and on our website to submit proposals for new CAS construction and/or acquisition proposals. Housing Staff met with the voluntary groups and discussed their proposals in detail. The projects were prioritised based on the criteria as outlined in Circular Housing 5/2014 and also having regard to the housing needs of applicants on the Housing Waiting List under the specific categories referred to in the Circular i.e. homeless, older people and people with disability. In May 2014, the Department of the Environment approved a domestic violence refuge/homeless project for nine accommodation units by COPE Galway at 45 Forster Street, Galway in the amount of €1,164,000. The plans for the project are being advanced at present.
The Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF) involves an Approved Housing Body (AHB) securing a minimum of 70% private funding for the acquisition of units for the provision of social housing, with the Department of the Environment Culture and Local Government providing up to 30% of the remaining funding requirement as a Capital Advance through the Local Authority. The Local Authority enters into a long term Payment & Availability Agreement with the AHB as approved by the Department and has 100% nomination rights on the tenancies of the units. The Capital Advance is treated as a loan earning simple interest at a fixed rate of 2% per annum and is repayable by the AHB at the end of the Payment & Availability Agreement. Three projects have been approved under CALF in 2014, 12 units were approved at An Leargan, Ballymoneen Road managed by Tuath Housing Association, 20 units at Boireann Beag, Roscam and 15 units at Cúirt Róisín, both of these projects to be managed by Clúid Housing Association. These units will become available in mid 2015.

Housing Grants – Adaptation, Mobility Aid & Housing Aid for Older People
In 2014, 169 grants under the Housing Adaptation and Mobility Aids Grants and Housing Aid for Older people were paid. The total expenditure on grants for 2014 was €816,675.
A further amount of €201,196 has been spent in respect of Local Authority houses.

HAP – Housing Assistance Payment
The introduction of HAP will fundamentally change how social housing support is provided in Ireland. HAP will be responsible for transferring responsibility for the provision of rental assistance to those with a long-term need from the Dept. of Social Protection to local authorities. The short-term provision of rental assistance will remain with Dept. of Social Protection. Limerick City & County was a pilot area and 7 other Local authorities will have HAP rolled out by the end of 2014. It is envisaged that the other local authorities, including Galway City Council will be rolled out in mid 2015.

Housing Demand
The following are the numbers on the housing waiting list in each basis of need as at 31/12/2014. The first column is in respect of applications to Galway City Council and in the second column is applications received from Galway County Council who have expressed an area of choice in the City.
Waiting List Totalled By Basis of Need

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basis of Need</th>
<th>Galway City</th>
<th>Galway County*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unfit</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overcrowded</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Involuntary Sharing</td>
<td>485</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability Requirement - sensory</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability Requirement - physical</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability Requirement – mental health</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability Requirement - intellectual</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependent on Rent Supplement</td>
<td>1563</td>
<td>211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concluded that Mortgage is unsustainable</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeless, Institution, Emergency Accommodation, Hostel</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsuitable – particular household circumstances</td>
<td>1203</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsuitable – Medical or compassionate grounds</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3856</strong></td>
<td><strong>360</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The housing waiting list as above can be further analysed as follows: The majority of households on the list have expressed the Westside of the city as an area of choice (2,733), followed by the Eastside (2,585) and finally the City Centre (64). The vast majority of the persons waiting on accommodation for all three areas are waiting on 1/2 bed accommodation. These applicants comprise 80% of the list.

Social Housing Allocations

The following table summarises the Social Housing Allocations for 2014:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scheme</th>
<th>Total in 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Housing Allocations</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Housing Leasing Allocations</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAS / LTL Allocations</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>104</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There were 9 refusals of Social Housing, 0 Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) refusals and 3 Long Term Leasing (LTL) refusals in the 4th quarter of 2014.
Housing Operations

Returning Vacant Properties to Use
Throughout 2014, there was an intensive programme of work in train to address existing vacant City Council owned houses. 20 properties were identified under this intensive programme and funding was provided by the DOELG to progress the initiative. Good progress was made during the year and the target was exceeded, with 23 properties benefiting from the initiative. 14 of these properties are now occupied and it is anticipated that the remaining 9 will be occupied in the coming weeks.

Retrofit Works – Deep Retrofit
The programme for vacant properties involves carrying out pre-letting repairs in parallel with energy efficiency works and is being part funded from the retrofitting allocation from the Department of the Environment. The area was targeted in 2014 was the Sliabh Rua estate. Upgrades included roof repairs, attic and wall insulation upgrade, replacement of doors and windows, recommissioning of electrical and plumbing installations, installation of gas fired central heating, temperature & zone controlled heating, insert stove replacing open fire. These deep retrofit upgrades bring the properties to a C1 BER rating. The retrofit works to the vacant properties in the Sliabh Rua estate were finalised and the estate reached 100% occupancy in the fourth quarter of 2014. The tendering for the installation of a CCTV camera progressed in the first quarter and the camera is operational since the end of July 2014.

Basic Fabric Improvement Programme – Shallow Retrofit
The current funded programme for retrofit is to provide a basic fabric improvement to all social housing of cavity wall insulation, attic insulation and draught proofing. 149 properties were insulated under this programme in 2013. Funding was made available from the DOEHLG for the continuation of this programme in 2014. It was anticipated that 200 properties would be completed by year-end. This target was exceeded and 290 properties were completed by end of December 2014. The ventilation was upgraded with permanent vents as part of these works in order to improve the indoor air quality in the properties. This improvement in ventilation will reduce the risk of high humidity, condensation and mould growth.

Radon Remediation
Following Radon testing in all our pre-1997 properties (789), a total of 205 properties required Radon remediation works. The remediation works to the pre-1997 properties was completed in 2014. Following the completion of these works, all these properties have been re-tested to ensure the effectiveness of the works. The programme will now continue in 2015 with the testing of post 1997 properties.
Heating Strategy
The planned maintenance of gas and oil fired boilers continued throughout 2014. This work was done in conjunction with repairs and call-outs. Where call-outs are requested as a consequence of a breakdown, a full service is carried out on the heating appliance. The emergency on-call crew were put on full alert for the Christmas Holiday period and all calls were attended to.

Homelessness
Since 2013, Homeless Services are now provided on a Regional Basis. Each local authority in the West region has a legal responsibility for social housing provision and management within its functional area. Under a shared service arrangement, Galway, Mayo and Roscommon County Council and Galway City Council, as the lead local authority co-ordinate with relevant organisations on homelessness and related service provision. Accordingly, Galway City Council will provide for overall decision-making in the West region from an operational perspective and will do so in concert with the other 3 local authorities.

The Director of Services (Housing), Galway City Council, has overall responsibility for the delegated West Region Homeless Service budget and is responsible for ensuring the management of the budget as determined by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government. The overall funding allocation is aligned to specific categories of expenditure to reflect a housing-led approach and will build upon the approach in the National Homeless Strategy 2008–2013. The City Council chairs the homeless consultative forum and manages devolved funding arrangements. The Western region consists of Galway City, Galway County, Mayo and Roscommon. The budget for 2014 is €1.7 million of which €1.4m was allocated to Galway City Council. Current homeless provision services consist of:

- Emergency residential accommodation at Fairgreen for men (26 bed unit) and at Osterley Lodge for women and children (13 bed unit – 2 of these to be used as family units as appropriate).
- The Cold Weather Initiative is currently in operation in the Fairgreen with approximately an additional provision for up to 9 men. This initiative runs from December to March annually.
- A Day Centre facility run by COPE Galway provides advice, support, advocacy and preventative work is located on the Seamus Quirke road. The family support team also operates from this facility.
- Emergency Accommodation is also provided by Tourist Hostels and B. & B.’s in the City. In the last quarter of 2014 the placements in these emergency services has increased and in particular with regard to family units presenting as homeless.
- Resettlement residential services – Abbey House and Bridge House.
- Galway Simon community based housing ranging from high support units to medium low support projects.
• Capital Assistance funded units managed by Galway Simon.
• Outreach team supporting individuals and families in various accommodation types.
• In 2014 Galway City Council provided two transitional social housing units with support for homeless families, managed by COPE, increasing the number of transitional units to 3.

There has been a marked increase in the demand for homeless services and considerable efforts have been made to work with applicants regarding their housing needs and options available to them. During the year the housing Section continued to work closely with the voluntary housing sector and also strengthened formal relationships with other statutory bodies in relation to supported accommodation and tenancy sustainment services as a follow on from emergency accommodation.

**Implementation Plan on the State’s Response to Homelessness**

The newly published ‘Implementation Plan on the State’s Response to Homelessness – May 2014 to December 2016’ sets out how the government plan to address homelessness over the next two and half years. The Implementation Plan identifies that the availability and supply of secure affordable and adequate housing as essential to achieving this objective. Specifically it aims to deliver 2,700 housing units nationally for homeless people by the end of 2016 with these units to come from a range of sources including vacant Local Authority units, construction, acquisition and NAMA. The number of units to be provided in Galway City is not specified in the plan, but more specifics in terms of figures will follow.

The plan contains 80 actions that are direct, immediate and solutions based and which contribute to the delivery of this ring-fenced supply of accommodation between 2014 and the end of 2016. Responsibility for implementation of the various actions is assigned to the relevant stakeholders. Other specific recommendations of the plan such as the amendment of Local Authorities scheme of allocations for social housing to give priority to vulnerable groups such as homeless families and individuals. The role of rent supplement is also highlighted with particular reference to an initiative in operation in Dublin which allows for the faster processing and access to rent supplement and more flexibility concerning deposits and rent cap ceilings where long term homeless are engaged with service providers.

A number of priority areas have been identified in the plan including the accommodation of rough sleepers, the management and use of vacant properties, the practical application of local authority housing allocations; and the timely and appropriate utilisation of NAMA units.

On the 17th November 2014, a workshop was held by the Galway City Homeless Forum that was attended by all service providers and members of the Local Homeless Forum Committee. The purpose of the workshop was to devise SMART
actions for inclusion in the Local Homeless Plan for Galway City for the period up to 2016. These actions are currently being examined for inclusion in the Local Homeless Plan, which will be finalised in the first quarter of 2015.

**Traveller Accommodation Programme**
The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014 – 2018 was adopted on 24th March 2014 and has been submitted to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government. Key elements of the programme include the following:

- Construction of three permanent halting sites.
- Continued collaboration and consultation between Galway City Council, Travellers, Traveller organisations and the Local Traveller Consultative Committee throughout the implementation of the programme.
- Closure of the temporary 13 bay halting site in Carrowbrowne and the relocation of these families.

To assist in bringing a focus to the advancement of the Plan objectives, a Project Manager has been appointed. The first and most immediate work required is to relocate the families on the temporary Halting Site at Carrowbrowne given that the outcome of the planning application for a two year extension on the temporary transient site at Carrowbrowne is due in July, 2015. Meetings have taken place with a number of Voluntary Housing Associations in order to determine the contribution they could make to the implementation of the Galway City Traveller Accommodation Programme with discussions indicating a strong desire to work with Galway City Council in this area. Further meetings and discussions are planned for January 2015 onwards.

Prioritisation of families requiring extensions on medical grounds are continually reviewed with feasibility studies having been undertaken for five priority projects. Technical examinations on all five properties have now been completed. In relation to same, these assessments have concluded that an extension is only feasible for one of the five properties identified. Consequently, efforts are now underway to meet with the Traveller Accommodation Unit to secure the necessary funding to: (i) progress the extension and (ii) acquire new properties, where a transfer within the existing housing stock is not feasible vis a vis the particular needs of the different families.

**Equality Mainstreaming**
Equality mainstreaming training encompassing a number of workshops and a closing seminar took place in Galway City Council during the months of September and October 2014. Discussions are also underway with Galway Traveller Movement aimed at rolling out an Equality Mainstreaming Programme for all relevant staff in Galway City Council.
Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee
The first meeting of the new Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee took place on November 19, 2014. At the meeting, members were briefed on the current status of the Traveller Accommodation Programme (2014-2018) and the actions that have taken place since its adoption in March 2014. Detailed discussion took place on a number of issues including: achieving targets set, the need for more detailed data across a range of areas, horse management, the potential role of Voluntary Housing Associations in the delivery of the Traveller Accommodation Programme and unauthorised encampments. The next quarterly meeting is set for February 26, 2015.

Urban Horse Initiative
Work to progress a Horse Feasibility Study focussed on the east of the City is currently underway by Galway Traveller Movement involving a funding allocation of €5,000 from Galway City Council. In addition, following a call for expressions of interest from the Department of Agriculture in relation to the development of an Urban Horse Initiative, Galway City Council has forwarded an initial submission to the Department of Agriculture stating that Galway City Council is extremely interested in developing a Horse Initiative in Galway City.

Community Development & Estate Management
The Housing Support unit together with the Housing Estate Liaison Officers is continuing to work on the management of the Council’s estates by increasing engagement with residents associations and involving tenants/residents in the management and maintenance of their estates. The use of CCTV in housing estates is also being examined and introduced in a number of estates. It is believed that this will assist the Council and the Garda Síochána in dealing with a number of the issues that cause ongoing concerns for the residents of the estates. New Residents Groups are forming throughout the City. Ongoing support and work with existing associations has continued throughout the year and staff members have also worked closely with the voluntary housing associations in a number of estates.

Social Inclusion
In March 2014, Social Inclusion was aligned with the Housing Support Unit within the Housing Section. The Social Inclusion Officer is involved in a number of programmes including the Implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Plan 2014 – 2018, European Integration Project, Galway Age Friendly City & County Project, Dementia Friendly Community Initiative, Social Inclusion Week and Disability Awareness Training. The role also includes Access Officer duties, assisting in accessing all City Council services and ensuring the City Council adheres to obligations under the Disability legislation including the implementation of the National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability 2011 – 2016 and the establishment of a Housing and Disability Steering Group.
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Service Objective
To provide, manage and maintain, a safe and effective, roads and transportation network and work in partnership with public transport providers and other agencies in developing integrated and sustainable transportation policies.

Park & Stride Initiative
Park & Stride Initiative continued in 2014. The scheme works by encouraging parents to park for free in one of the 16 designated car parks for a period of 1 hour while they walk their children the remainder of the journey to school. The Galway City scheme has three key aims:

- By working with a target group of 4,500 pupils across the 11 participating schools, the scheme aims to alleviate congestion outside school gates.
- Participation in the scheme encourages physical activity for the last leg of the journey to school.
- As part of the implementation process, the scheme actively encourages parents, teachers and schoolchildren to walk, cycle, carpool or take the bus to school rather than travel by car.

At operational level, the scheme represents a coordinated approach between the Roads Section and the Transportation Unit of Galway City Council, working in conjunction with An Taisce Green Schools. In total, 13 City based schools continued to participate in the new Park and Stride scheme namely: Scoil an Linbh Íosa, Scoil Róis, Scoil Chroí Íosa, Scoil lognáid, Meánscoil Mhuire, Scoil Éinde, Coláiste Éinde, Jesus & Mary Salerno, St Michael’s Boys School, Scoil Fhursa, the Bish, St. Pat's and the Claddagh National School.

Galway Bike Week 2014
Galway Bike Week is an integral part of National Bike Week and is a joint initiative between Galway City and County Council. The aim of Bike Week is to increase cycling participation across all levels and age groups in the Galway City. The theme for Galway City Bike week was ‘Galway is better by Bike!’ Funding of €23,000 was received from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in support of this joint initiative, which included more than 30 cycling events in Galway City and County following invitation by the two local authorities.

Among the successes of Bike Week was the ‘City Lunchtime Cycle’ hosted by Galway City Council. The Cycle involved rolling roads closures managed by An Garda Síochána and Galway Civil Defence. Over 200 children and adults participated in the event. As part of the promotion, 2 bicycles were raffled among the primary school children taking part. Pupils from St Patrick’s and Scoil Bhride won the bicycles. Among other events in the city hosted were: Croí Tour de Lough Corrib, numerous fun family cycles, free bike maintenance workshops, accessible cycling in Renmore, Galway University Hospital biking events, Green Schools cycling events,
the RSA Shuttle in GMIT, Campus Cycling Fest, a BMX Showdown, Creating Active Spaces for All workshop, Bike Fest Film Night, Jigsaw's Work the Bike Scheme, Bike Orienteering in Merlin Woods, Bike Racing in Ballinfoile and a Seven Castles Heritage Cycle, amongst others.

Christmas Park and Ride Service 2014

Galway City Council's Christmas Park and Ride operated over the period Saturday November 29th to Wednesday December 24, 2014. Following a competitive tendering process, the contract to operate the service was awarded to Bus Éireann.

The table hereunder shows a comparison of the number of passengers carried inbound in 2013 and 2014.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Passengers inbound</th>
<th>Vehicles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>15,584</td>
<td>5030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>16,335</td>
<td>5,913</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2014, 16,335 passengers were carried inbound to the City Centre and 5,913 cars parked at Galway Racecourse. This equates to approximately an average of 3 passengers per vehicle and represents an increase of 17.55% increase in vehicles availing of the Park and Ride service. Further analysis of the customer feedback and trends in uptake between 2013 and 2014 reveal the following:

- A significant increase of 122% was noted Christmas Eve in comparison with 2013. The 8th December uptake shows a decrease of 73% in 2014 when compared with 2013 which may be a result of the 8th December being on a Sunday in 2013.
- The price of using the service remained at 2013 figure of €3.00.
- The number of passengers per car was 3.0 remained the same as 2013. There was no marked increase at weekends on this figure.
- Overall the service represented a 5% increase in passengers and a 17.55% increase in the total number of vehicles parked.
Promoting Uptake of Sustainable Travel

Get in Gear Cycling in Cities
Galway City Council in partnership with An Taisce Green-Schools launched the ‘Get in Gear – Cycling in Cities’ course and supported by the Chamber of Commerce. The initiative, which was funded by the National Transport Authority, covered gear changing, road positioning, signalling, how to safely cross junctions and roundabouts. By the end of 2014, 17 companies had registered and availed of training including: Galway City Council staff and councillors, Galway County Council, HP, SAP, NUIG and UCHG.

Galway Regional Bike Scheme Update
The National Transport Authority and An Rothar Nua launched the regional bike rental scheme in Galway on 24th November 2014, with 14 docking stations opening for operation. Among the locations are Nun’s Island (Beside Equality Statue), Cathedral Car Park (Southern End), Woodquay, Dyke Road Car Park, Newtownsmith, Eyre Square North, Eyre Square South, County Hall, City Hall, Ceannt Station (at Taxi Rank), Merchant’s Road, New Dock Street, Spanish Parade, Raven Terrace and Fr. Griffin Road (Beside GTU). Work will continue in 2015 in providing further docking stations.

Behavioural Change Initiatives
Galway City Council, in partnership with An Taisce Green Schools, launched a citywide active travel competition called ‘Benny the Boot’ with the aim to increase the number of pupils walking, cycling, scooting and carpooling to school. Twelve primary schools in Galway City took part in the competition. Buaile Beag National School was chosen as the overall winner with a 47% increase in active travel modes. Due to its success, the competition will be held again in 2015.

Tour Bus Parking
On foot of proposals outlined in the Tour Bus Parking Study completed in late 2013, new facilities have been provided on Merchants Road to allow tour buses to pick up and set down passengers. New long-stay parking for tour buses was also been provided in the harbour in conjunction with Galway Harbour Company.

Bearná Greenway – Route Option Development
Consultants were appointed in July to assist Galway City Council in determining and evaluating a route for a Greenway that will commence at Wolfe Tone Bridge and
finish at the western edge of Bearna Village. This is the first step in the development of the 6 kilometre Greenway linking southern Connemara to Galway City via Bearna in County Galway. A route selection process was being finalised after a workshop for City and County Councillors on the design and various route options in October. The report will be published in 2015.

Lough Atalia Road Lowering
Tenders for a works contractor were sought in quarter 4 of 2014. This process is due to be completed in January 2015. Galway City Council has submitted an application for funding to the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport with a view to commencing works early in 2015.

Threadneedle Road Cycleway
Works commenced at the end of 2014 on Threadneedle Road Cycleway. Works included recessed onstreet parking on the eastern side of Threadneedle Road, removal of grass margins to incorporate wider footpaths on the Western side between the junctions of Taylors Hill and Fr. Griffin Road. Works will be completed early in 2015.

Maunsells Road Rosary Lane Traffic Management Plan
Planning under Part VIII was approved at the December meeting. Works are due to commence in 2015.

Urban Traffic Management Control Centre (UTMC)
The expansion of the UTMC system continued with the linking of additional junctions at 6 locations e.g. NUIG new access road, Newcastle, Seamus Quirke Road. Works were undertaken at 3 further locations at Fr. Griffin Road/Avenue, GTI and the Fire Station to allow these to be connected early 2015.

Bóthar Na dTreabh (N6) Multi Modal Corridor Improvement Scheme
2014 saw the implementation of the Bóthar na dTreabh (N6) Landscape Works. The works comprises the landscaping of the upgraded junctions, Bodkin, Lynch, Font & Morris and a pedestrian/cyclists ramp linking the Dyke Road to the N6.

Severe Weather
Coastal protection repairs continued throughout 2014 from the storms in Winter 2013/2014. Works were carried out from Blackrock to Birdoo with rock armour and footpath repairs. Works included installation of floodgates at Toft Park which commenced in December 2014. Temporary inflatable flood barriers at Fishmarket were purchased and will be available for use in January 2015 during spring tides. Checkmate valve was purchased for installation on discharge drainage pipes at Toft Park and works will be completed in early January.
Wild Atlantic Way
Signage within Galway City for the Wild Atlantic Way was completed during 2014. Funding was also made available through Fáilte Ireland to carry out specific works at two discovery points – Salthill Promenade and Silverstrand. Works included improvements to height restriction barriers. Ancillary works including hard and soft landscaping at the discovery points will be completed early 2015.

Bridge Inspections
Works continued during 2014 on the inspections of bridges and other structures in the City area. It is expected that these inspections will be completed in quarter 1 2015. Inspections on the Salmon Weir and William O'Brien Bridge were completed in the latter part of 2014. Bridge inspection reports were received by Galway City Council and applications for funding were submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport to carry out remedial works identified on foot of the surveys.

Roads Infrastructure & Safety

City Road Network
The City road network now comprises of 304.6km of public roads as follows:

- A. National Primary: 12.8kms
- B. National Secondary: 7.7kms
- C. Regional Roads: 35.0kms
- D. Local Urban Roads 249.1kms

The National Primary & Secondary Roads form part of the National Road network. These are N6 Dublin Road, N17 Tuam Road, N59 Moycullen/Clifden Road and N84 Headford Road. All works on the National roads are funded through the National Roads Authority. The Regional and Local roads provide for traffic distribution throughout the City and its environs. Galway City Council and the Department of Transport jointly fund the construction upkeep and maintenance of these roads.

Road Works carried out in 2014
The following are some of the significant works undertaken in 2014:

- Junction improvement works including traffic light upgrade at Thomas Hynes/Moycullen Road Junction;
- Provision of right turn filter lanes on the Oranmore Coast Road at the Old Dublin Road Junction and the Doughiska Road Junction;
- Vehicle Actuated Signs were installed on Barna Road and Rahoon Road under local cost safety schemes 2014;
- Road strengthening works were undertaken at various locations in the City, including Cappagh Road, Barna Road, Headford Road and Castlegar;
- Tactile improvement pavement works at Eyre Square.
Public Lighting
The public lighting network comprises approximately 8,400 lights. These lights are provided and maintained for the convenience and safety of the public. Public Lighting Improvement works were carried out at Bowling Green, Lombard Street, Mary Street, Market Street, and the Old Dublin Road at Merlin Park.

Community Wardens
The Traffic and Community Wardens in the City carry out ongoing enforcement of the Parking Regulations. The Wardens work during normal business hours 6 days a week. In addition to monitoring of traffic flow and parking, the Wardens issue Fixed Charge Notices for breaches of Traffic Regulations. In addition to traffic management duties, Community Wardens provide further services for the City Council, such as event management, environmental protection and community support.

School Wardens
The School Warden service is provided to a total of 14 Primary Schools in the City, at a number of designated locations. The service provided, assists with the safety of school children while they cross busy thoroughfares, on their route to school. In order to carry out their duties effectively, they require the co-operation of all road users. There are a total of 20 full-time schools and one School Warden on standby on the east side of the City.

Taking in Charge of Estates
In 2014, Galway City Council's Taking in Charge Policy for Private Housing Developments, Taking in Charge Application Form and Security Bond Release Form were updated. The processing of Bond Release Applications and Taking in Charge of Estates for 86 No. developments was progressed.

The number of estates for which an Application for Taking in Charge has been received is 18. A DECLG grant and bonds have been availed of for 4 of these estates in Doughiska, and a Remedial Works to Sewers and Roads contract has been initiated there with a view to bringing sub-standard infrastructure up to Taking in Charge standard. Remedial Works by developers/Inspections/Costings/Planning and Legal queries proceeding on others.

The number of estates for which no Taking in Charge applications have been made is 9. Bonds are held on 4 and inspections/costings will proceed on these in 2015. Legal Taking in Charge queries on properties are being received and processed at a rate of approximately 8 per week. Legal actions take priority as they arise. All cases in 2014 were successfully defended.

Major Emergency Management
The External Emergency Plan (EEP) for the Upper Tier Seveso II (Topaz) site located in Galway Harbour was completed (including tabletop and practical

Training in MEM roles continued in 2014; training in OSCC (On-Site Co-ordination Centre), LCC (Local Co-ordination Centre) etc. will continue in 2015.

Galway Racecourse at Ballybrit, Inter-Agency External Emergency Plan 2015 commenced in 2014 and is due for completion in Quarter 2 2015.

**OPW-funded Flood Mitigation at NUIG Eglinton Canal**
The Preliminary Survey on the culvert under the Eglinton canal, including Environmental Appropriate Assessment, was completed in 2014, with GCC as the Client and OPW as the contractor. OPW's Report has been submitted for Corrib Navigation's attention and action.

**OPW-funded Minor Flood Protection Measures**
Under OPW funding, Floodgates at Toft Park, removable Aquadam at Fish Market and checkmate stop-valves to Storm Outfalls have been installed by Galway City Council in 2014 and it is hoped they will be completed in 2015.

**OPW-funded Flood Protection Measures at Menlough**
The installation of pumping equipment and gravity outfall was completed in 2013, with outstanding issues concluded in 2014.

**Extinguishment of Public Rights of Way**
The Extinguishment of Public Rights of Way was completed successfully at 4 Estates in 2014.
Galway City Council is operating under a 12 year Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Irish Water and working in partnership with Irish Water to continue to provide water services in the city within the new delivery arrangements.

The Annual Service Plan between Irish Water & Galway City Council commits both parties to deliver specific objectives and standards of performance against a budget covering headcount, goods and services plus future investment.

The Water Services function in Galway City Council is divided into the following areas:

- Major Capital Investment
- Minor Capital Programme
- Water Conservation
- Operation & Maintenance of Water Supply
- Operation & Maintenance of Wastewater Services

**Major Capital Investment Plan 2014 – 2016**

Under the Irish Water Major Capital Investment Plan 2014 – 2016, projects are divided into three categories:

A. Continue in Construction
B. Review Scope & Commence Construction
C. Continue Planning & Business Case Review

Galway City Council has three projects listed in the Irish Water Major Capital Investment Plan B Category as follows:

- **Galway City Water Supply Scheme – Terryland WTP – Phase 3:** The long-term strategy for the Terryland WTP upgrade involved examining Galway City and environs water network and treatment requirements over a 20 year time horizon. The strategy also examined the feasibility of relocating the existing raw water intake. A Preliminary Report was submitted by Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers to Galway City Council in Oct 14 and there are currently discussions with Irish Water in advancing some of the recommendations.

- **Galway City Sewerage Scheme Phase 3 – Network Upgrade Advance Contract No.1 (Volume D):** This project is a package of prioritised works which provide for Sewer System Upgrade Works, Sewer and Manhole Rehabilitation Works and extensions that are required to comply with the EPA Wastewater Discharge Licence for Mutton Island WWTW. The appointment of a Site Investigation Contractor is well advanced and it is expected that Site Investigation
works will commence in Q2 2015.

- **Galway Sewerage Scheme Phase 3 – Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Mutton Island (Volume B):** This project is a 20 year Operation and Maintenance Contract with Design/Build upgrade to Mutton Island WWTP. The contract was awarded to Aecom/Siac Joint Venture by Irish Water in 2014 with works commencing onsite in Q3 2014 and are due for completion in Q3 2015.

**Minor Capital Programme**

Irish Water launched the Minor Capital Programme in 2014, which consisted of programmes aimed at optimising the performance of existing assets with targeted low level investment. The programme was categorised under specific Investment drivers, aimed at addressing regulatory compliance, public health, environmental health, business efficiency and maintaining levels of service through addressing under-performing assets and delivering improvements in health and safety, quality/compliance, reliability, maintainability, operational costs and sustainability. The programme targeted standardisation and best practice, achieving significant business efficiencies and cost reductions. The following are some of Galway City Council's Minor Capital Programme projects:

- **Replacement Watermain at Thomas Hynes Road:** This programme involves the replacement of a defective watermain which burst a number of times in 2014 affecting 3,000 Residential, Commercial and Industrial customers. The appointment of a Site Investigation Contractor is being advanced and it is expected that replacement works will commence in Q3 2015.

- **Merlin Park Infiltration Programme:** Galway City Council is preparing contract documents, in conjunction with Irish Water, to appoint a Contractor to carry out an infiltration survey in the Merlin Park Catchment area. This survey will identify the levels of infiltration, as well as possible cross-connections between the Surface & Foul Sewer network and it is expected that the survey will commence in Q2 2015.

- **Service Reservoir Refurbishment Programme:** The objective of this programme was to identify and remediate critical service reservoir assets (treated water storage structures and associated infrastructure) which were at risk of failure that could impact significantly on service, water quality, costs, environment or safety. Galway City Council is acting as Project Manager, on a regional basis, for the Service Reservoir Refurbishment Programme. It is anticipated that a Contractor will be appointed in Q1 2015 to complete Phase 1 of the project which is visual inspection of 16 Reservoirs across the North West region and make recommendations regarding remedial works for a minimum of 10 reservoirs which will be prioritised for a full intrusive structural survey including minor repairs, enabling works and disinfection.

- **Health, Safety, Quality & Environment (HSQE) Programme:** Galway City Council, in consultation with Irish Water, has identified a number of locations
where works are required in order to comply with Irish Water's HSQE requirements.

- **Energy Efficiencies Programme:** Galway City Council, in consultation with Irish Water, are examining the feasibility of a proposed Clifton Hill Pump Replacement scheme as well as a proposed upgrade of the Low Lift pumping regime at Terryland WTP, as part of the Energy Efficiency Programme.

**Water Conservation**

High levels of leakage across the country are placing a strain on water treatment facilities and, in some cases, on water sources, reducing the availability of drinking water to customers, increasing operating costs, impacting plant performance and water quality. Irish Water is committed to introducing an asset management approach to leakage reduction that will balance funding between active leakage control, speed and quality of repairs, pressure management and investment in water main rehabilitation. Customer side leakage is a significant component of unaccounted for water.

Irish Water is preparing a strategy which will involve a ‘first fix’ offer to customers for leaks reported post-water meter installation. Galway City Council is advancing its Water Conservation works with a ‘Find & Fix’ programme as well as advancing the Stage 3 Watermain Rehabilitation Works.

Galway City Council, in conjunction with Irish Water, has commenced the process of appointing a Consultant Engineer for the Galway City Water Conservation Stage 3 Watermain Rehabilitation Works – Phase 1 which includes for the rehabilitation of approximately 20km of prioritised watermains. It is expected that this appointment will be completed in Q2 2015.

**Operations & Maintenance**

**Water Supply**

The Water Operation Section is responsible for the provision and maintenance of a safe and reliable water supply for Galway City as agents of Irish Water under the terms of the Service Level Agreement. Terryland Waterworks continues to produce drinking water to the highest standard and treated 40,435m3 per day in 2014. The quality of drinking water is monitored and analysed regularly and complies with all the requirements of the European Communities (Drinking Water) (No.2) Regulations 2014. All drinking water monitoring results are uploaded to the Galway City Council website and to Irish Water's Sharepoint. Watermains maintenance and leak repairs are undertaken on an on-going basis and in conjunction with the water conservation scheme.
Wastewater Services
The Wastewater Section is responsible for managing the infrastructure necessary for the collection, treatment and disposal of wastewater on behalf of Irish Water in Galway City and environs. The Mutton Island Wastewater Treatment Plant has been operated on behalf of Galway City Council by AECOM from 2004 to 2014 and operates in compliance with its EPA Discharge Licence No. DOO50-01. In September 2014, Irish Water awarded the Mutton Island WWTP 20 year Operation & Maintenance Contract with Design Build Upgrade to Aecom/Siac JV. The upgrade works are ongoing with an expected completion date of Q4 2015. In order to achieve wastewater environmental compliance, Galway City Council/Irish Water will develop their environmental capability and engage collaboratively with the EPA and DECLG so as to achieve cost-effective and sustainable environmental improvements in compliance with statutory obligations.
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Service Objective
To have in place a system of physical planning capable of meeting sustainable economic, environmental and social development objectives for the city.

City Development Plan 2011-2017

The Development Plan is one of the most important functions of Galway City Council. It provides for the strategic framework for all new development in the City over the period of the plan, for the protection and enhancement of the amenities of the city and for the co-ordination of infrastructure provision with existing and future land use.

The City Development Plan 2011-2017 was approved by the City Council in 2011 following a statutory 2 year process involving the Elected Members, stakeholders, members of the public and various Sections within the City Council. This Plan incorporates a Core Strategy which sets out clearly the information on which the enterprise/development, retail and housing strategy for the city are based and shows how these strategies align with the Regional Planning Guidelines and the National Spatial Strategy. This ensures that the development plan is evidence based that is, substantiated by empirical research to prevent over-zoning and to justify land use decisions.

The plan also includes policies to promote the concept of ‘Sustainable Neighbourhoods’, that is, residential policies including specific uses, urban design and sustainable transport measures. Transport policies in the plan have embraced the principles and the projects associated with the Smarter Travel plans of the GTU. Natural amenities including designated sites are provided for in policy while biodiversity measures are outlined as are the objectives distilled from the Recreation and Amenity Needs Study (2009).

The built heritage policies include 8 ACA designations and 586 protected structures. Area based policies includes for proposals for 3 local area plans – Headford Road, Ardaun and Murrogh and an area plan for Castlegar. The City Plan also highlights the strategic infrastructure projects for the city to 2017 and makes statutory provision for these including for policies also on renewable energy, sustainable building practices and assessment of flood risk.

The 2011 plan comprises three documents and land use zoning maps. The additional documents include a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Report and a Habitats Directive Assessment of the Development Plan, both comprehensive environmental documents now required under statute.

All three documents have been specifically designed to reflect both the vibrant dynamic image of the city and the policies in the plan, being produced to a high
quality standard and are also available on CD Rom. To maximize their user friendliness, the written statement of the plan and associated documents is available as a digital eBook on the Council website, where the associated maps are also available digitally.

To reflect our Gaeltacht status and our commitments to the Irish language, the City Plan has also been translated to Irish. As the planning section of the Council website is one of the sections receiving the most hits, the hard copy of the plan and associated documents including the CD Rom can be purchased, either in part or as an entire package, reflecting the public migration to web use for such document types which impact on public policy.


**Specific Objectives of the City Plan 2011-17**
The City Plan sets out a range of specific objectives for implementation. Many are in the realm of other sections of the City Council and are ongoing. Within the Planning Section, the focus is on preparation of a number of plans and the implementation of the objectives in the plan.

**Local Area Plans**
Work commenced on the preparation of the Ardaun Local Area Plan Phase 1 following adoption of the City Plan. This area consists of designated lands to the east of the city and within the city boundary. This designated area will meet the settlement strategy Commitments in the plan – developing as an urban extension to the city. Significant work has being carried out during 2014 following on from the detailed ecological and flood risk assessments carried out in 2012 and Urban Design Advices and Street Conversations carried out in 2013. The urban design element of the LAP was significantly advanced in 2014 with the completion of the Urban Design Strategy with the help of outside specialists. This sets out a framework of how Ardaun should develop through good urban design.

Pre-Draft plan consultation was held in July and August 2014 where the public were invited to discuss the issues that the draft LAP should address. Two information days were held where the public could drop in to find out more about the LAP and to meet staff involved in the plan preparation. A total of 26 people attended the information days and a range of issues were highlighted and discussed. In addition, nine written submissions were received during the consultation period. This consultation has been valuable in establishing the vision for the LAP and builds on the collaborative approach to the LAP being undertaken by the planning section.

Further elements of the Plan have been advanced in the final quarter of 2014 with the preparation of a detailed Urban Design framework for the proposed Ardaun
Village Centre and the commencement of a traffic modelling study for the existing and proposed road networks which is aimed at both testing the suitability of a preliminary junction strategy, and establishing the potential impact of the additional traffic on the existing highway network.

In tandem with the LAP Phase One, a Strategic Environmental Assessment is being undertaken. The SEA process is a valuable tool in the preparation of the LAP. It identifies and evaluates the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the LAP so that such impacts can be mitigated against or avoided and allows for the development of sustainable policies and objectives.

**Architectural and Built Heritage**

A significant number of buildings and structures within the city (586) are considered worthy of protection and are included on The Record of Protected Structures (RPS). The Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, under planning legislation, has also made a Ministerial recommendation that a number of additional structures be included in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS). The planning section have mapped and photographed each of these structures and detailed assessment reports for each structure, as is required under the planning acts following ministerial recommendation, is being undertake. During 2014, detailed assessments of 26 structures were carried out with specialist expertise. Assessments of additional structures will be undertaken in 2015 and these will then be brought before the Council as part of the review of the City Development Plan. The Members will decide if they are to be included on the Record of Protected Structures. The inclusion of buildings/structures of built heritage interest is a policy measure in the current city plan.

**Castlegar Area Plan**

Background work commenced on the preparation of an Area Plan for Castlegar. It is a specific objective to prepare this plan in consultation with local residents. The purpose of the plan is to reinforce the identity of Castlegar through protection and enhancement of the existing character and amenities of the area and to build on the existing assets of the community. It will examine key issues such as traffic, walking, cycling, heritage, community facilities and local services. These issues were reflected in the responses received to a household survey carried out by the planning section in the area in December 2013. The survey was followed by a well attended public information day held in January 2014. Feedback on the main issues arising from the survey was on display and the day provided an opportunity to meet with staff and add to the comments, opinions and suggestions gathered.
Development Management

Strategic Infrastructure Development – Galway Harbour Extension

In January 2014, Galway Harbour Company submitted a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) application to An Bord Pleanála for planning permission for the development of an extension of Galway Harbour on 27ha of land to be reclaimed from the foreshore and the sea in Galway Bay to the south of the existing Galway Harbour Enterprise Park. The proposed development will include the relocation of the majority of the existing harbour related activities and businesses to the new deep water berths, quays, jetties and yards to be located at the harbour extension. The proposed development is largely in an area which is designated as a candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC) and a Special Protection Area (SPA) which will require An Bord Pleanála to consider whether the application qualifies as Ireland’s first IROPI (imperative Reasons of Over-riding Public Interest.

Galway City Council following a request from An Bord Pleanála on 14 January 2014 to prepare a report setting out the views of the authority on the effects of the proposed development on the environment and the proper planning & sustainable development of the area of the authority submitted a report on 31st March 2014. On 27th May 2014 An Bord Pleanála requested Galway Harbour Company to furnish further information on a number of topics. This information was submitted on 16/10/2014. An Bord Pleanála have scheduled an Oral Hearing on the project for early January 2015.

Planning Applications

In 2014, a total of 302 valid planning applications were lodged with Galway City Council. A breakdown of these applications is set out as per below. In addition to these there were 28 planning applications received for the purposes of extending the duration of planning permissions as provided for under the 2000 and the 2010 Acts.

Valid Planning Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Extensions</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Buildings</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwellings</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developments not included in the above</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applications exempted from Fees</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertisement Structures</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant, Machinery, Storage Tanks</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural buildings</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caravans, Parking, Open Storage</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>302</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Extension of Duration of Planning Permissions
Overall there were 28 applications received in 2014 to extend the Duration on Planning Permissions due to expire. Of the decisions, 27 were granted with 1 application pending.

Part 8 Applications (Local Authority Development/Partnership Development)
The following Part 8 application was processed in 2014:
- Road and footpath improvement works in the Maunsells Road/Taylor’s Hill/Rosary Lane area of the city.

Outdoor Events Licences
The following Event Licences were processed in 2014:
- An event involving performers and musicians passing through the streets of Galway City, organised by Galway City Council in association with Macnas;
- Annual Christmas Market, Eyre Square.

Planning Appeals to An Bord Pleanála
There were 37 decisions/determinations received from An Bord Pleanála in 2014. Of the decisions, 18 were upheld with 10 reversed and 9 modified.

Declarations of Exemption
During 2014, a total of 21 applications for Declarations of Exempted Development were lodged with Galway City Council. Under Section 96 (Housing Strategy) a total of 28 applications were received in 2014.

Planning Enforcement
Galway City Council continues to adopt a proactive approach to ensure compliance with planning controls and the prevention of unauthorised development. In this regard, the planning authority received 255 complaints, these in addition to cases pursued independently by the Planning section required investigations which were carried out by the Planning Enforcement Officers, of these in total 346 cases warranted Warning/Enforcement Notices, 50 of these cases subsequently required referral to the City Councils’ Law Agent for legal proceedings.

Development Contribution Scheme
During 2014 the collection of development levies continued to be a priority for the Planning Section. The monies collected will be used to assist in the provision of necessary public infrastructure and community facilities prioritised for the city. A total of €802,900 was collected during the course of 2014.

A review of the current development contribution scheme is underway and taking account of 'Development Contributions – Guidelines for Planning authorities' issued by the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government in January
2013, which will determine the City Council's policy and structure for the new scheme. The review of the Development Contribution Scheme is subject to extensive public consultation in its preparation and is approved by the elected members of the council.

**Unfinished Housing Estates**

Budget 2014 contained a special provision by the Government to further assist in addressing the legacy of unfinished housing developments nationally in the form of a targeted 10m special resolution fund. In 2014, an application made by Galway City Council for such funding under 'The Unfinished Housing Development Special Resolution Fund' was successful with an allocation of €250,000 approved to complete infrastructural works at the FionnusiCE Housing Estate, Doughiska Road, Galway.

**Heritage**

Galway City Council Heritage Office, in conjunction with the Heritage Council's grant scheme, carried out the following projects in 2014:

- 4th annual heritage conference 'A Millennium and a half of Irish Literary Heritage' was held and conference proceedings recorded and made available on CD;
- A map & guide to Menlo cemetery was published;
- A coastal survey of Galway City was conducted and a report commissioned on the new finds resulting from coastal and storm damage;
- A survey of Historic Metalwork in Galway City was published;
- Walled Towns – A survey of the Fishmarket & Spanish Arch area and the old museum at Comerford House was commissioned and an architectural plan for a heritage interpretive centre was developed in conjunction with the Irish Walled Towns Network, and the Galway City Museum;
- 'An Leacht' on Monument Road, Menlo was conserved;
- Volume 36 of Galway's heritage 'Oidhreacht Na Gaillimhe' was published;
- A survey on Thatched Cottages commenced in 2014 and a report is expected to be available in early 2015;
- One issue of Galway's Heritage/Oidhreacht na Gaillimhe (Heritage Magazine) was published in 2014.

From funding provided under 'The Built Heritage Jobs Leverage Scheme', 5 Private and 2 public buildings received conservation grants totalling €57,956.
Building Control

Certification/Notices
The City Council has a role in relation to the enforcement of the Building Control Acts and the Building Regulation. The planning section is pivotal in the certification of associated procedural requirements including certifications and notices.

Details of Commencement Notices, Fire Safety Application and Disability Access Certificates submitted during 2014 are listed hereunder:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certificate Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fire Safety Certificates</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability Access Certificates</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commencement Notices</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Building Control (Amendment) Regulations 2014 were introduced to reform and strengthen the Building Control System in Ireland through the introduction of mandatory certification of compliance. On 1st March 2014, the new regulations relating to the commencement and certification of construction works came into effect. For certain building works, the new regulations require that certificates of compliance and other documents must be submitted with the commencement notice and registration is online on 'The Building Control Management System'.

The additional requirements also include:

- The nomination of a competent 'Assigned Certifier' to inspect and certify the works;
- The assignment of a competent builder to carry out the works;
- The submission of certificates of compliance on completion.
**COMMUNITY AND CULTURE**

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**Service Objective**
To support the City Development Board and work with its Partners towards the co-ordination of the economic, social and cultural development of Galway City.

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**Galway City Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)**

The Galway City LCDC has been established for the purposes of developing, coordinating and implementing a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development. The committee is made up of representatives from the local government and local development sectors, public bodies and representatives of social, economic, environmental and community interests. The Galway City Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) had its first meeting in April 2014. The following is a summary of the committees’ activities:

- Adoption of Terms of Reference and Standing orders;
- Appointment of Chair (Cllr. Dónal Lyons) and Vice Chair (Mr Tommy Flaherty);
- Oversight of the initial consultation process for the community elements of the Local Economic and Community Plan to be developed under the Local Government Reform Act 2014;
- Oversight of the Local Community Development Programme (national programme targeting disadvantage);
- Oversight of the second stage of the procurement of the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme – SICAP (2015-2017) including:
  - Establishment of an Evaluation subcommittee in relation to SICAP;
  - Preparation and issuing of tender documentation to short listed candidates;
  - Preparation and agreement of Evaluation Plan.

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**Comhairle na nÓg**

Galway City Comhairle na nÓg had another successful year. A number of events took place which gave young people an opportunity to voice their views on issues of concern to them. Each year young people from the city are elected onto the Organising Committee. This committee co-ordinates the events, activities and meetings of Comhairle na nÓg in the city throughout the year.

In 2015 Galway City Comhairle na nÓg celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child with over 100 young people from secondary schools and youth projects from Galway City. Galway City Comhairle na nÓg also hosted an exhibition of youth facilities and services based in Galway City. This exhibition was titled “Galway for YOUth!”
Local Community Festival Grants
The Community Festivals Grants Scheme was organised again in 2014. An array of community groups and residents associations was successful in seeking funding to develop their initiatives. These included Ard Family Resource Centre, Corrach Bui Residents Association, Galway Community Pride Festival, Sonas Day Centre, Tirellan Residents Association and Westside Arts Festival.
In each case the projects may have differed but they all had at their core a support for people working together to improve the community spirit in their neighbourhood.

Mayor’s Awards
Mayor of the City of Galway, Councillor Pádraig Conneely, presented the top award to Bernie O’Connell in recognition of the dedicated effort made by the Board of Galway F.C. over a number of years, to ensure that League of Ireland football is played in Deacy Park for years to come. Councillor Conneely commented that “the dedication, perseverance and ability to harness the goodwill of the community as shown by the Board of Galway F.C. is an example to all of us”. Over 80 individuals and groups received certificates from the Mayor in celebration of voluntary activity in community life in the city. The winners of the individual awards remained a closely guarded secret until the ceremony itself which was held in the Radisson Blu Hotel in front of an audience of over 300 people. The Awards are organised by Galway City Council.

The recipients in each of the categories were:

- **Arts, Culture, Heritage & Cúrsaí Gaeilge Award**: Mike Connell, Peter Connell & Michael Lawless – in recognition of their commitment to highlight the historical connection between their community and the vibrant City of Menlo Park in California;
- **Residents’ & Local Areas Award**: Shantalla Residents Association – for their commitment to making their environment the best that it can possibly be and for their enthusiasm to engage with all members of the community;
- **Community Service & Social Inclusion**: Blood Bike West – for their dedicated service in transporting medical items to those who need them;
- **Older Volunteer of the Year**: Dello Collier – for her many years of voluntary service with Dúchas na Gaillimhe, Galway Civic Trust and her lifelong promotion of heritage in Galway;
- **Sports Volunteer of the Year Award**: John Creaven – in recognition of his unfltering dedication to developing the sport of judo in the city;
• **Children and Youth Award**: Galway Autism Partnership – for their ongoing support for families living with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their innovative approach to collaborative partnerships with service providers;

• **Young Volunteer of the Year**: Hubert Dinneen-Creaven – for his commitment and energy in working with many voluntary groups in Galway City.

• Each of the winners received a Galway Crystal trophy and a cheque for €500.
The Arts and Culture Section provides a range of services directly and through funding, development and strategic support to maximise the potential of the arts and culture to enrich the lives of people in Galway, residents and visitors alike. The delivery of services includes but is not limited to the management and operation of the Arts Office, the Town Hall and Black Box Theatres, Galway City Museum and to specific projects such as the organisation of the St. Patrick’s Day Parade and strategic projects such as the European Capital of Culture 2020 bid, membership of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network and the development of cultural and arts policies and plans.

Arts Office

In 2014 Galway City Arts Office continued to work with the communities of interest in Galway, developing, devising and supporting projects that reflect good practices and professionalism, prioritising work that supports sustainability, knowledge and skills exchange. Through the Arts Office, financial support is distributed to the range of professional, amateur and voluntary companies and groups by means of the Arts Grants. Funding decisions are made following deliberation of applications by the Arts Funding Committee which is comprised of members of the Economic Development And Culture SPC and independent art form assessors. Individual artists and local band are also funded through programmes managed through the Arts Office.

Continuing the very successful national Culture Night initiative, we featured most Galway cultural organisations and venues in a crossover programme of participation-friendly creative events and activities throughout the city. Culture Night 2014 achieved real results in community participation and audience development, featuring dozens of venues, hundreds of artists in all art forms and thousands of participants as both audience members or active participants.

Galway City Council continued its rates-waiver policy for buildings used by artists and not-for-profit arts organisations for contemporary creative artmaking and we partnered with local artists in encouraging owners of unused city premises to consider making them available for cultural purposes. We provided opportunities for artists and arts workers through arts office initiatives, engaging with communities, and providing advice, encouragement and mentoring in context. The programme included residencies in dance, theatre in schools and music. Throughout the year, the Arts Office linked with partners in Galway County Council and the Brothers of Charity Services in bringing IGNITE!, a major arts and disability partnership commission for an artist or artists with disability, to life which led to the thrilling and elevating co-production between Galway’s That’s Life group and
Galway UNESCO City of Film

UNESCO Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova announced in December that Galway was designated a UNESCO City of Film. Under the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, Galway is now 1 of only 5 cities in the world to achieve this much sought-after status. Galway joins Sydney, Australia and Galway’s twin city of Bradford in the UK as a designated City of Film. This is a permanent global designation. This status brings the highest internationally recognised standard of excellence in the creative industries to Galway. The title of Creative City of Film also includes membership of UNESCO’s Creative Cities Network.

The bid process was driven by Galway City Council, Galway County Council and Galway Film Centre on behalf of a consortium of over 50 organisations drawn from across Galway city and county. Galway now formally joins the UNESCO’s Creative Cities Network as a designated UNESCO City of Film. This permanent status and designation gives Galway immediate access to a global platform, joining over sixty cities worldwide including major metropolitan and cultural centres such as Sydney, Seoul, Shanghai, Montreal, Buenos Aires, Berlin and Edinburgh. Galway’s twin city of Bradford in the UK was the first city to be awarded the title of UNESCO City of Film in 2009.

European Capital of Culture 2020 Bid

In 2020, an Irish city and a Croatian city will be jointly designated European Capital of Culture. Galway City Council, in conjunction with Galway County Council, began the process in early 2014 of seeking the designation which will be awarded in September 2016. Following a tendering process, consultants from NUI, Galway were awarded the contract to develop and deliver all stages of Galway’s bid for the pre-selection phase of the process. Working with a team of staff led from the Arts & Culture Section of City Council, a process of engagement, research and imagining is underway drawing on the expertise and support of Galway and the region’s arts, cultural, academic, community, sporting, enterprise and innovation organisations and communities.

The Town Hall and Black Box Theatre

The Town Hall Theatre – incorporating the 400-seater main auditorium and the 60-seater Studio Space at Courthouse Square, and the nearby multi-purpose Black Box Theatre – continued to present an extensive mix of theatre, concerts, musicals, dance, film, comedy, family and community shows. The venues are open 7 days per week, 362 days per year and up to 15 hours a day.

Total attendances at the Town Hall and Black Box Theatres increased by 8% from 102,000 in 2013 to 111,000 in 2014. The Town Hall Theatre is recognised as the flagship venue in the regions and as a significant asset in Ireland’s cultural infrastructure. The mission of both venues is to engage and develop the widest
possible audience for a diverse programme of theatre and arts events in Galway and to provide a supportive environment for artists and arts organisations.

In 2014, both venues continued at the epicentre of Galway’s cultural activity including the city’s major international festivals such as the Music for Galway Mid-Winter Festival, Cúirt International Festival of Literature, Galway Arts Festival, Galway Film Fleadh, Baboró International Children's Festival and Galway Comedy Festival.

Furthermore, and in addition to visits by the national and international companies and artists, the venues’ programme proudly featured the work of many (professional and amateur) performers, companies, award-winning musical societies and arts organisations from across the city and county. Successful productions by Renmore Pantomime, Patrician Musical Society, Galway Musical Society and Galway University Musical Society were amongst the venues’ biggest crowd-pullers.

**Galway City Museum**

The Museum is a spacious, modern building, situated in the heart of Galway city on the banks of the River Corrib and overlooking the famous Spanish Arch. It houses a variety of permanent and touring exhibitions representing Galway's rich archaeology, heritage and history.

Throughout 2014, the following exhibitions were on show in the museum: World War 1: A Galway Story; Routes to the Past (Prehistoric Galway); 3D Real Sim version of the 1641 Map of Galway as part of Galway Within the Walls (Medieval Galway); Pádraic Ó Conaire: Man & Statue; Galway GAA: The Three-in-a-Row,1964-66; The Galway Hooker; Dance Hall Days; Cinema: Galway goes to the Pictures; Sea Science and New Discoveries in Galway Bay. The Museum has an ongoing education and outreach programme providing talks and tours throughout the year to a range of audiences including school groups and active-retired groups and to the general public. Galway City Museum is one of Ireland’s leading visitor attractions with more than 153,000 visitors in 2014. The Museum expanded its opening hours during the busiest months for visitors to the city with free admission each week from Tuesday to Sunday from May to October.

**Galway Sports Partnership**

Galway Sports Partnership (GSP) has delivered a number of programmes in 2014. GSP allocated €45,000 to over 20 clubs and community groups. Applicants were assessed on the viability of their programme, who it was targeted at and the sustainability of the activity once the programme came to an end. GSP has five main target groups, women and girls, older adults (over 55yrs), the unemployed, disadvantaged groups and people with disabilities. Amounts ranged from €400 to €2,500 with targets of participants from 12 to 1000 individuals.
Running/Walking Activities
Operation Transformation took place in January with over 200 walkers on the Prom. Knocknacarra Park Run was set up with the help of the HSE, Park Run Ireland and GSP with supported by the Parks Section. The 5K runs take place every Saturday at 9:30am. Entry is free and it is part of the global Park Run family which enables runners to take part all over the world.

GSP annual 10K run took place in Labane in April with over 200 runners/walkers. 65 children completed the 1K dash on the day. GSP supported the Simon Asphalt 10K and 10 mile runs in Salthill in 2014. Four schools took part in the Sports Hall Athletics programme with over 260 receiving training in the various running, jumping and throwing events. 225 of these took part in the Galway finals event where 56 were chosen to represent Galway in the All Ireland event in the indoor arena Athlone I.T. The Galway finals were held in Galway Community College and supported by the staff and students of the level 6 certificates in health courses.

Coach Education
GSP held 20 basic awareness and 2 children's officer courses in 2014 with a total of 278 participants. Twenty-two coaches/volunteers completed Disability Inclusion Training (DIT), a 6 hour course delivered by the CARA Centre in 2014. DIT trains people on how to cater for people with disabilities in sport and gives practical examples on how to include people in club activities. Forty coaches/volunteers attended the Speed Agility and Quickness workshop held in GMIT.

Ability Programme
GSP delivered Xcessible Sports Hall Athletics programme with the support of CARA Centre. St. Joseph's Special School, Newcastle took part in the programme which culminated in a jamboree held in Knocknacarra Community Centre. In all, 24 participants took part. GSP gained the assistance of Annette McGeedy, Sports Inclusion Disability Officer (SIDO) with Roscommon LSP. A Boccia event in Renmore Community Centre was organised with 18 teams attended from various groups representing a wide range of abilities.

GSP in conjunction with the Social Inclusion Section and the Galway Centre for Independent Living held the 1st Galway Ability Sports Day in the Kingfisher NUIG. Over 80 people took part in various activities catering for various ages and abilities. The days aim was to highlight the amount of activities that are available in Galway for people with disabilities. We were also hoping to encourage more able-bodied volunteers to join clubs who cater for people with disabilities. Sports included, karate, judo, table tennis, boccia, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair hurling, visually impaired cycling, tandem cycling and hand cycling and goal ball.
Galway Sports Partnership Strategy 2015 – 2020

In quarter four of 2014 GSP continued our work on the forthcoming strategy with further consultations with stakeholders and the general public. Following from the outreach sessions GSP gave the public to give feedback through Survey Monkey. One hundred people gave their views through this method. GSP aims to have our strategy completed in quarter one of 2015.

FAI Football in the Community Development Officer

In 2014 there were over 15 coach education courses held in Galway City catering for 274 coaches. 14 camps took place over the year with 686 children involved over the sessions.

School-based programmes included small sided game events/competitions and in school sessions catering for 3005 children of both primary and secondary school levels.

4 one-off events took place catering or 440 people, these events include FARE week, club open days. 9 Football for All sessions took place catering for 53 participants with disabilities.

Galway City Council’s Sports Club Grant

GSP held an information session on 15th September assisting clubs on how to apply and what is required for a successful application for this grant scheme. Over 80 people in attended the seminar. Galway City Council Sports Club Grant budget was increased by 62% to €120,000 in 2014. In all, 52 clubs applied for funding with 48 being successful. Amounts ranged from 400 to the maximum of €3500 with the average allocation being just under €2,500. Fifty three clubs applied in all with five clubs ineligible for funding.
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Service Objective
To protect, enhance and conserve the natural environment of our City, to develop a letter free culture, to prevent pollution of air, water and soil and to promote and maintain a sustainable waste management system in Galway City.

Landfill Operation and Aftercare
Monitoring of the Carrowbrowne site is continuing, in accordance with the conditions of the EPA licence for the site. Investigations, and remedial works, have been carried out on the leachate management system at the landfill facility.

Recovery and Recycling Facilities Operations
The Civic Amenity Facility in Liosbán Industrial Estate continues to attract many users. The facility operates free of charge to domestic householders. The City Council is examining the introduction of a fixed charge per use for the facility in line with most similar facilities throughout the country.

The public opening hours of the Recycling Centre are:
- Monday – Thursday  2pm – 4pm
- Friday  2pm – 3pm
- Saturday  9am – 1pm

In addition to the domestic recycling facility, Galway City Council also operates a commercial WEEE drop off facility for use by registered retailers in Galway City. This facility is utilised daily and the WEEE collected is transferred to an approved recycling facility.

Cash for Cans
The Cash for Cans initiative is ongoing with a cash payment of €2 being offered per bag of aluminium cans. The scheme is for householders living in the city only and cans will not be accepted from commercial sources. A maximum of 3 clear bags can be presented at any one time and each bag must contain 100 cans or weigh 1.5 kg.

From January to December 2014, 4300 kgs of aluminium cans were deposited at the Galway City Council Recycling Centre and receipts issued amounted to €4,000 up to the end of December 2014. An amount of €2,746 was invoiced to Barna Recycling for 2014.

Bring Centre Operations
A total of 1708 tonnes of glass was deposited in bottle banks throughout Galway City in 2014. Continuous improvement works have been carried out in 2014. This includes the examination of new bottle bank sites, improved access to existing sites, new signage and installation of CCTV at select locations as listed below:
• Dunnes Stores, Briarhill;
• Doughiska Road Shopping Centre;
• Renmore Kingfisher Car Park;
• Westside, Bóthar Le Chéile;
• Dunnes Stores Terryland (CCTV);
• Galway Shopping Centre, Headford Road (Improved access and CCTV);
• City Hall, College Road;
• NUIG;
• Joyce’s Supermarket, Knocknacarra;
• Western Distributor Road, Knocknacarra (CCTV);
• Dyke Road, Terryland (CCTV);
• Civic Amenity Site, Sandy Road;
• Toft Park, Salthill.

The Environment Section has installed CCTV at selected locations to deal with illegal dumping at bottle banks.

**Provision of Waste Collection Services**
From the 1st January 2014, Barna Recycling commenced collection of Household Waste for a defined period subject to agreement. This defined period came to an end on the 31st December 2014. Barna Recycling will continue to service Refuse Waiver Customers up to the 31st December 2015.

**Composting**
The composting site has not accepted waste during 2014. In this period, a detailed analysis was undertaken as to its future viability and use. The outcome of the assessment provides that the City Council lease out the site to the market and to redeploy staff to other duties within the Directorate.

**Bulky Goods Collection**
The bulky goods collection continues to be a popular service with Galway City residents. Regular bulky items, such as furniture, carpets and beds are collected directly from the household on Mondays, for prices ranging from €6 to €52.50. An average of 150 items are collected each month. Electrical items, such as washing machines and fridges, are collected each month, with prices averaging €5. An average of 10 items are collected each month. An amount of €11,268 was received in 2014.

**Litter Management**
The maintenance of a litter free city is a key priority for Galway City Council from a lifestyle, social and economic perspective.
Litter Control Initiatives
Galway City Council promotes a number of litter control initiatives aimed at involving the community in maintaining their local area litter free. Schools, groups, and individuals took part in the An Taisce National Spring Clean. In Galway City, a big clean-up day took place on April 1st with more than 25 schools participating in a clean-up of their school grounds and surrounding areas.

Amenity Grants
A total of 117 Residents/Community Associations received amenity grants in 2014. The successful applicants were awarded grants on a sliding scale depending on the number of houses in the estate.

Tidy Towns Competition
An application was submitted on behalf of Galway City to the national Tidy Towns Competition in May of 2014. The results were announced in September and the city had improved on previous year’s results.

The Tidy Towns and Garden Competition was launched in May and over 200 applications were received from businesses and individuals throughout the city. The judging took place in July. The award ceremony for winners in the 2013 and 2014 competition was held on Wednesday 5th November 2014 with prizes awarded on the night by Mayor Dónal Lyons.

Above: Mayor Dónal Lyons with Pat McPhilbin 2014 Overall Winner Best Garden

Spring Cleaning
Spring Clean initiatives took place throughout the year with residents associations provided with bags and equipment. The Environment Section collected the waste gathered at agreed locations.

Strategic Partnerships
The Environment Section is encouraging partnerships with interested groups with regard to the cleaning of specific city spaces. In addition to the Glan Suas Gaillimh Initiative, partnerships have been developed for Doughiska Park and Terryland Forest Park and a number of Galway-based companies and organisations have carried out once-off clean-ups. The City Council is also working with the Community Service Order Initiative.

Environmental Awareness
An extensive environmental awareness programme is ongoing in Galway city.
**Green Schools**

All primary and secondary schools in Galway city are registered for the green schools programme and 32 educational facilities have achieved green flag status. A number of environmental workshops in schools were facilitated by the Environment Education Officer. An Taisce held 2 information sessions at the end of September. The aim of these seminars were both to introduce new schools to the Green-Schools programme as well as offering schools who are working on achieving their first or subsequent flags guidance and advice on the different themes of the programme. The seminars comprised of a presentation by An Taisce Education Officer followed by discussion time where schools can present any queries they have to An Taisce staff.

**Local Authority Prevention Network (LAPN):**

Galway City Council recognise the importance of waste prevention and reuse as waste management strategies and actively promote these over other waste treatment options. The City Council is an active member of the Local Authority Prevention Network (LAPN) and engages in a number of waste prevention projects with the support, both financial and technical, of the EPA and the LAPN network, including waste prevention projects in public buildings, businesses, communities, schools, festivals and events.

**Pride of Place**

The Pride of Place judges, Ms. Rita McNulty and Mr. Declan Nelson, visited Galway City and met all nominated groups as follows:

- Population under 1,000 – Galway’s West End;
- Population Over 1,000 – Doughiska;
- Eco Community Initiative – Transition Galway;
- Community Innovation – SCCUL Enterprises Ltd;
- Community Health Initiative (incorporating All Island All Active) – Croí.

The winners of the 'Pride of Place' were announced at an awards ceremony held in Ennis on the 15th November 2014. Doughiska/Merlin Woods scooped the top prize in the Category 2 of the Cities Competition, for communities of over 1000 people. Galway’s West End were a runner up in Category 1 of the Cities Competition, for communities under 1000 people.

**Right:** Pride of Place Awards Ceremony – Ennis, 2014

Front Row L-R: Fiona Coen, Galway City Council, Caroline Stanley, Doughiska/Merlin Woods, Mayor Dónal Lyons, Helen McDonagh, Administrative Officer, Environment Section.
In their citation, the judges said of Doughiska/Merlin Woods “They were impressed at the outset and were unstinting in their praise of this Category 2 entry. With a growing population now in excess of 7,000 this community has shown a remarkable capacity to cater for the needs of a diverse, multicultural population, which totally lacked basic social, educational, health and recreational facilities and services. The umbrella community development company recently acquired a modern, but closed-down hotel premises and transformed this into a multi-purpose community facility. This partnership provides strategic direction and empowers the local community to provide a range of services and programmes locally. This project demonstrates best practice in co-operation, collaboration, integration and social inclusion of the highest calibre”.

**Local Agenda 21 Environment Partnership Fund**

The Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund, which has operated since 1997, promotes sustainable development by assisting small-scale environmental projects at local level. Galway City Council was allocated €9,500 from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government for small-scale local environmental projects earlier this year. This funding is matched by equivalent funding from Galway City Council. A wide variety of projects and schemes have been supported under the fund in previous years.

**Litter awareness**

The City Council received an allocation of €33,060 under the Anti-Litter Awareness Fund 2014 from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. This money funded a range of anti-litter projects involving schools, community groups and businesses, including litter clean-ups, the children's art competition, a responsible dog ownership campaign and Cash for Cans.

**Street Cleaning**

For street cleaning, litter picking and emptying of litter bins, the city is divided into four sectors, east, west, north and city centre. A litter crew is assigned to each sector. Street cleaning and litter management services are carried out 7 days a week and commence at 5.00am until 4.30pm daily. Weekend operations differ depending on events taking place in the City and predicted weather forecasts.
Provision and improvement of litter bins
The provision of street bins within the City Centre is assessed on an ongoing basis. It was proposed to research best available technology to enhance the service of street litter bins within the City Centre and a pilot scheme was undertaken in 2014. The pilot scheme involved removal of 11 existing street litter bins from the city centre and installation of 7 solar compacting street litter bins. In brief, the pilot was a major success and illustrated a reduction in frequency of empting the street litter bins by 80% (75% at weekends). Feedback from the public and Galway City Council staff in relation to the street litter bins was positive. Funding for supply/lease arrangements for supply of solar compacting street litter bins is now been considered.

Galway City Volunteer Initiative (Glan Suas Gaillimh)
The volunteer initiative has been consistent since its commencement in 2013, with clean-ups taking place on Saturday/Sunday mornings. Works carried out include litter picking, painting, weeding, pruning, power washing, sweeping and removal of fly-posting. Projects are selected in association with the Tidy Towns committee and all equipment, materials and training are supplied by Galway City Council. A Facebook page “Glan Suas Gaillimh” has been established and a website is being designed to facilitate volunteer registration. The initiative has received positive media coverage on local radio and in local newspapers.

Community Service Order Initiative
The Community Service Order Initiative continues to carry out tasks across Galway City. Examples of projects undertaken through this initiative are as follows:
- Briarhill underpass – Graffiti removal, planting, landscaping;
- Old Cemetery, Rahoon Road – Minor landscaping and litter management;
- Knocknacarra – cleaning of alleyways in estates and removal of litter and weeds;
- Galway City Dog Pound – Painting of Dog Pound;
- Dunnes Stores, Terryland – Minor landscaping and litter management;
- Ceannt Station – Minor Landscaping and Litter Management;
- Castlepark, alleyways – removal of waste/litter and cleanups of the area;
- Eglinton Canal – Graffiti Removal and Litter Management;
- Cuan Mhuire Addiction Centre – Minor Landscaping and supply of heating fuel;
- Derelict Sites, Citywide – painting, repair of boundaries, minor landscaping. Minor landscaping works at derelict sites continue to be carried out with other litter management clean ups across the City.

Graffiti Removal
Graffiti removal is ongoing and has been carried out on a number of areas throughout the city. Due to costs and management of this service, it is normally
carried out in May and September each year. Several sites have been identified for May 2015.

**Water Safety – City Centre**
A total of 60 Ring buoy locations along the River Corrib and canals are inspected weekly. On average 2 to 3 of the ring buoys are being removed and are replaced weekly by the Community Wardens Service. Galway City Council, with the assistance of Irish Water Safety, are proposing to carry out any audit on water safety (Lifebuoys) in Galway City in 2015.

**Waste regulation – monitoring and enforcement**

**Waste Enforcement Officer**
The Waste Enforcement Officers duties include the monitoring and enforcement of Regulations made under the Waste Management Act 1996 and the European Communities Act 1972, as amended.


Enforcement duties include site and business inspections; follow up inspections when required, issuing notices and general correspondence. Reporting and liaising with other LAs, the EPA, DoECLG, National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO), and Connacht/Ulster Regional officers. Compiling waste data reports and validating annual reports (ARs) submitted to the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO) by permitted waste collectors operating in Galway City. Galway City Council carry out joint inspection with inspectors from the TransFrontier Shipments (TFS) of waste office in relation to the export of waste from Galway Harbour. Joint inspections are also carried out with the EPA in relation to the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and Battery Regulations and the burning of waste oil.

Duties also include monitoring compliance with household waste collection in relation to the household/apartment and waste collectors. Waste management complaints are investigated and the necessary follow up action taken. Serious illegal dumping and unauthorised waste activities are also referred to the Waste Enforcement Officer for investigation.

Galway City Council make every effort to work with businesses, waste collectors, waste facility permit holders, managements companies and householders to reach compliance with the relevant regulations particularly when new regulations come into effect. The work also includes raising awareness in relation to the reduction of waste arising and in turn reduces recycling and disposal costs and compliance fees. Work
is also carried out on waste management in general and best practice to reduce waste arising, increase recycling and meet EU recovery and recycling targets.

Consultation in relation to proposed new household waste collection permit regulations is well advanced. The regulations are due to come into effect in July 2015 and will require each household and apartment to avail of a fully segregated waste collection service.

**Community Warden Service to the Environment Section**
The community wardens continue to assist in investigating complaints made by the public to the Environment Section. A total of 1,520 complaints were logged and investigated by the wardens. The wardens are effective not only in tackling littering and illegal dumping but, also, in liaising with and supporting local communities who are trying to keep their area clean. A total of 194 litter fines were issued in 2014.

They have also assisted in the successful reporting and prosecution of individuals under the Waste Management and Litter Pollution Acts and have assisted in the reporting on Derelict Sites throughout the city. The wardens are also involved in litter surveys, including those associated with the National Litter Monitoring Survey.

**National Permitting Authority**
Galway City Council continues to work with Offaly County Council, the national permitting authority, in the processing and issuing of new waste collection permits in the region and the validation of annual returns.

**Waste Management Planning – Connacht Ulster Waste Management Region.**
The City Council continued to liaise with the Connacht/Ulster Waste Management Region Co-ordinator in relation to the preparation of the Regional Waste Management Plan. The Draft Connacht/Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 was presented to the City Council and the Environment, Recreation & Amenity Strategic Policy Committee in late 2014 and was on public display, with both, until 30th January 2015.

**Derelict Sites**
The Environment Section continued to investigate and pursue cases of dereliction across the city pursuant to the Derelict Sites Legislation. In the case of sites investigated the majority of the locations are rendered non derelict by agreement with owners following the completion of scheduled works and before notices under the Act are issued. A new database has been created to record derelict or potentially derelict sites, and efficiently track actions and outcomes. The number of sites on the Derelict Sites Register at 31st December, 2014 is 14.
Operation of Fire Services
The Fire Service is provided and managed by Galway County Council on behalf of the City Council in respect to the city administrative area.

Water Quality, Air and Noise Pollution

Water
Applications for blue flags and green coasts for the 2015 season were prepared and submitted to An Taisce for Salthill and Silverstrand beaches in the last quarter of 2014. A report on the bathing water quality of the City beaches was prepared and presented to the Environment, Recreation & Amenity Strategic Policy Committee.

Investigative monitoring was carried out on the outfalls in the vicinity of Ballyloughane Beach during the 2014 bathing water season to assess the impact they may be having on water quality at the Beach. Following the monitoring works, improvement works were carried out in the last quarter of 2014 on the Michael Collins Combined Storm Overflow, to limit the number of discharges from the foul sewer into the surface water network.

An assessment of the results for the 2014 bathing water quality at Ballyloughane and Grattan Beach was carried out and a report was prepared and presented to the Environment Recreation & Amenity Strategic Policy Committee. It is expected, based on the results of the 4 year assessment period (2011-2014) that Ballyloughane will be classified as ‘poor’ and Grattan Beach will be classified as 'sufficient' for the 2015 bathing water season. Based on the classification, it is likely that Ballyloughane will require a 'Do Not Swim' notice for the 2015 bathing season in accordance with the Regulations. While works have been carried out which should have a positive impact on the water quality and further works are proposed, sample results from a full bathing season will still be required before a reassessment of the classification can be carried out. Further advice on this will issue from the Environmental Protection Agency. In addition a number of water pollution complaints were investigated and dealt with.

Air
Air quality continued to be monitored by the National University of Ireland, Galway. Air quality in Galway is good and remains in compliance with the recommended limits. Inspections, awareness and enforcement activities in relation to smoky coal regulations were recommenced in the last quarter of 2014. One case taken in relation to offences under the regulations achieved a successful outcome in court. A number of other air pollution and dust related complaints were investigated.
Noise
Noise pollution incidents were investigated on a case-by-case basis and complainants are generally advised as to the procedures to be followed under the Environmental Protection Agency Act. A review of the street performance bye-laws was commenced and a report presented to the Environment SPC in 2014.

Provision of Automated Public Conveniences
Automatic Public Conveniences are located at the following locations:

- Blackrock
- Ladies Beach
- Palmers Rock
- Millennium Playground
- Kennedy Park, Eyre Square

A fire occurred at the locations of Ladies Beach and Blackrock, where the automated public conveniences are located. These incidents were investigated by An Garda Síochána. It is envisaged that these units will be repaired and operational before the 2015 summer season.

Agency and Recoupable Services
Galway Energy Agency
The Galway Energy Agency (GEA) provides an Energy Management Service to Galway City Council and a Public Energy Information and Awareness Service to the general public.

Energy Consumption
Galway City Council uses a number of different energy fuel types in the delivery of services, primarily electricity, natural gas and oil. All public sector bodies in Ireland are now required to report their energy consumption on an annual basis, together with actions and projects undertaken to reduce consumption towards 2020 agreed targets, in accordance with SI. 426 (and previously SI. 542). The target obligation for GCC is a 33% reduction from its agreed baseline period, average consumption for the period 2006 – 2008, by the year 2020. The graph below outlines the reduction in consumption progress towards the 2020 target for GCC, with an estimated 8,000,000 kWh distance to target remaining. Since the baseline, some of the main measures implemented to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy consumption include:

- Natural Gas Boiler and Heating Upgrades at Town Hall Theatre, Renmore & Westside Community Centres and Leisureland;
- Electricity Monitoring & Reporting on Largest 6 Sites;
- Combined Heat & Power (CHP) Generator at Leisureland;
- LED Lighting Upgrade and Heating Controls at City Hall;
- High Efficiency, LED and Group Metering Control Street Lighting;
The consumption for water and wastewater facilities is included within the data above, but as these sites are now transferred to Irish Water the responsibility for reporting is also transferred and will be reflected in future data reported here.

Electricity accounts for over 80% of the total primary energy consumption at GCC and will be the main focus for energy efficiency measures and upgrades in future projects. These projects formulate a Corporate Energy Management Plan currently under development by Galway Energy Agency, and include Public Lighting Upgrades, Storage Heating Efficiency & Control and Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Electricity Auto-Generation.

**Special Projects**

**South Park**
An application to the EPA for a certificate of authorisation for the risk assessment on the site was commenced and is awaiting EPA instruction and resolution to issues associated with the application system.

**Sailin to Silverstrand Coastal Protection Scheme**
The City Council's Consulting Engineers completed the documentation and submitted the foreshore licence application to the Marine Unit. Provision was made in the 2015 budget to allow for the preparation of the technical documentation to allow the scheme to progress to tender stage. The procurement documentation for the appointment of consultants was prepared in the last quarter of 2014 and advertising commenced in January 2015.

**Galway City Dog Pound**
Ongoing improvements in relation to operations at Galway City Dog Pound have been undertaken. However, there is a need to update the facility to comply with current building standards and health, safety & Welfare at work legislation. The Dog Warden is now inspecting estates and checking Dog Licences more frequently and a total of 1598 dog licences were recorded in 2014. A pilot programme with Madra has been running successfully in the Pound since September 2014 and a total of 16 dogs
up to December have been released to Madra from Galway City Council.

Casual Trading
Applications for casual trading licences at the St. Nicholas Market and Eyre Square market were processed for the 2014/2015. A Summer Friday licence was introduced for the first time in 2014, trading took place in July and August. A total of 289 licences were issued for the following categories - Saturday & Sunday Trading, Arts Festival, Summer Friday, Annual & Christmas.

RMCEI – Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections
Following the audit carried out by the EPA in May 2014 in relation to the MCEI (Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections) plan and complaints handling by Galway City Council, a report was received and responded to with the recommended actions identified by the EPA carried out. The 2015 plan was commenced in the last quarter of 2014, for submission to the EPA by end of January 2015.

Operation of Library and Archival Service
The Library Service is delivered by Galway County Council for both the city and county area. A presentation on the service was provided to the Council at a recent City Council meeting. Regular updates will be provided to the SPC in 2015.

Lough Corrib Navigation Trustees
The Lough Corrib Navigation Trustees were established by the Navigation Act of 1859 made by the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland. The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance of navigation aids and a limited number of piers on the Corrib system. The Trustees are also responsible for the maintenance of the Eglinton canal system, associated walkways, tow paths, lock gates and boundary walls.
RECREATION AND AMENITY

Service Objective
To develop and promote the provision of high quality recreational, leisure and amenity facilities for all groups of life through conserving the City’s Natural Heritage.

Strategic Policy Committee Meeting
The Environment Section in conjunction with the Recreation and Amenity facilitate the organization of meetings. Overall 4 meetings took place during 2014.

Terryland Forest Park Steering Committee
The committee worked in partnership with Galway City Council to raise the profile of the Park. The commencement of a Gateway Scheme enabled the physical revitalization of the park. 2015 will be a very positive year for the Park.

Continental Christmas Markets
Galway City Council, in partnership with Galway City Business Association, were granted an Outdoor Event Licence for the Continental Christmas Markets at Kennedy Park. The Markets took place from the 21st November to the 22nd December, 2014.

Other Events
This Section received 121 applications in the period January to December, 2014 which included the return of many annual events for example, Western Veteran & Vintage Car Display, Aquathon, Salthill Devon National Fives, Galway Food Festival, Galway Potters Market, Galway International Oyster Festival, Galway Arts Festival, Baboró Children’s Festival and the Christmas Day Swim to name a few. There was also a new event including The Comedy Festival who had a Spiegeltent in Southpark.

Community Planting Initiative (CPI)
In 2014 over 146 groups re-registered with CPI, which included Resident Associations, Schools and Community Groups and many availed of spring and winter bulbs. Also, 56 meetings were held between Galway City Council and resident/organisations.

Doughiska Community Garden
Tendered works were carried out at Doughiska Amenity Park to prepared open space adjacent to Recreation & Amenity depot as a community garden. The works included the construction of wheelchair access to the park, a roadway leading into Merlin Woods, the installation of a timber fence and provision of water and electrical services to the site.
Community Projects
The Section continued to support three specific clubs i.e. The Conservation Volunteers Galway, Friend of Merlin Woods and the Conservation Volunteers Galway to prepare an ecological project on Galway City Council lands in accordance with the Galway City Biodiversity Plan.

Strange-boat Donor Foundation Garden Project
A formal opening of the ‘Circle of Life National Organ Donor Commemorative Garden’ took place on the 6th May 2014.

Kelly Fields/Liam Mellows GAA
Negotiations were ongoing to complete the transfer of sales agreements and to agree equivalent new amenity works.

Galway City Allotments
During 2014 the Recreation & Amenity Section contacted plot holders at both Shantalla who did not appear to be using their plots. Four people surrendered their plots and they were reallocated to people on the reserve list. A contractor was engaged to carry out works at Shantalla Park. The works included the clearance of the remaining original landfill material plus stones excavated from beneath the top soil by the plot holders. Tool sheds were also constructed to facilitate the 11 plotholders who did not have one. At Merlin Woods Allotments, an electrical contractor was engaged to connect the two tool shed shipping containers to the ESB supply. Strip lighting was installed to alleviate the Health & Safety concerns of the plot holders.

Christmas Trees
The traditional Christmas Trees and festive lights were provided in Kennedy Park. Recycling facilities for domestic Christmas trees was provided again in January, 2014 at Hunters Depot and Merlin Wood Depot.

Grant Applications by Galway City Council:
Work is in progress to produce tender documentation for the appointment of contractors to undertake the approved works at Mervue Public Park in conjunction with St James GAA. Tenders are scheduled for advertisement in spring 2015.

Meanwhile tender documentation for the appointment of design and tender production services will commence shortly with respect to the approved Cappagh and Corrib Park Projects.

Three applications submitted by Recreation & Amenity Section were successful in securing funding:
- Full Size Pitch Conversion to All Weather Pitch at Cappagh Park: €250,000.00;
Natural Playing Surface Development, Goalposts, ball stop netting and artificial playing surface development at Mervue GAA: €74,000.00;
Natural Playing Surface Development at Corrib Park: €45,000.00.

Community Centres
The Recreation & Amenity Section are continuing to operate three Community Centres at Knocknacarra, Westside and Renmore. The Knocknacarra Community Centre facilitated a number of summer camps including 'Let's Go' summer camp and 'Galway School of Ballet' summer camp. Minor works have also taken place in all the centres including the installation of fire alarms in Renmore and Westside and to include the fitting out the Multifunction Room as a fully functional Auditorium.

The 'Let's Go' summer camp also took place in Renmore Community Centre. The Westside Community Centre facilitated Titans Basketball tournament and the Active Retired Regional Bowling Finals.

Renmore Recreation Centre – New Roof
Further to a consultation process consultants were appointed to undertake a full audit and to prepare a detailed works schedule to replace and upgrade the roof and ancillaries.

Beaches
Works were completed in relation to the storm damage that occurred at the beginning of the year. New lifeguard huts were installed to replace the ones damaged following storm Christine. The wall at Silverstrand beach was constructed with railings being replaced which were damaged. Rock armour was repaired and supplemented and benches upgraded. The beach life guarding season finished in the third quarter which was a safe/successful/rewarding season for all involved. Maintenance including the installation of a new ramped access to ladies beach was completed in final quarter of 2014. Seaweed was maintained as required on the city’s beaches.

Cemeteries
Operating Policy
A review of grave digging procedures was carried out and the Section is examining the possibility of purchasing appropriate shoring equipment for the purpose of grave excavation and ground stabilization and funeral service.

Bohermore Cemetery Lodge House/Bohermore Churches
The condition of the house/churches has been assessed for conservation/maintenance purposes in conjunction with the Heritage Officer. Works to be carried out include rewiring, plumbing, plastering and painting. A programme of works is developed and works will be carried out as budgets come available.
New Cemetery Site for the City
The process of identifying and assessing potential new cemetery sites was commenced with a view to shortlisting a number of potential sites.

Westside Sports Campus:
Works commenced on the construction of a new playing fields, a running track, adventure play facility, adult exercise park and children's playground with new pedestrian walkways and tree planting. The Project is nearing completion.

Blackrock Diving Tower
Following a tender process consultants were appointed and commenced a full audit of the historic structure with an accompany consultation process with appropriate stakeholders.

Grants received in 2014
The Recreation & Amenity Section successfully drew down the following grants:

- Bohermore Dressing Rooms – €200,000.00 together with a RAPID top up of €60,000.00 totalling €260,000.00 from the Sports Capital Programme 2005;
- Corrib Park – €50,000.00 together with a RAPID top up of €15,000.00 totalling €65,000.00 from the Sports Capital Programme 2008;
- Leisureland – Funding totalling €521,950.00 was received from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government in respect of expenditure incurred due to severe weather which occurred in early 2014.
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Service Objective
The Section’s mission is to stimulate economic vitality by strengthening neighbourhoods, building partnerships, and fostering public and private investments in the City.

The Local Government Reform Act 2014 provides the foundation for significant change in the role and structure of local government, particularly in relation to local, economic and community development. Galway City Council has the primary responsibility for leading economic development in Galway city and, in 2014, engaged in a number of projects and work programmes to stimulate and enable enterprise and innovation in the local region.

In addition, the Economic Development Unit in Galway City Council continued to work closely with public and private groups and agencies in the city to develop and promote Galway as a place to invest, work and do business.

Economic Strategy and Economic Plan
In 2014, work commenced on an Economic Strategy for Galway City and County. The Whitaker Institute in NUI Galway were engaged to carry out an Industrial and Economic Baseline Study to underpin the strategy. Data relating to a full range of socio-economic performance indicators was collected for Galway city and county, from a variety of sources, and this was used to provide a snapshot of Galway in relation to its demographic baseline. Sectoral reviews, which included strengths, opportunities and recommendations, were also prepared for nine industrial sectors in Galway city and county. This information is available on www.galwaydashboard.ie.

In parallel with the Economic Strategy, Galway City Council is developing a Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). This Plan will set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support economic development and local community development in Galway City, both by Galway City Council and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.

The community element of the LECP is to be prepared by the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the economic element is to be prepared by the Local Authority, through the Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC). Both elements will be integrated into a Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) and adopted by the City Council.
Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)
The Galway City Council Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Culture SPC was established in 2014. The committee is made up of representatives from the local government sectors as well as sectoral representatives. The purpose of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Community SPC is to assist in the Council’s decision making process and to advise on and formulate policy before being considered for adoption by the elected representatives of the full Council.

Galway Local Enterprise Office
The Galway Local Enterprise Office was formally launched by Minister John Perry, T.D. on the 27th June 2014. The LEO is the successor to Galway City and County Enterprise Board and provides a series of financial and other supports for new and small businesses in the city and county.

MeetWest 2014
MeetWest 2014 took place on November 20th and November 21st 2014 in the Galway Bay Hotel, Salthill. Galway City Council were the host organisation, with partner organisations Galway County Council, Galway LEO, Mayo County Council, Mayo LEO, Roscommon County Council, Roscommon LEO, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Western Development Commission, Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland and SCCUL Enterprises Ltd.

294 delegates from 250 companies paid to attend. This is the largest number of paid delegates and the largest number of participating companies since the event was launched in 2011. Over the 2 days, delegates participated in workshops on public procurement, the creative economy and wellbeing in business, as well as one-on-
one and ten-to-one business networking meetings. The feedback from the event was overwhelmingly positive with 100% of 130 respondents to the feedback questionnaire rating the event as good (28%) or very good (72%). 95% of respondents stated that they believe the one-on-one networking meetings event will generate business for them.

Above: Mr. Vincent Campbell speaking at the Building Buying Relationships with the Public Sector workshop at MeetWest 2014.

Purple Flag
In November 2014, Galway City Council submitted an application to the Association of Town and City Management (ATCM) seeking Purple Flag status for the city. Two judges visited the city on December 5th 2014 and carried out an assessment of Galway as a night-time destination. The assessment was based on 30 different criteria under the headings wellbeing, movement, appeal, place and policy and took place over a 12 hour period from 5pm to 5am. A number of groups and organisations assisted Galway City Council with preparation of the application form and the assessment visit, including An Garda Síochána, Galway Chamber of Commerce, Galway City Business Association, Galway’s West End, Galway’s Latin Quarter, Galway Rape Crisis Centre and HSE Healthy Cities.

Marketing Promotion Fund
In 2014, 5 projects were awarded funding totalling €77,000 from the Marketing Promotion Fund 2014. The Fund was established in order to ensure that Galway City Council could provide support for the holding of major events and festivals in the city. The projects awarded funding in 2014 were the Galway Comedy Festival, Galway Food Festival, Galway Arts First Thought Programme, Macnas Parade and St. Patrick’s Brass Band and Military Band Festival.

Enterprise Units
Galway City Council manages 21 enterprise units at Sandy Road and 13 enterprise units at Westside Enterprise Centre. The units vary in size from 220 sq. ft. to 2500 sq. ft. Galway City Council are also represented on the Board of An Fiontarlann Teo. An Fiontarlann Teo manage 17 units in Westside varying in size from 400-1000 sq. ft. The criterion used in allocating tenancy for all of the enterprise units is the creation of sustainable employment.
CORPORATE SERVICES

Service Objective
To provide an effective support service for elected members and the public, to promote and protect the corporate interests of the City Council and to provide a support service to the organisation generally.

Freedom of Information
The Freedom of Information Act 1997 (FOI) as amended by the Freedom of Information (Amendment) Act 2003 obliged government departments, the Health Service Executive (HSE), local authorities and a range of other public bodies to publish information on their activities and to make the information they held, including personal information, available to citizens. The Freedom of Information Act 2014 came into effect and repealed the 1997 and 2003 Acts. The new Act introduced a number of changes to the Freedom of Information scheme with the main changes as follows:

- Wide range of restrictions introduced in 2003 removed;
- FOI extended to all public bodies, subject to limited exemptions in whole or in part;
- Act provides power for FOI to be extended to non public bodies significantly funded by the State;
- Changes to the fees that apply to FOI Requests;
- Legislation modernised, consolidated and simplified.

Secondary legislation is required to bring certain provisions of the new act into effect. A new Fees Order has already been made. Others will follow. In the year 2014, a total of 37 requests were made to Galway City Council under the Freedom of Information Acts 2014. Of these, 4 was carried forward from 2013, 21 sought access to non-personal information and 16 personal information.

The table below provides an analysis of the outcome of these requests.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome of request</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Granted</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-granted</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refused</td>
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<tr>
<td>Withdrawn</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dealt with outside of F.O.I</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carried Forward to 2015</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
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</table>

2 requests were appealed internally.

Freedom of Information Requests Received by each Section in 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Number</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate Services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport &amp; Infrastructure</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conferences & Seminars 2014
Below are details of the conferences and seminars attended by councillors in 2014.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference</th>
<th>No. Of Attendees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• LAMA Spring Conference</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Local Government Bill 2014</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Financing of Local Government- The Critical Issues</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Hydro Power – How Local Authorities can harness our rivers and streams.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Municipal Water – The Challenge for Local Authorities</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Rural Housing – Planning &amp; Development Design Guidelines</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Canvassing Tips 2014</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Political Reform 2014</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• AMAI Spring Seminar 2014</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Genealogy; Tracing your Ancestors and Family Tree</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Colmcille Winter School – Scoil Gheimhrdh Cholmcille</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Role of the Ombudsman Conference</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Association of County and City Councils Annual Conference</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Domestic Water Charges Preparation and Practicalities</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Waste Management Legislation</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cumann Merriman – Scoil Gheimhrdh 2014</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Making Communities Heart Safe with Council's Help</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Transport Ireland 2014</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Social Clauses in Public Procurement</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Carlow Tourism National Conference 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>• The Elected Member, The Environment and the Community</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Local Authorities Employment Law, Practice &amp; Procedure</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Association of Irish Local Government Induction Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>• The Parnell Society</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>• The Console World Suicide Prevention Day Conference</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Association of Irish Local Government Finance Seminar</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Association of Irish Local Government Housing Seminar</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Association of Irish Local Government Planning Seminar</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• LAMA Autumn Training Seminar</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Budget 2015 Review</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Association of Irish Local Government Annual Conference</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Console Suicide Prevention</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Irish Water Seminar for Councillors</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Election Expenditure & Donations – Local Elections 2014
Section 19 of Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure) Act of 1999 as amended by Section 5 of the Electoral (Amendment) (no. 2) Act 2009 states that in respect of the year in which a local election is held, the Annual Report shall
include details of the aggregate election expenditure in respect of each candidate, designated persons, third party and national agent, and donations received in respect of each candidate, designated person, third party and national agent as contained in the statements and declarations furnished to it pursuant to Section 13.

For details of expenditure and donations received regarding Local Elections 2014 please see Appendix.

Corporate Plan
The work of Galway City Council, as set out in the business plans and team development plans each year, is guided by its Corporate Plan, which is prepared every five years following the election of a new Council. The current Corporate Plan, to cover the period 2014 to 2019, was adopted by City Council at a meeting on 8th December, 2014.

The Mission Statement of the Corporate Plan is: “...to work in partnership as Elected Members and Staff of Galway City Council in the development and enhancement of the City and to provide efficient services to the people we serve, and in so doing, to continue to make Galway an attractive, vibrant and proud city in which to live, work and visit.” The Plan, which was prepared by a Joint Committee comprised of the members of the Corporate Policy Group and City Council officials, sets out the City Council's core values, principal objectives and the strategies for the achievement of these objectives over the lifetime of the Plan. It also provides a strategic framework within which the combined efforts of the elected members and staff can work together to achieve these objectives having regard to the mission statement and core values of the organisation.

Customer Service
Customer Service Centre
A Customer Service Centre comprising of a Call Centre and a Customer Service Desk has been in place since 2009. The Customer Service Centre (Call Centre and Customer Service Desk) provided support for the following services in 2014:

- **Transport & Parking:** Pay and Display, Parking Permits, Parking Fine Queries/Payments.
- **Environment:** Household Bulky Goods Collection Service, Recycling, Casual Trading Licence Queries, Spring Clean Initiative.
- **Finance:** NPPR (Non-Principal Private Residence) Queries, Registration and Telephone Payments.
- **Recreation and Amenity:** Parks, Grass Cutting/Trees Queries, and Changing Room Facilities
- **Corporate Services:** Register of Electors Queries, Reception Duties.
**Call Centre**
With the exception of Housing and Planning the Customer Service Call Centre supports all telephone calls received on the main telephone number for Galway City Council (091-536400) from 9.00am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday. In 2014, the call centre received 49,744 telephone calls – approximately 10,000 less calls than in 2013. The reduction in calls was primarily due to:
- Communications improvements with increased use of social media re. customer affecting issues;
- Transfer of the Refuse Service to Barna Recycling resulting in less calls relating to the service;
- Redesign and updating of Galway City Council’s website [www.galwaycity.ie](http://www.galwaycity.ie). The new website has a more customer focused structure – enabling customers to obtain answers online to city council related services.

Of the 49,744 calls received by the Customer Service Centre of Galway City Council:
- **93%** of telephone calls were answered first time;
- The Average Speed To Answer was **10** seconds;
- The Average Telephone Call Handling Time was **1 minute 30 seconds**;
- The Average Caller Abandon Rate was **2.30%**.

**Customer Service Phone Call Volume Trend & Performance – 2014**

![Telephony Performance 2014](image)

The top 5 queries received by the Customer Service Call Centre (by telephone) in 2014 related to the following:
1. Parking Fines;
2. Pay & Display;
3. Payments;
4. NPPR (Non Principle Private Residence – re. late penalty date 1st Sept 2014);

**Customer Service Desk**
The Customer Service Desk in the main foyer of City Hall provides a single point of contact for customers in relation to various City Council related services. In 2014, the Customer Service Desk handled an average of 190 transactions per month, outside
of general reception duties. The Top 5 Queries supported at the Customer Service Desk in 2014 related to the following:

- Residents Parking Permits;
- Fixed Charge Notices (Parking Fines);
- Visitors Parking Permits;
- Bulky Goods Collection Service;
- Casual Trading Licences.

Customer Service Desk – Transaction Types 2014

Telephone Calls to the Organisation
The main telephone line for contacting Galway City Council is 091-536400. In 2014, the organisation received a total of 76,973 telephone calls on its main contact number 091-536400. The diagram below shows the breakdown of calls received on the main contact number for Galway City Council. The option for General Enquiries includes queries relating to Water Services, Roads, Parks and Finance.

Website & Social Media
In 2014 the Customer Service section, working with the Information Communications and Technology section, redesigned and implemented a new website with the aim of enabling users to more easily obtain customer focused information in relation
Galway City Council services. The new website combined with social media and the Galway City Council Text Alert Service provides customers with more choice in how they interact and avail of Galway City Council’s services.

**Telephone Payments**
The implementation of a new first point of contact credit/debit card payment facility was introduced to provide customers with the choice of paying for council related services over the telephone by contacting the customer service centre on 091-536400.

**Health & Safety**
Galway City Council is committed to safeguarding, so far as is reasonably practicable, the safety, health and welfare of its employees together with that of any persons potentially affected by council activities. In line with this commitment, and in compliance with the requirements of the Safety, Health & Welfare at Work Act, 2005, Galway City Council maintains a Safety Management System. The Health and Safety Officer at Galway City Council, promotes a culture to protect the Safety, Health and Welfare of all employees.

The activities carried out by Galway City Council in 2014 under the particular requirements of the Safety Management System are set out hereunder:

- Further development and monitoring of the formalised Safety Management System;
- Identify situations where accidents and ill-health are likely to occur and the controls that are required to prevent occurrence;
- Revision and development of Parent H&S policies;
- Ancillary safety statements were reviewed when there is a significant change to the matters to which it refers;
- Risk assessments were reviewed as appropriate and used to manage the implementation of additional control measures;
- Safe work practices were introduced and reviewed as appropriate;
- Identify potential emergencies and have plans in place to prevent accidents and ill-health in the event of such emergencies;
- Emergency plans were reviewed & updated where potential for emergency was identified during the course of risk assessments referred to above e.g. such plans include the provision of first aid/ers, fire wardens etc.;
- Continued to consult regularly with all employees and Safety Representatives through the network of Safety Consultation Committee meetings on a monthly basis on issues of concern to employees;
- Safety representative elections were facilitated where necessary;
- Management addressed issues raised by safety representative having regard to the requirements of legislation;
- Jointly with the awarding Section; Competency Assessments were completed
on designers and contractors in order to meet our legal requirements under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2013;

• Development of Policy and Procedure for the Management of Health and Safety Training, and the delivery of a H&S training programme. Employees were provided with health and safety training prescribed by legislation;
• Delivery of Occupational Health and Welfare Program including VDU Assessments, Pregnant Employee Risk Assessments, and the development of vaccination program;
• Safety critical systems at City Hall, such as First and Emergency First Aid equipment checked to be in order at frequent intervals;
• Report and investigate where accidents/incidents/ill-health have occurred or are likely to occur so as to prevent occurrence or recurrence;
• Check by inspection/auditing that arrangements to prevent accidents and ill-health are implemented and effective;
• Continual co-operation with external parties such as the HSA;
• Safety Inspections were carried out at frequent intervals to promote Health and Safety in the organisation, by the Chief Executive Officers, Directors of Services, Line Managers, Supervisors and the Health and Safety Officer. These inspections were used to monitor progress in implementing the procedures and protocols of the Local Authority and to identify areas requiring further work. Overall a high level of compliance was found;
• The Safety Monitoring Committee held bimonthly meetings to ensure inclusion, feedback and thorough understanding of safety within the organisation for management, staff and safety representatives;
• Non-compliances identified during the course of inspections were actioned by management;
• Review and continual update of the Health & Safety Risk Register.

Health and Safety Training

Galway City Council recognises that one of its most valuable assets is our staff and we continue to support their training and development needs. Health and Safety training formed a considerable part of the 2014 training plan. 853 training days were provided to Galway City Council staff members in 2014. The Health and Safety Officer delivered the Health and Safety Training program for 2014, covering broad areas such as management of health and safety, machinery/equipment operation, working safely on roads, lone working safety, violence & aggression, etc.
### Health and Safety-related training provided in 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Course Duration (Days)</th>
<th>No. of Employees Trained</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abrasive Wheels</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abrasive Wheels Refresher</td>
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<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSCS Location of Underground Services</td>
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<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSCS Signing, Lighting &amp; Guarding for Roadworks</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSCS Mini-Digger</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confined Spaces – High Risk</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Confined Spaces – Medium Risk</td>
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<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confined Spaces – Low Risk</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dealing with Violence &amp; Aggression</td>
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<td>58</td>
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<tr>
<td>Driver CPC Module 1 (CVEDT)</td>
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<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driver CPC Module 2 (MRMET)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driver CPC Module 3 (HSOPD)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driver CPC Module 4 (RPDTI)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driver CPC Module 5 (PROTD)</td>
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<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Marshal Training</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fire Safety / Use of Fire Extinguisher Training</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forklift Operator</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IOSH Supervising Safely in Construction</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Emergency Management</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manual Handling (Indoor)</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manual Handling (Outdoor)</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk Assessment &amp; Chemical Awareness Staff Safety Briefing</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signing, Lighting &amp; Guarding – Information Update</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Safe Pass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Safety Induction - Indoor</td>
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<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety Induction - Outdoor</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety Representative Training</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toolbox Talks – Various Topics</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Facilities

Facilities Management Role
The Facilities Section carries out all required maintenance, upgrading and development works at City Hall and the outdoor staff depot at Sandy Road. The section also provides assistance to other facilities in the City such as the Museum and Council-owned commercial units.

Improvements in Facilities in 2014: Sandy Road Fire safety Remedial Works
In 2014 fire safety remedial works were carried out on the Sandy Road Works Depot and Commercial Units. The Buildings consisting of an area of approximately 9000 square metres had been constructed as a textile factory back in the 1950s. In the 1980s the facility was taken over by Galway Corporation as a works depot and also set up 19 commercial units to promote enterprise at the location.

Galway City Council engaged Jeremy Gardner Associates to carry out a fire risk assessment of the complex. The corresponding report identified deficiencies that needed addressing in order to achieve compliance with current regulations. Subsequently FVG Construction were contracted by Galway City Council to carry out remedial works which consisted of the upgrading of fire partitions between units, the upgrade of fire doors and windows and the fire protecting of stairwells and corridors. The purpose of the works was to provide adequate escape routes for occupants and contain the spread of fire in the unfortunate case of an emergency. The works carried out were to the value of €90,000. The facility is now compliant with current fire regulations.

Improvements in Facilities in 2014: City Hall Air Conditioning
Galway City Council undertook a major upgrade of the air conditioning system at City Hall in 2014. This was carried out to achieve compliance with current legislation which bans the use of virgin, reclaimed or reused HCFC gases from 1st January 2015. The works involved the replacement of 50% of the air conditioning system in the building and the upgrading of the remaining 50%. Galway City Council engaged Heavey Kenny Associates as design consultants for the project and the installation works were carried out by Whiriskey Refrigeration. The cost of the project was just under €100,000. The building is now compliant with current legislation and is achieving significant energy with the upgraded system.
**HUMAN RESOURCES**

**Service Objective**
To ensure adequate staff resources to meet organisational objectives and to encourage and assist our staff in developing their full potential as valued employees of Galway City Council

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff Complement 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grade</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Executive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director of Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head of Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Management Accountant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head of Information Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Executive Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Staff Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Officer/Store Keeper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Staff Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerical Officers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Engineer/Planner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Executive Engineer/Planner/Parks Superintendent/Architect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Engineer/Planner/Architect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Engineer/Planner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Executive Technician</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Technician</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technician Grade I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technician Grade II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerk of Works</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heritage Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIS Co-Ordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Social Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Estate Liaison Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leisureland Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Education Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Safety Officer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other Posts**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Workplace Partnership Facilitator</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Sports Partnership Co-Ordinator</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I.S. Analyst Developer</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I.S. Technical Officer</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Technical Support</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Inclusion Officer</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customer Services Manager</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Customer Services Manager</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customer Service Advisor</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Hall Theatre Manager</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museum Director</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museum Education Outreach Officer</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museum Mediators</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museum Receptionist</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museum Student Placement</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment Enforcement Officer</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Documentation Officer</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grade</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craft Foreman</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craft Chargehand</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craftsmen</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caretakers</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities Manager</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meter Reader</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Inspector</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreman</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ganger</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driver/Plant Operator A</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driver/Plant Operator B</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light Equipment Operator Cat 2</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labourer/GO Cat 1</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Galway City Council’s staff headcount at the end of December 2014 stands at 436. This represents a whole time equivalent of 410.10. This figure includes permanent staff and contract staff of both a full-time and part-time nature.

Galway City has a population base in excess of 75,000, which is significantly increased by the seasonal student & tourist populations annually. The city is a vibrant and attractive destination and requires to be managed on a 7-day week basis. Galway City Council provides a wide range of diverse services to our citizens and visitors alike. The moratorium on public sector recruitment and the fiscal realities within which we work has placed great demands on the operations of the Council and the way we manage our service delivery.

2014 was a significant year in terms of Human Resource Management in Galway City Council. Along with every other local authority, the Council continued with the implementation of the terms of the nationally agreed Haddington Road Agreement.

2014 also saw the first intake of participants under the Gateway Employment Initiative. By 31st December 2014, 45 placements had been offered and 40 participants were in place.

Retirements 2014
The following staff retired from their respective posts with Galway City Council in the year 2014:

- John Bohan – Housing
- Una Fitzgibbons – Corporate Services
- William Dunne – Transportation
- Noel Geraghty – Housing
Noreen O'Dowd – Planning  
Mary Clarke – ICT

The Management and staff would like to take this opportunity to thank each individual for their years of service to Galway City Council and in turn to the City of Galway.

Staff Training & Development

Galway City Council’s Corporate Plan 2009-2014 sets out the core values of the Council, which include the provision of a first class service to our city and its people. In order to achieve this, it is acknowledged that significant investment is required in the training and development of our staff.

The PMDS process, which has been rolled out in Galway City Council, is being used to identify training needs in the organisation. An analysis of the training needs, in turn, is used to provide the content of the annual Training Programme.

In 2014 staff continued to attend courses and seminars on a regular basis in order to develop their skills to assist them to carry out their functions in the most effective and efficient manner.

The table below details the courses & conferences attended by GCC Staff in 2014:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>No. of Personnel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abrasive Wheels</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to Information on the Environment</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Local Authority HR Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applied Project Management</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>ArcGIS for Server: Sharing GIS Content on the Web</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Audience Development Workshop</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Control Workshop</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIPD Foundation Level Cert Learning &amp; Development Practice</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSCS - Locating Underground Services</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSCS - Signing Lighting and Guarding at Roadworks</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSCS – Mini Digger</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate in Local Government Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confined Spaces - High Risk</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confined Spaces - Low Risk</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confined Spaces - Medium Risk</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction Law Conference</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>HR, Superannuation &amp; Payroll Systems Training</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courtroom Skills</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course</td>
<td>Duration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Customer Service Training</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dealing with Violence and Aggression</td>
<td>70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diploma in Local Government Studies</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMURS Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Driver CPC Module 1 (CVEDT)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driver CPC Module 2 (MRMET)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driver CPC Module 3 (HSOPD)</td>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Driver CPC Module 4 (RPDTI)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Driver CPC Module 5 (PROTD)</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>F.O.I. Training Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fire Marshals Training</td>
<td>41</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fire Safety/ Use of Fire Extinguishers Training</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forklift Operator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Garda Vetting Seminar</td>
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<td>Heads of Finance Annual Conference 2014</td>
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<td>Higher Cert in Science in Professional Horticulture Practice</td>
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<td>Housing Practitioners Annual Conference 2014</td>
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<td>Hygiene in Water Services</td>
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<td>ICT Training</td>
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<td>IOSH Supervising Safely in Construction</td>
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<tr>
<td>IPA Legislative Training Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>Irish Water - GIS System</td>
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<td>Irish Water - Work Order Management Maximo</td>
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<td>Irish Language Course</td>
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<td>Irish Museums Assoc Annual Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leadership in Local Government Programme</td>
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<td>Major Emergency Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manual Handling (indoor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manual Handling (outdoor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Masters in Town &amp; Country Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>MCSD Training for Web Developer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Museum Standards Programme for Ireland Review Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oil Spillage Contingency Planning Awareness Seminar</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning for Retirement</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Supervisor Construction Stage (PSCS)</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Protected Disclosures

The Protected Disclosures Act 2014 (whistle blowing legislation) aims to protect employees in all sectors from penalisation should they decide to disclose information that, in the reasonable belief of the worker, tends to show a relevant wrongdoing.

The protections extend to these beyond the usual definition of employees and also include contractors, consultants, agency staff, former employees, trainees and interns.

An employee who makes a protected disclosure is protected from penalisation (or threatened penalisation), which includes: suspension, lay-off or dismissal, demotion, and unfair treatment. No disclosures were made to Galway City Council in 2014.
INTERNAL AUDIT

Internal Audit is responsible for providing assurance to the Audit Committee, Chief Executive and Senior Management Team, on the adequacy and effectiveness of Galway City Council's internal control systems. Internal Audit critically and objectively reviews the adequacy of the Procedures, Work Processes and Operations used throughout all Galway City Council Directorates. Internal Audit confirms the integrity of management information used for decision-making, and verifies compliance with statutory regulations; along with assessing the safeguarding of assets.

Internal Audit operates under an adopted Charter, which ensures that the functions discharged comply with the Principles and International Standards as set by the Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors – UK and Ireland. Internal Audit liaises with External Auditors; including the Local Government Audit Service, and various Government Dept's and EU Auditors.

Audit Committee
The focus of the Audit Committee is to ensure that financial systems and procedures are sufficiently robust with the emphasis on achieving efficiency and value-for-money. During 2014, the Committee members considered the following:

- The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) 2013.
- Internal Audit Annual Report.
- Internal Audit's Work Programme.
- Progress with the implementation of Internal Audit Recommendations.
- Property Interest Register.
INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

The Information Communication and Technology (ICT) Section provides and supports the communication, Web services www.galwaycity.ie, Graphical Information Systems, computer applications, computer services and computer infrastructure in Galway City Council. The ICT Section continued development and use of ICT technologies by Galway City Council staff assists in the delivering of better and more efficiency services.

Key ICT achievements in 2014 include:

- Development and launch of a new GalwayCity.ie website, allowing greater user interaction and a more intuitive browsing experience. The Website had over 1 million page views in 2014;
- Implementation of a new Geographic Information Systems platform across the Organisation which facilitated the provision of new maps and OpenData through Galway City Council’s website www.galwaycity.ie;
- Establishment of secure communication links to the Irish Water network to enable GCC staff assist Irish Water in the changeover process;
- Continued upgrade of map based systems to facilitate improvement of existing services and the development of new map-based services for the public;
- Launch of a dedicated Extranet for Councillors and Galway City Management to expedite document delivery and provide ease of access to information at Council meetings. Back Office systems were also modified to improve the processes for managing representations made by City Councillors on behalf of the public;
- Improvement to external sites network connectivity and services by upgrading wireless links to a fibre solution;
- Greater use of virtual technologies to reduce ICT carbon footprint;
- Improvements to communication solutions for the Traffic Light Network Infrastructure and VMS signs, in partnership with the GTU (Galway Transportation Unit) section;
- Commencement of the process to replace out of date technologies in 2014, which will continue in 2015. This project, which includes upgrading all windows XP machines to Windows 7, will ensure GCC staff can use the latest technologies available to provide better services;
- Provision of high level network access to all GCC staff to facilitate them in completing their daily duties and to enable them to provide required information to the customer;
- Implementation of a facility to allow customers to pay a bill at first point of contact with the council, improving the customer experience and internal efficiencies;
• Upgrading in-house systems to improve processes & management information available for parking offences;
• Improving ICT skills in the area of web & mobile application development through training programs;
• Assisting the Finance Section to identify properties owing Non Principle Private Residence (NPPR) charges, through use of an in-house address matching system;
• Participation in the testing & integration of a national system for registering commencement notices for Building Control purposes.
Workplace Partnership Committee

A one-day Training Workshop was held on 29th April 2014 for the members and substitute members of the new Workplace Partnership Committee. The workshop was conducted by Brendan Fox Workplace Partnership Facilitator and ably assisted by Facilitators Ann Walsh, Wexford Co. Council and M. J. Walsh, Galway Co. Council.

The new committee members are:

**Management Nominees:** Helena Martyn, Joint chair, Frank Clancy, Thomas Connell, and AnnMarie McDonnell. Gary McMahon will act as substitute for the management nominees.

**Union Nominees:** Alan Daly, SIPTU, Joint chair, Therese Carroll, IMPACT, Anthony Collins, UCATT (Craft Group of Unions), Daithí Flood SIPTU/LAPO and Michael Forde, IMPACT. The substitutes for the union are Frank Daly, SIPTU, Declan Keane, (Craft Group of Unions) UNITE and Jim Molloy, SIPTU/LAPO.

The first meeting of the new committee was held on Tuesday 20th May at which the Chief Executive, Brendan McGrath attended. At the meeting the Manager expressed thanks to the members for accepting the nomination to serve on the committee. He added that he looked forward to working with the group during what will be challenging times for all stakeholders in the organisation.

**Handling Significant Change through Partnership Forum**

Two meetings of the HSCTP Forum took place during 2014 the first on 9th May and the second on 22nd October. At both meetings the Chief Executive took the opportunity to update both staff representatives and full time union officials on the current situation regarding finances etc.

**Retirement/Service Awards 2014**

The 2014 renewal of the Retirement/Service Awards took place on Friday 13th June 2014. The venue for the function was the staff Solar Café, City Hall. Existing staff members took the opportunity to support the event and bid farewell to former colleagues and to also congratulate those who had reached the wonderful milestone of Twenty Years Service with Galway City Council.

The Mayor of the City of Galway Councillor Dónal Lyons and Chief Executive, Brendan McGrath made the presentations to those on the honours list at the function. The retirees being honoured on the night accumulated 296 years service and included those who availed of the exit package. Nine staff members received awards for attaining twenty years service with Galway City Council.
The Retirees on the honours list were:

The Service Award Recipients were
Gary O'Brien, T&I, John Joe Newell, Parks, Patrick Grealish, Housing, Seamus O'Connell, Housing, Brendan Derrane, Parks, John Bohan, Housing, Gerry Daly, LMU, Larry Connolly, Water Services and Padraic Boyle, Parks.

Seated with His Worship the Mayor Councillor Dónal Lyons and CE Brendan McGrath is Alan Daly Joint Chair of the Workplace Partnership Committee. Standing is Brendan Fox, Workplace Partnership Facilitator with retirees Éamonn Flaherty, Éamonn Bermingham and Gerry McNamara. Unable to attend on the night were: Robert Curley, Plunkett Treacy, John Murphy, John Fahy, James McPhilbin, Kieran Gardiner, John Nestor, Pat O'Holloran, Thomas Rogers and Michael Corless.

Seated L to R: Brendan Derrane, Alan Daly, Joint Chair of the Workplace Partnership Committee, His Worship the Mayor, Councillor Dónal Lyons, CE, Brendan McGrath and John Bohan. Standing L to R: Brendan Fox, Workplace Partnership Facilitator, John Joe Newell, Gerry Daly, Pat Grealish, Larry Connolly, Gary O'Brien and Seamus O'Connell. Unable to attend on the night was Padraic Boyle.

Annual Pensioners Christmas Mass and Get Together
The Pensioners Christmas Mass and Get Together, our thirteenth, was held on Saturday 6th December with over 90 guests attending. The day commenced with Fr. Pat Whelan PP, St. Patrick's Parish celebrating Mass at 4:00pm. As is the
tradition, a lighted candle was brought to the Altar in memory of our former colleagues/widows, who deceased over the past twelve months. Remembered this year were former colleagues Alfie Hornibrook, R.I.P. and Patrick McPhilbin, R.I.P. A further candle was lit in memory of Catherine Ó Máille, R.I.P., widow of the late Dónal Ó Máille, Assistant Borough Engineer. The candles were brought to the altar by our volunteers who were former colleagues of those being remembered.

His Worship the Mayor, Councillor Dónal Lyons, participated in the readings at the Mass and also addressed the guests. Director of Services, Joe O'Neill deputised for Chief Executive, Brendan McGrath at the event and was also involved in the readings.

Over twenty staff members turned up as volunteers at various times of the day helping to set up the 'restaurant', arranging the seating for the 'chapel' in the rear ground floor lobby, decorating the Christmas tree, greeting and welcoming our guests and of course serving the meals along with singing the hymns at the Mass, a multi-talented group. All and all the volunteers did a magnificent job and the efforts and goodwill is greatly appreciated and makes the day the huge success it is. Lydon House, City Hall caterers provided the guests with a wonderful meal and this was acknowledged by all in attendance.

IPA/LANPAG Scholarships Scheme
The Institute of Public Administration (IPA) and the Local Authority National Partnership Advisory Group (LANPAG) in 2009 offered Scholarship to Staff members who wished to study for a Certificate/Diploma/Degree in Public Management, which covers Economics, Law, Irish government and Politics along with the Principles of Management. The scheme was open to all staff who never previously completed a formal course of study leading to a third level qualification and who would not normally apply for these courses. Thirty places were available nationally, which equates to approximately one candidate from each local authority.

One Galway City Council staff member Paddy Burke, previously employed in the Environment Section and now working in the Housing Maintenance Section applied to the Workplace Partnership Committee for the scholarship with LANPAG approving this application in May 2009.

Paddy embarked on his 'study journey' in September of 2009 and despite many weary journeys to the Limerick Institute of Technology and many more to the IPA in Lansdowne Road, he saw the course through and was hugely successful in achieving his Bachelor of Arts Degree in October 2014. This is a wonderful achievement, not alone for Paddy, who incidentally left formal education at 15, but for the Return to Learning Programme, which has been sponsored by LANPAG since 2002. Paddy availed of the opportunity to go back to education through that programme, studying Junior Cert subjects initially before advancing onto Leaving Cert. Great credit must go to the LANPAG for initially introducing and promoting the back to education ethos amongst staff who would never get the opportunity to 're-
enlist' in a learning cycle again. The IPA also deserve praise for the initiative as it allowed local authority staff the opportunity to achieve something that possibly was only a dream for most. Paddy in discussing the trials and tribulations of his study journey paid huge compliment to the City of Galway VEC and in particular to tutor Tony Sweeney, who guided him in his early days of Return to Learning. Paddy added “Tony Sweeney has a great way about how he teaches. He brings people along and without his early instruction I doubt I would have gone on to achieve my degree. I have a lot to be thankful for in this regard”. My family were very supportive also and again without their help I would probably have never gotten to the 'finish line”. Paddy continued by adding “It would also be important to acknowledge the role of Workplace Partnership Committees in supporting staff members returning to education. The committees' promotion of the Return to Learning initiative over the years has benefited a lot of the outdoor based staff members and has opened many doors for those individuals. Paddy's achievement is truly inspirational and an example to all on what can be achieved with a little help and personal perseverance.

**Above:** Paddy Burke pictured with his BA Degree following the Conferring Ceremony held in Dublin Castle in December 2014.

**Influenza Vaccination Project 2014**
Seventy Five staff members availed of the free influenza vaccination which was administered at a clinic in City Hall on Wednesday 22nd October 2014. Fifteen colleagues, who were unable to attend due to work commitments etc. availed of a voucher, which was issued by the service providers Employee Health and retrievable at Galway Clinic. In all ninety staff members took the opportunity to receive the free inoculation.

**Staff Christmas Breakfast**
The Workplace Partnership Committee sponsored a breakfast for all staff members on Wednesday 17th December. This breakfast event was being held for the third time. The breakfast is proving very popular and indeed highly successful with approximately 260 staff members availing. This event affords an opportunity for staff members to meet with others in the organisation and within their own Sections, who would not normally meet. The venue for the lunch was the Solar Café in City Hall.
Chief Executive, Brendan McGrath paid compliment to the Lydon House Staff of Solar Café for the tasty fare and efficient service.

**Local Authority National Partnership Advisory Group**

The continued support received from the Local Authority National Partnership Advisory Group, LANPAG, is acknowledged and greatly appreciated.
### Service Objective

To maximise resources available for infrastructure and service provision and ensure the efficient and effective use of these resources by having modern financial management systems in place.

### Financial Review

#### Annual Financial Statement for the Year ended 31st December 2014

The preparation of the Annual Financial Statement complies with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2001 and the Accounting Code of Practice for Local Authorities. The Accounting Code of Practice and Regulations was revised by the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government in December 2014 and reflects, where appropriate, the provisions of Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102.

The Income & Expenditure Account has been prepared on an accruals basis for expenditure and income. However, some items of income are, by their nature, accounted for on a receipts basis and cannot be accrued and these include pay and display income, planning fees etc. The Capital Account records accrued expenditure and a mix of accrued income and receipts.

All major debtors are reflected in the Balance Sheet with provision made for doubtful debts. Fixed Assets are included under the headings of Local Authority Housing, Roads & Infrastructure, Buildings, Land, Equipment, Plant & Machinery and Heritage at a total value of €1,035 million. The value of fixed assets has decreased by €146m since 2013, primarily as a result of the transfer of Water & Sewerage Network assets to Irish Water.

#### Review of Financial Performance & Explanation of Significant Variances

The 2014 economic and fiscal environment presented ongoing challenges for Galway City Council. The levels of outstanding debt continue to give rise to concern. The negative impact on cash flow resulting primarily from extended payment plans and the increasing dependency on our overdraft facility are threatening the maintenance of existing service levels. Galway City Council has put measures in place to manage this exposure through the steadfast efforts of the team in the Debt Management Unit and this is reflected in the increased collection rates in 2014. The surplus on the Income and Expenditure account of €62,523 for 2014 must be considered in this context.

The Leisureland facility was closed during 2014 and this resulted in a significant variance in both income and expenditure budgets.

The Local Government (Charges) Act 2009 introduced a charge of €200 for non-principal private residences (NPPR). This charge was abolished in 2013. However,
the City Council received income in excess of €2.6 million from collection of outstanding liabilities in 2014.

**Review of Year-End Financial Position and Overview of Financial Standing**

The Income and Expenditure statement at 31st December 2014 shows total income of €74,685,350 and total expenditure of €74,622,827.

This gives rise to a net surplus of €62,523 having accounted for net transfers to reserves of €5,294,704. The cumulative credit revenue balance at the year-end is €254,693, compared to a balance of €192,170 at 31st December 2013.

The 2014 results reflect the successful efforts and actions taken to match expenditure with available funding and resources. Galway City Council has implemented prudent expenditure controls, strengthened debt collection measures and reviewed work practices and resource demands. It is imperative that the City Council continues this programme into the future in order to limit the impact of reduced resources on essential services.

**Impact of Irish Water**

Galway City Council’s balance sheet has altered in 2014 as a result of the advent of Irish Water and the consequent transfer of fixed assets, corresponding capital balances and net non-domestic debtor balances to Irish Water. The 2014 accounts reflect these transactions and the consequent debtor from Irish Water.

**Capital Account & Capital Debt**

Capital expenditure in 2014 amounted to €17 million, while capital income amounted to €19.7 million. The net income and transfers to/from reserves resulted in a cumulative surplus of €8.2 million. The net surplus is reflective of the transfer of water & waste/water project balances to Irish Water and the excess of reserves over adverse capital balances. The adverse capital balances continue to require funding from a provision in the Revenue budget over a number of years. Capital monies in 2014 were expended on number of projects including the purchase of housing, the progression of Westside Amenity Park, Ballinfoile Community Centre and renovation of the Leisureland facility.

The balance due by the City Council on long-term loans at 31/12/2014 is €85.7 million, compared to €95.5 million at 31/12/2013. The reduction has resulted from the repayment of bridging finance loans in respect of affordable housing and repayment of non-mortgage loans. The mortgage loan-funding gap has been reduced from €1.5m to €0.6m in 2014 and it is anticipated that this will be eliminated in 2015.
# Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) at 31st December 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>€</td>
<td>€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational</td>
<td>581,686,753</td>
<td>577,345,264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructural</td>
<td>420,587,479</td>
<td>570,984,574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>599,707</td>
<td>629,707</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Operational</td>
<td>32,224,035</td>
<td>32,224,035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1,035,097,974</td>
<td>1,181,183,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>78,240,608</td>
<td>96,326,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Long Term Debtors</strong></td>
<td>35,700,187</td>
<td>34,552,484</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stocks</td>
<td>365,725</td>
<td>348,155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade Debtors &amp; Prepayments</td>
<td>23,234,223</td>
<td>15,552,486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Investments</td>
<td>2,452,170</td>
<td>6,256,452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at Bank</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7,869</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash in Transit</td>
<td>137,807</td>
<td>170,689</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Account</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>26,189,925</td>
<td>22,335,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Overdraft</td>
<td>15,094</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors &amp; Accruals</td>
<td>15,057,665</td>
<td>17,524,564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>15,072,759</td>
<td>17,524,564</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)</strong></td>
<td>11,117,166</td>
<td>4,811,086</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Creditors (Amounts falling due after more than one year)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans Payable</td>
<td>81,637,737</td>
<td>92,471,249</td>
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<tr>
<td>Refundable deposits</td>
<td>1,323,219</td>
<td>1,308,927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3,486,605</td>
<td>3,294,287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>86,447,561</td>
<td>97,074,462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>1,073,708,374</td>
<td>1,219,799,019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Represented by</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capitalisation Account</td>
<td>1,035,097,975</td>
<td>1,181,183,581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income WIP</td>
<td>76,513,796</td>
<td>94,167,321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific Revenue Reserve</td>
<td>2,331,936</td>
<td>2,331,936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Revenue Reserve</td>
<td>254,693</td>
<td>192,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Balances</td>
<td>(40,490,026)</td>
<td>(58,075,990)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Reserves</strong></td>
<td>1,073,708,374</td>
<td>1,219,799,018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Statement of Comprehensive Income (Income & Expenditure Account Statement) for year ending 31st December 2014

## Expenditure by Division

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing &amp; Building</td>
<td>17,267,766</td>
<td>16,242,717</td>
<td>1,025,048</td>
<td>530,659</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roads Transportation &amp; Safety</td>
<td>11,954,895</td>
<td>7,351,463</td>
<td>4,603,432</td>
<td>4,856,589</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Services</td>
<td>4,678,211</td>
<td>5,615,191</td>
<td>(936,980)</td>
<td>5,646,659</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development Management</td>
<td>3,421,847</td>
<td>994,693</td>
<td>2,427,154</td>
<td>2,877,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Services</td>
<td>10,005,948</td>
<td>847,810</td>
<td>9,158,138</td>
<td>9,250,044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation &amp; Amenity</td>
<td>11,563,282</td>
<td>2,837,353</td>
<td>8,725,929</td>
<td>7,372,766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, Education, Health &amp; Welfare</td>
<td>202,922</td>
<td>33,959</td>
<td>168,963</td>
<td>232,058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Services</td>
<td>10,233,253</td>
<td>3,109,891</td>
<td>7,123,362</td>
<td>6,511,156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditure/Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>69,328,124</strong></td>
<td><strong>37,033,077</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Net cost of Divisions to be funded from

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rates &amp; Local Government Fund</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rates</td>
<td>35,052,550</td>
<td>34,816,061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Government Fund - General Purpose Grant</td>
<td>1,626,429</td>
<td>5,750,549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pension Related Deduction</td>
<td>973,294</td>
<td>1,028,229</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers</td>
<td>5,357,227</td>
<td>4,317,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfers from/(to) Reserves</td>
<td>(5,294,704)</td>
<td>(4,186,334)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year</td>
<td>62,523</td>
<td>130,886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Reserve @ 1st January 2014</td>
<td>192,170</td>
<td>61,284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Reserve @ 31st December 2014</td>
<td>254,693</td>
<td>192,170</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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SERVICE INDICATORS

C: CORPORATE

C1 / C2: Total Number of WTEs / Working Days lost to Sickness

The following indicator is presented in the performance indicators report:
C1-A. The whole time equivalent staffing number as at 31 December 2014 (consistent with figures provided to DECLG by way of staffing returns for December 2014): 412.10 N/A

Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave: 5.49

Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave: 0.34

Number of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave: 5133.5

Number of working days lost to sickness absence through self certified leave: 314.5

Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of medically certified sick leave days: 968

Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of self-certified sick leave days: 0

C3: No. of page visits to LA website

A. The cumulative total page views for the period 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014 obtained from a page tagging on-site web analytics service: 631242

C4: Overall Cost of ICT provision per WTE

A. All revenue expenditure on hardware and software plus depreciation divide by WTE under 'C1' above: 3348.11

Performance Indicators: 01/01/14 - 31/12/14

E: WASTE/ENVIRONMENT

E1: Number of Waste Facilities authorised by the LA

A. The number of waste facility permits and certificates of registration granted by the LA and not yet expired as at 31/12/2014: 0
E2: No./% of Households with access to a 3 bin service
A. The number of households, based on the 2011 Census, who are in receipt of a 3 bin service at 31/12/2014: Supplied by NWCPO

B. The percentage of households within the LA area (also as per the 2011 Census) that the number at 'A' above represents:

E3: No. of Waste complaints lodged with the EPA Office of Environmental Enforcement
A. The number of distinct complaints relating to waste within the LA area that were referred to the OEE in the period 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014 because the problem persisted after investigation of the complaint by the LA: 3

E4: Percentage of other environmental pollution complaints closed
The following indicator is presented in the Performance indicators report:
Percentage of Litter pollution cases closed by 31/12/2014 86.99
Percentage of Air pollution cases closed by 31/12/2014 88.37
Percentage of Noise pollution cases closed by 31/12/2014 97.67
Percentage of Water pollution cases closed by 31/12/2014 100

The total number of Litter pollution cases in respect of which a complaint/s was/were made through any medium during 2014 whether instigated by the public or by the LA itself: 415 Also includes litter fines

Number of Litter pollution cases received in 2014 on which either a decision was taken that no investigation was warranted or an investigation was finalised (whether through prosecution or otherwise) during the year: 361

The total number of Air pollution cases in respect of which a complaint/s was/were made through any medium during 2014 whether instigated by the public or by the LA itself: 43

Number of Air pollution cases received in 2014 on which either a decision was taken that no investigation was warranted or an investigation was finalised (whether through prosecution or otherwise) during the year: 38

The total number of Noise pollution cases in respect of which a complaint/s was/were made through any medium during 2014 whether instigated by the public or by the LA itself: 43

Number of Noise pollution cases received in 2014 on which either a decision was taken that no investigation was warranted or an investigation was finalised (whether through prosecution or otherwise) during the year: 42
The total number of Water pollution cases in respect of which a complaint/s was/were made through any medium during 2014 whether instigated by the public or by the LA itself: 13

Number of Water pollution cases received in 2014 on which either a decision was taken that no investigation was warranted or an investigation was finalised (whether through prosecution or otherwise) during the year: 13

**E5: Percentage of LA area within the 5 levels of litter pollution**

*This data can be obtained directly from Tobin Consulting Engineers*

The percentage of the area within the LA that when surveyed was unpolluted or litter free

The percentage of the area within the LA that when surveyed was slightly polluted

The percentage of the area within the LA that when surveyed was moderately polluted

The percentage of the area within the LA that when surveyed was significantly polluted

The percentage of the area within the LA that when surveyed was grossly polluted

**F: FIRE SERVICE**

**F1: Cost per Capita of the Fire Service**

Galway County Council operates the fire service on behalf of the City and County.

**F2: Service Mobilisation**

*The following indicator will be presented in the performance indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:*

Galway County Council operates the fire service on behalf of the City and County.

**F3: Percentage of attendances at scenes**

*The following indicator will be presented in the performance indicators report*

A. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes: Galway County Council operates the fire service on behalf of the City and County.
H: HOUSING

H1 / H2: Social Housing Stock / Housing Voids

H1-A. The overall total number of dwellings provided by the local authority in the period 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014; comprising: 28

H1-B. The number of dwellings directly provided (constructed or purchased) by the LA in 2014: 0

H1-Ba. Number constructed (from B. above) 0

H1-Bb. Number Purchased (from B. above) 0

H1-C. The number of units provided under the Rental Accommodation Scheme in 2014: 7

H1-D. The number of units provided under the Housing Assistance Payment Scheme in 2014 if operated (or else indicate if scheme not yet being operated in the LA): 0 Not yet being operated in Galway City Council

H1-E. The number of units provided under the Social Housing Leasing Initiative (including unsold Affordable Scheme units and NAMA sourced properties and Mortgage to Rent Scheme) in 2014: 21 in total. 9 Long Term Leasing units and 12 CALF units provided in association with Tuath Housing Association

H1-F. The overall total number of social housing dwellings in the LA at 31/12/2014; comprising: 2818

H1-G. The total number of dwellings directly provided (constructed or purchased) by the LA: 2258

H1-H. The number of units provided under the Rental Accommodation Scheme: 380

H1-I. The number of units provided under the Housing Assistance Payment Scheme if operated (or else indicate if scheme not yet being operated in the LA): 0 Not yet being operated in Galway City Council

H1-J. The number of units provided under the Social Housing Leasing Initiative (including unsold Affordable Scheme units and NAMA sourced properties and Mortgage to Rent Scheme): 180 Includes 12 CALF units provided in association with Tuath AHB
H2-A. The percentage of the total number of dwellings at H1-G above that were vacant on 31/12/2014: \(2.92\)

The number of dwelling units within their overall stock that were not tenanted on 31/12/2014: \(66\)

**H3: Average Re-letting Time and Cost**

A. The time taken from the date of vacation of dwelling to the date in 2014 when a new tenancy had commenced in the dwelling, averaged across all units re-let in 2014: \(31.44\)

B. The cost expended on getting the re-tenanted units in 2014 ready for re-letting, averaged across all units re-let in 2014: \(9891.18\)

The number of units that were re-tenanted on any date in 2014 (but excluding all those that had been vacant due to an estate-wide refurbishment scheme): \(75\)

The number of weeks from when the previous tenant vacated the dwelling up to the date of the new tenant's first rent debit, with any partial week decimalised to two decimal places, totalled for all units included above: \(2357.65\) (This figure includes long term voids that were refurbished under the returning vacant properties to productive use funding program.)

Total expenditure on repairs necessary to enable re-letting of the units included above: \(741838.45\)

**H4: Housing Maintenance Cost**

A. Expenditure during 2014 on the repair and maintenance of housing bought or built by the LA compiled on a continuous basis from 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014, divided by the no. of directly provided units in the LA stock at 31/12/2014 (H1G above): \(576.54\)

**H5: Private rented sector inspections**

A. Total number of registered tenancies in the LA area (obtained directly from the PRTB): \(12123\)

B. Number of inspections carried out \(138\)

**H6: Long-term Homeless Adults**

A. Number of adult individuals that are long-term homeless as a percentage of the total number of homeless adult individuals: \(27.71\)

The number of adult individuals classified as homeless in the Pathway Accommodation and Support System (PASS) as at 31/12/2014: \(83\)
The number of homeless adult individuals who, on 31/12/2014, have been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously, or for 6 months cumulatively over the previous 12 months: **23**

**J: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**J1: No. of jobs created:**
A. The no. of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014: **21.5**

**L: LIBRARY/RECREATION SERVICES**

**L1: Library Visits**
The following indicator is presented in the Performance indicators report:
Number of visits to libraries per 1,000 population: Galway County Council operate the library service on behalf of the City and County.

**M: FINANCE**

**M1: 5 Year summary of Revenue Account balance**
A. The debit/credit balance at 31/12/2010 in the Revenue Account from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the Annual Financial Statement (AFS): **458128**

B. The debit/credit balance at 31/12/2011 in the Revenue Account from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the Annual Financial Statement (AFS): **112347**

C. The debit/credit balance at 31/12/2012 in the Revenue Account from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the Annual Financial Statement (AFS): **16679**

D. The debit/credit balance at 31/12/2013 in the Revenue Account from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the Annual Financial Statement (AFS): **130886**

E. The debit/credit balance at 31/12/2014 in the Revenue Account from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the Annual Financial Statement (AFS) - (even if unaudited): **62523**

**M2: 5 Year summary of % collection levels for major revenue sources**
**2010:** Rates 64, Rent and Annuities 78, Housing Loans 77
**2011:** Rates 62, Rent and Annuities 76, Housing Loans 72
**2012:** Rates 62, Rent and Annuities 76, Housing Loans 72
**2013:** Rates 62, Rent and Annuities 77, Housing Loans 78
2014 (even if unaudited): Rates 66, Rent and Annuities 78, Housing Loans 81

P: PLANNING

P1: New Buildings Inspected
A. Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority: 22.22

In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:
Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority 45

Number of new buildings notified to the local authority in 2014 that were the subject of at least one inspection undertaken by the local authority under section 11 of the Building Control Act 1990: 10

P2: No./% of Planning decisions confirmed by An Bord Pleanála
The following indicator is presented in the Performance indicators report:
A. Number of LA planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanála that were determined by the Board on any date in the last year: 37

B. Percentage of the determinations at 'A' above which were to confirm either with or without variation the decision made by the LA: 72.97

In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:
Number of determinations confirming the LA's decision with or without variation: 27

P3: Percentage of Planning Enforcement cases closed as resolved
The following indicator is presented in the Performance indicators report:
A. Total number of planning cases (as opposed to complaints) referred to or initiated by the local authority in the period 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014 that were investigated: 450

B. Total number of cases that were closed during 2014: 453

C. % of the cases at 'B' above that were dismissed under section 152(2), Planning and Development Act 2000: 22.96

D. % of the cases at 'B' above that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations: 0

E. % of the cases at 'B' above that were closed due to enforcement proceedings: 77.04
F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2014: 35 – This is the number of cases/complaints coming to the attention of the LA between 1/1/2014 and 31/12/2014 yet to be investigated

*In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:*

Number of cases at ‘B’ above that were dismissed under section 152(2), Planning and Development Act 2000: 104

Number of cases at ‘B’ above that were resolved to the LA’s satisfaction through negotiations: 0

Number of cases at ‘B’ above that were closed due to enforcement proceedings: 349

**P4: Cost per Capita of the Planning Service**

*The following indicator is presented in the Performance indicators report:*

Cost per Capita 36.69

*In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:*

The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme D data consisting of D01 - Forward Planning, D02 – Development Management, D03 - Enforcement and the relevant proportion of the central management charge for Programme D: 2771056

**R: ROADS**

**R1: Ratings in Pavement Surface Condition Index**

*Regional Road Surface*

At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 1 0
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 2 0
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 3 0
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 4 0
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 5 8.9
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 6 0
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 7 4.3
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 8 40.20
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 9 16
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 10 30
Overall Percentage (based on length) of condition recorded on MapRoad 0

*Local Primary Road Surface*

At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 1 0
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 2 0
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 3 0
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 4 0
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 5 26
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 6 52
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 7 12
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 8 0
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 9 9.3
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 10 0
Overall Percentage (based on length) of condition recorded on MapRoad [ALL LOCAL ROADS] 0

**Local Secondary Road Surface**
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 1 1.9
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 2 0
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 3 0.22
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 4 0.86
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 5 24.48
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 6 28.4
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 7 34.54

**Local Secondary Road Surface**
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 8 9.2
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 9 0.26
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 10 0

**Local Tertiary Road Surface**
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 1 0
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 2 0
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 3 0.07
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 4 0.09
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 5 34.7
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 6 62
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 7 36
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 8 2.6
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 9 0
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 10 0

**R2: Percentage of motor tax transactions conducted online**
This data will be obtained directly from the Vehicle Registration Unit
Galway County Council operates the Motor Taxation Service on a shared service basis.
**W: Water**

**W1: Unaccounted for Water as a percentage of total volume of water supplied under LA Schemes**

*The following indicator is presented in the Performance indicators report:*

Unaccounted for water (UFW) as a percentage of total volume of water supplied in 2014 under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for under a Service Level Agreement: 46.08 No data available for September or October so I have used data from the other ten months. UFW figure is 46.08

*In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:*

Total volume of water (m3) supplied from 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014 under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for under an SLA, divided by 365 days: 39164 No data available for September or October. Therefore, data was used from the other 10 months.

Volume of unaccounted for water (m3) lost from 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014 under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for under an SLA, divided by 365 days: 18047 No data available for September or October. Therefore, data was used from the other ten months.

**W2: Percentage of drinking water in compliance with statutory requirements**

*This data will be obtained directly from the EPA*

Public schemes 100

Private schemes N/A

**Y: YOUTH / COMMUNITY**

**Y1: Participation in Comhairle na n-Óg scheme**

*The following indicator is presented in the Performance indicators report:*

Percentage of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/ Comhairle na n-Óg scheme: 100

*In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:*

Total number of second level schools and youth groups in the LA area at 31/12/2014: 13

Number of second level schools and youth groups in the LA from which representatives attended the local Comhairle na n-Óg AGM held in 2014: 13

**Y2: No. of Gateway participants employed as % of target**

*The following indicator is presented in the Performance indicators report:*
A. Number of Gateway participants who commenced a work placement during 2014 expressed as a percentage of the placements allocated to the LA: 70.91

In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:
No. of employed Gateway participants who commenced a work placement at any time during 2014 (inclusive of those who dropped out before the year-end): 39

No. of Gateway placements allocated to the LA as agreed between the Department of Social Protection and the CCMA: 55

Y3: % of nominees to LCDC membership via the PPN structures from the most marginalised SICAP groups
The following indicator is presented in the performance indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:
The overall number of private sector members of the LCDC at 31/12/2014 nominated via the PPN structures who are of any of; Travellers, Roma, Unemployed, People with Disabilities, Lone Parents or Families in Disadvantages Areas: 20

Y4: Number progressing to FT, PT or self-employment within 6 months of receipt of a Goal 3 employment support
The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:
The no. of people in the 'Individuals supported into employment or self-employment' category, who commenced that employment within 6 months of receiving a Goal 3 support, included in the 2014 Local Community Dev. Programme Annual Report: 252
CORPORATE POLICY GROUP (CPG)

The Corporate Policy Group (CPG) consists of the Mayor and the Chairs of each of the Strategic Policy Committees. This Group acts as a type of Cabinet and provides a forum where policy positions affecting the whole City can be agreed for submission to the full City Council. The Mayor represents the Corporate Policy Group at meetings of the City Council.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership of Corporate Policy Group</th>
<th>No. of Meetings held in 2014</th>
<th>Issues Addressed</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CPG Membership from January – May 2014</strong></td>
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</table>
| **Chairperson:** Mayor, Cllr. Pádraig Conneely (up to May 2014) | 9 | 1. Marketing Fund Guidelines.  
2. Irish Water  
3. Galway Harbour S.I.D.  
4. SPC work programme 2014  
5. Update on Local Property Tax  
6. Draft Strategic Policy Committees Scheme 2014 – 2019  
| **Environment SPC Chairperson:** Cllr. Tom Costello | |  |
| **Transport & Infrastructure SPC Chairperson:** Cllr. Michael J. Crowe | |  |
| **Economic Development & Planning SPC Chairperson:** Cllr. Dónal Lyons | |  |
| **Housing SPC Chairperson:** Cllr. Colette Connolly | |  |
| **Recreation, Amenity & Culture SPC Chairperson:** Cllr. Pádraig Conneely | |  |
| **CPG Membership from June 2014 (Following Local Elections in May 2014)** | | As above |
| **Chairperson:** Mayor, Cllr. Dónal Lyons | |  |
| **Economic Development, Enterprise Support & Culture Chairperson:** Cllr. Pádraig Conneely | |  |
| **Planning SPC Chairperson:** Cllr. Ollie Crowe | |  |
| **Housing SPC Chairperson:** Cllr. Declan McDonnell | |  |
| **Transportation SPC Chairperson:** Cllr. John Walsh | |  |
| **Environment SPC Chairperson:** Cllr. Terry O’Flaherty | |  |
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES (SPCs)

A central element of the Reform of the Local Government System (under the programme “Better Local Government – A Programme for Change” 1990) was establishment of Strategic Policy Committees (SPC's) in each Local Authority. These committees allow both elected representatives and local sectoral interests the opportunity to become more involved in policy formulation at a local level. Galway City Council has 5 Strategic Policy Committees (up to May 2014):

- SPC 1 – Housing
- SPC 2 – Transportation and Infrastructure
- SPC 3 – Economic Development and Planning
- SPC 4 – Environment
- SPC 5 – Recreation, Amenity and Culture

In June 2014, some SPCs were renamed as outlined below:

- SPC 1 – Housing
- SPC 2 – Planning
- SPC 3 – Economic Development and Culture
- SPC 4 – Transportation
- SPC 5 – Environment, Recreation and Amenity

The Strategic Policy Committees draw on the knowledge and expertise of people working with social, economic, cultural and environment bodies throughout Galway City. The Committees also allow people with relevant expertise to work alongside the elected representatives in contributing to and developing Council policy in a spirit of partnership.
### Housing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>(From June 2009 – May 2014)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chairperson:</strong> Cllr. Colette Connolly</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1. Rental Accommodation Scheme</td>
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<td><strong>Members:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cllr. Tom Costello</td>
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<td>2. Long Term Leasing (LTL) Capital Assistance Scheme</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cllr. Declan McDonnell</td>
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<td>Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)</td>
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<td>Cllr. Terry O'Flaherty</td>
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<td>Cllr. Ollie Crowe</td>
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<td>3. Traveller Accommodation Programme</td>
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<td>Cllr. Nuala Nolan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Martin O'Connor</td>
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<td>Ms. Diarmaid O'Sullivan</td>
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<td>Mr. Frank Mulry</td>
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<td><strong>(From June 2014)</strong></td>
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<td>Cllr. Anna Marley</td>
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<td>Mr. Diarmaid O'Sullivan</td>
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<td>Mr. Paul Hargeden</td>
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<td>Ms. Helen Cousins</td>
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<td>Mr. Paul Carey</td>
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### Planning

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<tr>
<td><strong>Chairperson:</strong> Cllr. Dónal Lyons</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1. Variation to City Development Plan.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Members:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Development of Contribution Scheme</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cllr. Pádraig Conneely</td>
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<td>3. Planning Enforcement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cllr. Colette Connolly</td>
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<td>Mr. Nollaig McGuinness</td>
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<td>Mr. Derek Hambleton</td>
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<td>Mr. Bryan Egan</td>
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### Economic Development & Culture

(New SPC following Local Election 2014)

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<tr>
<td><strong>From June 2014 to December 2014</strong></td>
<td>None held from June – December 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chairperson: Cllr. Pádraig Conneely,</td>
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<td>Members:</td>
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<td>Cllr. Noel Larkin</td>
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<td>Cllr. Cathal Ó Conchúir</td>
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<td>Ms. Caroline McNeill</td>
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<td>Mr. Mark Lohan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Frank McDonagh</td>
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### Transport

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<tr>
<td>Cllr. Nuala Nolan</td>
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<td>Cllr. Peter Keane</td>
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</table>
Cllr. Niall McNelis
Cllr. Hildegarde Naughton (up to July 2013 and replaced by Cllr. Michelle Murphy in Dec ’13
Mr. Shane Foran
Mr. Mark Lohan
Mr. Brendan Holland
Mr. Derrick Hambleton
Ms. Mary Francis Ó Conghaile

**From June 2014 to December 2014**

**Chairperson:** Cllr. John Walsh

**Members:**
- Cllr. Peter Keane
- Cllr. Pearce Flannery
- Cllr. Anna Marley
- Cllr. Noel Larkin
- Cllr. Frank Fahy
- Cllr. Catherine Connolly
- Cllr. Mike Cubbard
- Mr. Derrick Hambleton
- Mr. Richard Manton
- Mr. Pat Hardiman
- Mr. Chris Coughlan

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<td>1. Sports Capital Grant</td>
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<td>2. European City of Culture 2020 Bid.</td>
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<td>3. Vision for City Museum.</td>
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<td>Ms. Sybilla Snake</td>
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<td>Ms. Nuala O‘Hara</td>
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<td>Mr. Chris Hickey</td>
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<td>Ms. Kate Howard</td>
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**Recreation, Amenity & Culture SPC**

(Note: From June 2014, the ‘Culture’ element of this SPC moved to become part of the newly formed Economic Development & Culture SPC)

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<th>Other Election Material</th>
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<th>Transport &amp; Travel</th>
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<th>Campaign Workers</th>
<th>Total</th>
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