

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE



ANNUAL REPORT 2011 TUARASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL 2011



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CONTENTS

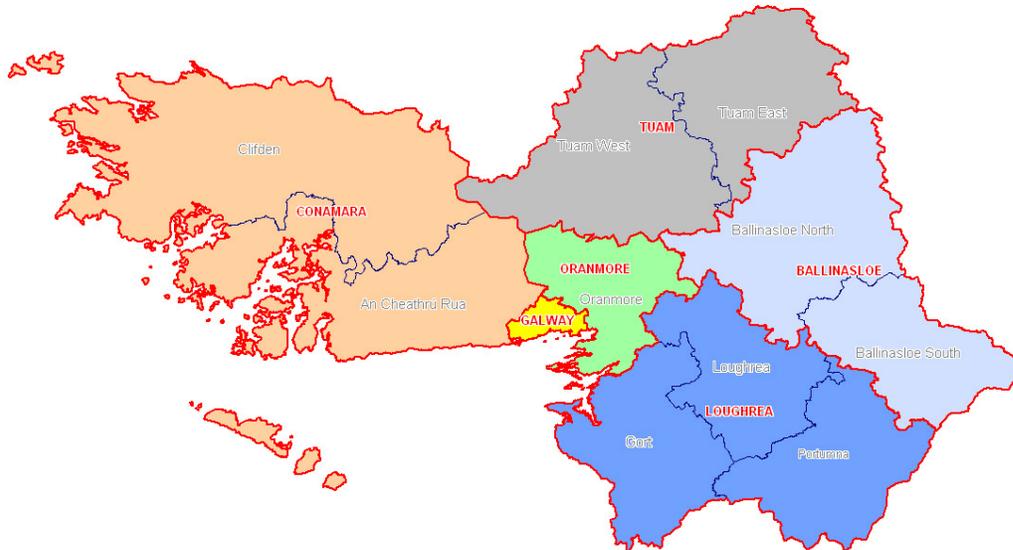
MISSION STATEMENT	03
MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF THE COUNTY OF GALWAY	04
MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER	05
GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS	07
GENERAL INFORMATION	11
CORPORATE OBJECTIVES	15
CORPORATE, HOUSING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES UNIT	16
ENVIRONMENT, WATER SERVICES AND COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT	42
PLANNING & HUMAN RESOURCES SERVICES UNIT	64
ROADS & TRANSPORTATION, MARINE AND GENERAL SERVICES UNIT	75
COUNCIL NOMINEES TO COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES	92
CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY THE ELECTED MEMBERS	97
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES	105
PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL	107
OFFICES OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL	110
OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN THE COUNTY	111
SERVICE INDICATORS	113
UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME	124
ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT	126

Important Note: Copies of the Annual Report are available on request in alternate formats contact : Corporate Services Section Áras an Chontae Prospect Hill Galway
Tel: 091- 509000 or email general@galwaycoco.ie

MISSION STATEMENT



TO DELIVER LOCAL AUTHORITY SERVICES FOR COUNTY GALWAY WHICH ENHANCE THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL LIFE OF THE CITIZENS.



CORE VALUES:-

- **Democratic**
- **Inclusiveness**
- **Transparency and Accountability**
- **Value for Money**
- **Responsiveness**
- **Community Leadership and Public Confidence**
- **Accessibility**



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF THE COUNTY OF GALWAY

It gives me great pleasure, as Mayor of the County of Galway, to introduce on behalf of County Galway Local Authorities, this Annual Report which records the progress of services delivered in 2011.

County Galway Local Authorities are among the largest public service providers in the County with a responsibility and an obligation to provide a quality service to all our customers. We seek to continually improve the economic, social, cultural and physical infrastructure throughout the County for all our citizens. We provide a range of services throughout County Galway including housing, roads, water, planning, library, fire, motor tax, veterinary and we also provide higher education grant services for people in both Galway City and County.

Town Councils operate in Ballinasloe, Tuam and Loughrea to support the local democratic process and also provide a number of functions including housing, amenity services and local representation. It is fitting to acknowledge the quality of services delivered by Council staff across these areas in the knowledge of the challenges they face in an environment of reduced resources.

During my tenure as Mayor of the County I was delighted to host the first ever County Mayoral Awards for County Galway. Over two-hundred-and-fifty people from Community and Voluntary Groups from all around County Galway attended at the Awards ceremony, which was held on Thursday 10th November 2011 in the Connemara Coast Hotel. I believe it is appropriate to acknowledge the enormous efforts delivered by the people across the county within their own localities. I wish to thank sincerely all those involved in what turned out to be a very successful event.

The County Mayoral Ball which helped to raise funds for various worthy Charities for a number of years had been absent for some time prior to my tenure. I was delighted to revive the Ball in 2011, which raised deserved funds for my chosen Charities, the Irish Handicap Children Pilgrimage Trust, and St Joseph's Monastery Carmelite Nuns. A very sincere thanks to all who participated and who give so generously.

I was delighted to host a number of Civic Receptions to honour the great sporting achievements by both County and Club Teams during 2011 and also the wonderful achievements of Galway Athletes in the Special Olympics World Summer Games. It is fitting that the dedicated work of local sports communities is acknowledged in attaining such high achievements.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the County Manager, her Management Team and staff for the tremendous work they carry out on a daily basis for the development of this County. I would also like to thank Councillor Jimmy McClearn who presided as Mayor for the first six months of the year and also thank my colleagues in the Council for their support and co-operation during my period as Mayor.

Is onóir mhór dom an tréimhse atá caite agam mar Mhéara ar an gContae breá seo. Ba mhaith liom mo bhuíochas a chuir in iúl as ucht an comhoibriú iontach a fuair mé ó fheidhmeannaigh na Comhairle, na Comhairleoirí eile agus pobal na Gaillimhe fré chéile. Cé go bhfuil dúshláin mhór romhainn táim cinnte go bhfuil ar chumas an Chontae seo tarraingt le chéile agus oibriú I dtreo todhchaí thairbheach dúinn ar fad.

*Cllr Michael Maher
Mayor of the County of Galway*

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER



I welcome the publication of this annual report for 2011 which gives some flavour of the many activities which the council engaged in during the year and the many successes achieved even in these challenging times. There were a number of highlights in the year including the visit of the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government Deputy Phil Hogan to Galway County Council and Galway County on 16th May 2011. The Minister officially opened the Headford Sewerage Scheme and the extension to the Tuam Regional Water Supply Scheme at Luimneach which will serve Headford, Shrule and will supplement Galway City. Minister Hogan also officially opened the Gortmaoillar Voluntary Housing Scheme in Athenry. The Minister announced further funding including €7m for the Clifden Sewerage Scheme and €2.8m to build the Claregalway and Milltown Sewerage Schemes which is most welcome. The support of the Department to improving the infrastructure in the county is critical to our future success.

Our Business Response Unit continued to promote Galway as an enterprise location and to support entrepreneurialism and broadband development. A major initiative undertaken by the Unit was the organisation of the MEET WEST 2011 business networking event. This event for the West region, was undertaken in partnership with local authorities and enterprise boards in Galway, Mayo and Roscommon. Approximately 300 companies attended the two day networking event in Galway in November 2011 and the conference was address by An Taoiseach Mr. Enda Kenny T.D. I would also like to compliment the many communities throughout County Galway for their wonderful work in the areas of Tidy Towns, Environmental Improvements, Heritage, Sport and the Arts in 2011. They have brought honour to the County through participation in initiatives such as 'Pride of Place' and have enriched the lives of many in their communities.

Galway County Council put a strong emphasis on the returning of vacant housing units to occupancy in 2011. At the start of the year the Council had approximately 176 vacant units. Approximately 150 houses were turned over for occupancy during the year, being more than twice that for 2010. A new Tenancy and Estate Management Unit was established within the Council's Housing Unit in 2011, with a strong emphasis, in particular, to increase engagement with residents associations and involving tenants/residents in the management and maintenance of their estates, to ensure that their estates are better places to live, and also to address any anti-social behaviour.

The Water Conservation Programme continued in 2011. The Programme enhances environmental sustainability and aims to improve operational cost and efficiency of water schemes by reducing the volume of unaccounted for water. It has the potential to be a viable alternative to capital expenditure on new infrastructure provisions. Phase 3 of the programme which commenced in 2011 involves the tender out of water main replacement where investment in leak repair has proven that the only economic alternative is pipeline replacement. The investment in this phase will be substantial but the works of leak detection and repair is long term and will be continuing into the foreseeable future.

The Council also made significant progress on improving efficiency in 2011, working within the framework of the Croke Park Agreement and implementing the recommendations of the Efficiency Review Group Report. Particular achievements included cost savings on payroll and overtime, procurement, energy efficiency and restructuring.

The Best Libraries Service Award for 2011 was awarded to our Libraries Service in the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards, for our Summer Reading Programme. The Awards showcase best practice in local government services. This is the second year in a row that our Libraries Services have achieved this Award and I would like to compliment all Library staff for this achievement.

This Annual Report outlines the many services that the Council has delivered in 2011. I would like to thank all staff for their achievements in this regard particularly within the current context of reduced resources consequent to the downturn in our national economic environment. I would also like to thank the Elected Members who have shown resilience, flexibility and support, in responding to what is a continuing change in available resources.

Martina Moloney
County Manager

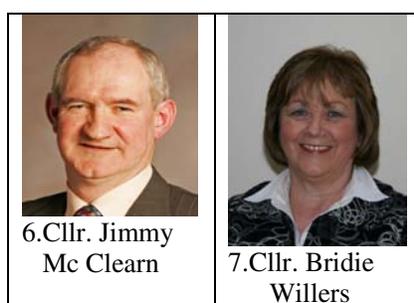
GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS 2011

CONAMARA ELECTORAL AREA

				
1. Comh. Seosamh O'Cuaig	2. Comh. Tomás Ó Curraoin	3. Comh. Seosamh Ó Laoi	4. Cllr. Eileen Mannion	5. Comh. Sean O'Tuairisg
				
6. Cllr. Seamus Walsh	7. Cllr. Thomas Welby			

Councillors

	Telephone	Mobile
1. Comh. Seosamh O'Cuaig, Aill na Brún, Cill Chiaráin	095 33428	087 2194247
2. Comh. Tomás Ó Curraoin, Na Fothraí Maola Thiar, Bearna		087 2933782
3. Comh. Seosamh Ó Laoi, Baile an tSagairt, An Spidéal		087 2739909
4. Cllr. Eileen Mannion, Sky Road, Clifden		087 9555645
5. Comh. Sean O'Tuairisg, Aille Thiar, Indreabhán,	091593084	086 3864179
6. Cllr. Seamus Walsh, Glann, Oughterard	091552726	087 0519884
7. Cllr. Thomas Welby, Cregg, Oughterard,	091552959	087 2855676

LOUGHREA ELECTORAL AREA**Councillors**

	Telephone	Mobile
1.Cllr. Michael Fahy, Caherduff, Ardrahan	091635177	087 2456000
2.Cllr. Peter Feeney, Ballydavid, Athenry	091844735	087 6812403
3.Cllr. Gerry Finnerty, Ballymurphy, Gort.	091 632167/633291	087 2674295
4.Cllr. Pat Hynes, "Dún Guaire", Gort Road, Loughrea	091842399	087 2404404
5.Cllr. Michael 'Moegie' Maher, Clostown, Loughrea	091 842968	087 0409208
6.Cllr. Jimmy Mc Clearn, Tynagh Road, Killimor,	090 9676235	087 2548723
7.Cllr. Bridie Willers, Grannagh, Ardrahan	091635425	086 0847270

TUAM ELECTORAL AREA**Councillors**

	Telephone	Mobile
1.Cllr. Sean Canney, Claretuam, Tuam	093 55367	086 2513639
2.Cllr. Michael Connolly, Moyloughmore, Moylough	090 9679465	087 6829049
3.Cllr. Mary Hoade, Main Street, Headford,	093 35763	087 2255979
4.Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe, Ballygaddy Road, Tuam		087 8161663
5.Cllr. Tom McHugh, Kilcolghans, Tuam	093 28486	086 2574192
6.Cllr. Peter Roche, Moyne, Abbeyknockmoy, Tuam	093 49187	087 8251470
7.Cllr. Tiarnan Walsh, Ardeevin, Williamstown	094 9659046	086-8514674

BALLINASLOE ELECTORAL AREA**Councillors****Telephone Mobile**

1.Cllr.Tim Broderick, Corraneena, Kilconnell, Ballinasloe;	090 9686896	087 2728058
2.Cllr. Kevin Ryan , Moylough, Ballinasloe		087 9701125
3.Cllr. Dermot Connolly, Glennavaddogue, Aughrim	090 9642986	0860886160
4.Cllr. Tomás Mannion, Shruffane, Caltra, Ballinasloe	090 9678212	087 6787490
5.Cllr. Michael Finnerty, Tobergrellan, Ballinasloe		087 6133676

ORANMORE ELECTORAL AREA**Councillors****Telephone Mobile**

1.Cllr. Liam Carroll, Frenchfort, Oranmore		087 6488684
3.Cllr. Jim Cuddy, Lydican, Carnmore, Oranmore	091798136	087 6360242
3.Cllr. Jarlath McDonagh, "Teach Shligigh" Turloughmore	091841411	087 2346012
4.Cllr. Malachy Noone, Crusheen, Claregalway	091 798297	087 1333711

GENERAL INFORMATION

Galway County Council is responsible for the administrative area of County Galway, excluding Galway City and Ballinasloe Town Council area. The Council is responsible for the planning, design and construction of roads, water supply schemes, drainage facilities, housing, fire stations, libraries and burial grounds. It is the custodian of the environment and through its planning and environment policies seeks to enhance the county while protecting its unique character and atmosphere. It also plays an active role in the development of the county's industrial, business, social, arts, heritage and cultural affairs.

In accordance with the Irish system of local government, which encompasses both democratic representation and public administration, Galway County Council as a local authority performs both a representational and operational role.

The **representational role** of Galway County Council is performed directly by the elected members of the Council. There are thirty members (Councillors), who are elected from five local electoral areas:-

Ballinasloe	5 members
Conamara	7 members
Loughrea	7 members
Oranmore	4 members
Tuam	7 members

These members are elected for a period of five years and local elections were held in 2009. The Council elects a Mayor from its Members at its Annual Meeting.

The functions performed by the elected Members are called "**reserved functions**". These lay down the framework of policy, under which the County Manager operates.

Such functions include:

- adoption of annual Budget
- making or varying the County Development Plan
- adoption of Scheme of Letting Priorities of local authority housing
- making, amending and revoking bye-laws
- approval for borrowing money
- declaration of roads to be public roads

The Council makes its decisions by resolution at its meetings.

The County Manager and her staff perform the **operational role** of Galway County Council. They are responsible for the day to day administration of the County Council. The County Manager performs, what are called, the "**executive functions**" and the Manager's decisions are made by written "Manager's Order".

These functions include:

- the letting of houses
- the granting or refusal of planning permissions
- the appointment, of staff etc.,

The County Manager, in making decisions, must act in a way that is consistent with the policy, which has been established by the elected members while, at the same time, advising the members in relation to the performance of their reserved functions.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF GALWAY LOCAL AUTHORITIES

According to the Local Government Act 2001, a primary function of the local authority is to provide a forum for the democratic representation of the local community and provide the community with civic leadership. In addition, the local authority has responsibility for the provision of a range of services, regulatory and enforcement functions.

The thirty elected representatives lay down the framework for the policy under which a Management Team operates. A Corporate Policy Group and five Strategic Policy Committees formulate and agree policy. The SPCs comprise of elected councillors and voluntary/sectoral representatives who review and formulate policy across the range of Council functions. A Management Team consisting of Directors of Services and County Manager operate in an executive capacity.

Corporate Policy Group (CPG)

The Corporate Policy Group comprises the Mayor, Chairs of the Strategic Policy Committees and is supported by the County Manager. The CPG links the work of the different SPCs and act as a 'cabinet' to provide a forum where policy positions affecting the whole Council can be agreed for submission to the full Council. The CPG advises and assists the Council and provides input on matters of general concern. It also has a role to monitor the overall performance of the local authority.

Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)

The SPC structure makes available to elected representatives a framework and opportunity to fulfil their role as overall policy makers and furthermore, enables opportunities for partnerships with local interests and community representatives. SPCs provide a forum for better and enhanced capacity for involvement in policy formulation, review and evaluation, with inbuilt assistance of relevant sectoral interests and supported by a Director of Services. Five SPCs have been established in the Council:

- Housing Fire & Emergency Services
- Roads and Transportation
- Planning, Economic Development & Community
- Environment, & Water Services
- Corporate Affairs and Cultural

Area Committees

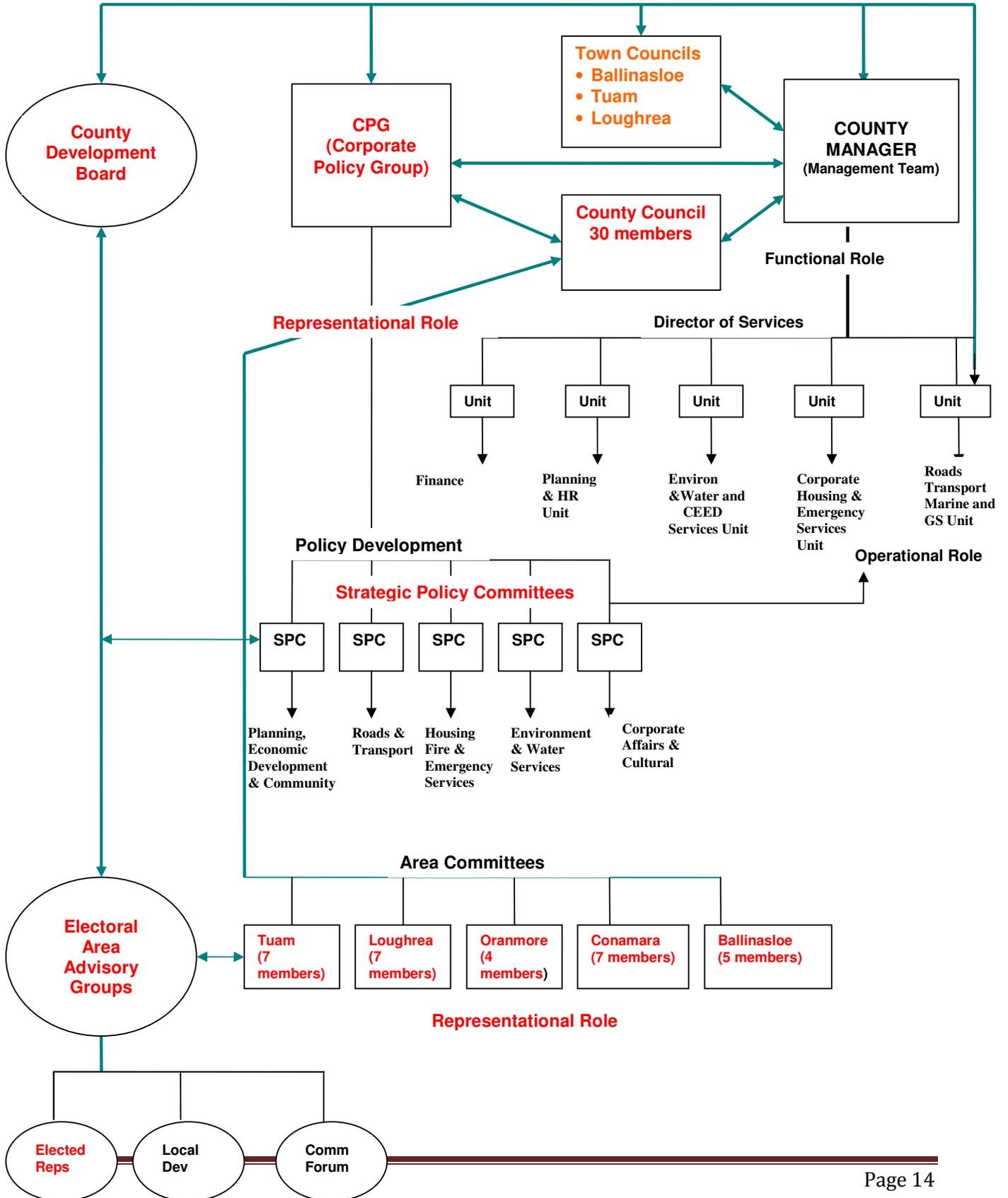
Each Electoral Area of the County is served by the Area Committee comprising the elected representatives from that area. The Area Committee structure enables an area/local-based dimension

to the delivery of services and local operational issues of concern. The Area Committee deals with matters relating to the operational delivery of local authority services.

Town Councils

Town Council representative and policy-making structures operate in Ballinasloe, Tuam and Loughrea. Each Town Council has 9 members. Town Councils perform important representational functions and articulate the views of their areas in relation to policy and operational matters. Ballinasloe Town Council is the third largest town authority in the Country in geographical terms and in addition to providing essential services such as public lighting, street cleaning, social housing, development control and physical planning, the Town Council is involved in a wide range of other activities such as the provision and maintenance of recreational and amenity facilities, casual trading, the October Fair and tidy town.

GALWAY LOCAL AUTHORITIES ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE 2010



CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

The Corporate Plan 2010 – 2014 serves as the strategic framework for the future actions of the Council during that period. It identifies nine Strategic Objectives and Supporting Strategies to achieve the Council’s Mission Statement and Core Values. The strategic objectives and supporting strategies as identified in the Plan are presented in the table below.

Ref:	Objectives	Strategies
1.	To Achieve Balanced and Sustainable Development	Further develop the County in a balanced manner through progressive planning that meets the needs of industry and communities and through the provision of essential infrastructure.
2.	To Preserve and Enhance the Environment	Manage the natural heritage of the County to meet the needs of local communities in the present, while ensuring that future generations can sustain a living in harmony with their environment.
3.	To Develop Sustainable Communities	Strengthen local communities through the provision of community assets and resources through engagement and proactive support.
4.	To Maximise Social Inclusion and Local Governance	Strive to improve the public services in the County which contribute to the quality of life of all citizens and recognise and support communities to play an active part in society.
5.	To Support County Galway’s Unique Culture	Support the Irish language and culture and celebrate cultural diversity and encourage participation in the arts and sports.
6.	To Maximise Organisational Efficiency and Effectiveness	Improve the effectiveness of the local authority to plan and deliver its services based on efficiency, accountability, value for money and optimisation of resources across all areas of the organisation including human, financial and information communications technology.
7	To Enhance Quality Customer Services and Delivery	Implement best practice standards in delivery of quality services to our customers.
8	To Support and Enhance Local Democracy	Facilitate the Elected Members and Community Representatives within our democratic structures in carrying out their representational role in response to the needs of the Community.
9	To Optimise Human Resources	Fully utilise the Performance Management and Development System throughout the organisation and promote Safety, Health and Welfare of all employees.

The progress and achievements of the organisation for 2011 in relation to the Strategic Objectives are presented under each Unit in the following sections.

CORPORATE, HOUSING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES UNIT

CORPORATE SERVICES

The Corporate Unit is committed to the development of a positive corporate image through the provision of efficient professional and competent services to the Council, Senior Management and the general public. The Unit encompasses a wide variety of Council services ranging from Corporate Affairs to Library Services, Internal Audit, Legal Services and support to the Council in the form of Corporate Secretariat.

Progress and achievements of the Unit for 2011 are presented below appropriate to the relevant objectives contained in the Corporate Plan 2010-2014.

DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES PROGRAMME

Roundstone Library moved to new premises in May. In keeping with our policy of working with local communities, an agreement was reached with Roundstone Development Company and the Library is now located in The Community Centre in the centre of the village. The Library was re-shelved and the stock extended and improved.

Ballinasloe Library: An architect was appointed to the Ballinasloe project and plans are being prepared to create a Community Library in the old Convent of Mercy.

An Spidéal Library; repairs were carried out to the building under Health and Safety and Disability funding.

Loughrea, An Cheathrú Rua and Oranmore Libraries celebrated 10 years of serving the Community. A ceremony was held to mark the occasion. Loughrea and Oranmore Libraries were officially opened in January 2001 and An Cheathrú Rua Library in May 2001.

Award for Best Public Library Service; For the second year in a row, Galway County Libraries were honoured by Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards, for The Summer Reading Programme. Galway County Libraries, in association with the Reading Agency has been running a Reading Programme since 2006. The programme challenges children to read at least 6 library books of their choice during July and August.

2011 was the most successful year. 3, 200 children participated in 25 Branch Libraries. 2,211 children completed the Challenge and were presented with Reading Certificates at a party in their local Library, The Mayor Cllr Michael Meagher did the honours in 10 Branch Libraries.

Social Inclusion Week was celebrated in Westside, Oranmore, Tuam, Ballinasloe, Galway City and Loughrea Libraries in conjunction with Community and Enterprise Section, Galway County Council.

LIBRARY SERVICE EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EVENTS

Libraries are at the heart of their local communities, providing a free public space for books, information, internet access, art exhibitions, music, poetry, literature etc. Despite staffing difficulties, all our libraries are doing well. The numbers using libraries has increased despite a decrease in the number of hours open to the public. The Public Library is the only public space that is free, open and accessible to all people.

Reading and Books are at the heart of what we do in libraries. Reading Groups are very popular and a great way of promoting books.

18 Reading Groups meet in 13 Libraries throughout the County and many libraries also support private Reading Groups.

There are Childrens Reading Groups in Tuam, Ballybane and Westside.

Over the Edge is a very successful literary event, promoting poetry and prose. It is held in Galway City Library on the last Thursday of the month. It is in its 8th year. It is hosted by Kevin Higgins and Susan Millar du Mars.

East Galway Art Trail continues to bring art to the Branch Libraries in East Galway. It is organised by Joyce Little, a local artist and Mary Dillon, Executive Librarian, Ballinasloe. Five Artists are chosen and given a Branch Library, their work is then exhibited in that Library and a launch of the Exhibition takes place. The libraries involved are Ballinasloe, Portumna, Woodford, Killimor and Eyrecourt.

Art Exhibitions were held in many Branch Libraries. **Galway City** has regular Exhibitions. "Galway's Cycling Heritage" an interesting exhibition on bicycles and cycling in Galway City and County took place during Heritage week in August.

An Spidéal Library has regular Art Exhibitions in the Courtroom, the space is in great demand by local artists, photographers and craft makers.

Tuam, Westside, Ballybane, Ballinasloe, Loughrea, Dunmore and An Cheathrú Rua have regular exhibitions.

Con Tempo String Quartet as part of their Music Residency, which is funded by Galway City and Galway County Council, held Concerts in Ballinasloe, Portumna and Gort Libraries during the winter.

Loughrea Library continues to host Loughrea Music Club Classical Concerts on the first Sunday of the Month. The concerts are very well attended.

Tuam Library hosts a very popular lunchtime music session on the last Thursday of the month.

Local Art Festivals;

"**Kitchen Readings**" were held in private houses in Westside and Ballybane during the Cuirt Literature Festival. This was an attempt to bring poetry to the people. They were very successful and the sessions were broadcast on RTE.

Gort Library hosted events for the Forge Literature Festival in March.

Clifden Library has a long association with Clifden Arts Festival held in September. 13 events were held in the Library, 2 exhibitions, poetry readings and children's events

Westside Library supports the Westside Arts Festival, holding events in the Library.

Loughrea Library supports Baffle, the local Poetry Group, by hosting events in the Library during the annual festival.

Children's Services

Promoting children's books and literature and encouraging children to read is fundamental to the role of librarians. All Branch Libraries make great efforts to work with local schools, preschools, teachers, parents and carers, encouraging children to use their local library and to develop the habit of reading.

One Book One Tuam

This event is in its third year. It is organised by the Home School Liaison Team and Ms Emer Donoghue, Librarian, Tuam Library. *The Secret of Kells* by Eithne Masey was the chosen book. Everybody in Tuam is encouraged to read the book. Many events are held in conjunction with the book. *The Secret of Kells* prompted sessions on the early history of Ireland.

Three Rivers Storytelling Festival.

This festival is in its fifth year and is organised by East Galway Libraries, Athlone Library, Athlone IT and Liz Warren, a lecturer from Arizona who brings a number of her students to Athlone IT during the month of May to experience the storytelling tradition in Ireland. Storytellers visited Ballinasloe, Portumna, Killimor, Eyrecourt, Woodford and Loughrea Libraries and entertained children from the local schools.

Summer Reading Challenge – Circus Stars was probably the biggest Children's event reaching out to thousands of children.

Children's Book Festival is a national event held every year in October to celebrate children's stories and literature. A Storytelling Festival sponsored by the Arts Office, Galway County Council, was held to celebrate the Festival. Eight Storytellers and 2 puppeteers toured the Libraries. 70 events were held in 25 Branch Libraries. Over 2,000 children attended a storytelling event.

RECREATION AND AMENITY FACILITIES

- Funding was provided to Athenry Arts and Heritage Ltd for the operation of the Athenry Heritage Centre. The Aughrim Centre opened for an extended season during 2011.
- The Lifeguard Programme was implemented on a seasonal basis, including a shared service arrangement for the provision of lifeguards in the administrative area of Galway City Council. In addition, the Council continued to implement the renewal programme for lifeguard huts with the provision of 4 huts in 2011.
- In accordance with commitments previously given under the Play Policy, assistance was provided to playgrounds through direct funding and provision of insurance during 2011 in

Ballyconneely, Craughwell, Indreabhán and Headford. To date, a total of 50 playgrounds have been developed in the County under this policy.

- A programme of energy efficiency works were programmed for Tuam Leisure Centre in 2011, with initial results based on the completion of Phase 1 indicating a reduction of electrical consumption in excess of 15%. It is intended to complete Phase 2 of this programme by year end, which will further reduce electrical consumption.
- Enhanced disabled access was also provided at Tuam Leisure Centre, with the introduction of Low Energy Automatic Swing Doors at the main entrance along with improved accessible parking facilities.
- Phase 1 of the Renville Park Management Plan consisting of the provision of interpretive signage to raise awareness of the natural heritage value of the Park and enhance the woodland biodiversity in accordance commenced during 2011.

HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS

- A total of 2,755 applications were received under the Student Grant Scheme 2011 by the 31st December 2011.
- The introduction of a revised workflow process ensured that all fully completed applications received by the initial closing date of the 31st August 2011 were processed, and where appropriate grants paid, by November 2011. Initial steps for EFT payments of student grants initiated
- A dedicated twitter account www.twitter.com/galwaystudents and text service was introduced, to provide information on the processing and payment of grant applications.

COMMUNITY WARDEN SCHEME

The Community Wardens are a uniformed service of the local authority with a number of roles across a range of local authority functions including;

- Enforcement e.g. statutory traffic offences, litter offences, abandoned vehicles, waste disposal/illegal dumping, dog licences and casual trading;
- Monitoring e.g. housing estates, public amenities such as recycling centres, bring banks, parks, beaches and playgrounds,
- Assistance e.g. to tourists, elderly, schools, neighbourhoods, communities; gardai and state agencies,
- Observing and Reporting on all the above.

The Wardens continued to assist with the operation of pay parking and the implementation of traffic management plans in a number of towns across the County.

Environmental Enforcement including the issuing of Litter fines and notices under the Waste Management and Water pollution Acts continued to be undertaken by the Warden Service.

Dog Licensing inspection campaigns also continued throughout the year.

The Wardens continued to implement the provisions of the Roads Act 1993, in relation to abandoned vehicles, with vehicles identified, reported and removed as necessary throughout the year. Litter Pollution/Derelict Sites Surveys were carried out, whilst regular inspections of Playgrounds, Parks, Local Authority Estates, Halting Sites, Piers, Beaches, Bottle banks etc.

continued to be undertaken by the wardens The following table shows Community Warden outcomes under the various activities for 2011

HEADING	SECTION	ACTION TAKEN
Abandoned/burnt out vehicles	Environment Section	Vehicles removed
Stationary traffic offences	Roads Section	2180 Fines Issued
Litter offences	Environment Section	Fines issued Case referred to court
Waste disposal/ Illegal dumping	Environment Section	Statutory notices issued under the Waste Management Act. Clean Ups by the Council
Casual Trading	General Purposes	Inspections carried out
Dog Licences	Environment	Inspections carried out

MAXIMISING SOCIAL INCLUSION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE.

REGISTER OF ELECTORS

The publication date for the Register of Electors is the 15th February each year. The Electoral Act also provides for the preparation and publication of a Supplement to the Register. The closing date for entry on the supplement is 14 working days before an election or referendum. The number of electors registered is **132,564**

Thirty Candidates are elected to Galway County Council in five Electoral Areas.

Ballinasloe	5
Loughrea	7
Tuam	7
Oranmore	4
Conamara	7.

MINISTERIAL VISIT



Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government Phil Hogan accepting a presentation from Mayor of the County Cllr. Jimmy Mc Clearn to mark the Ministerial Visit to Galway County Council and the County of Galway on 16th May 2011



Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, on his visit to Galway County Council on 16th May 2011, pictured outside Áras an Chontae with Mayor of the County Jimmy Mc Clearn, County Manager Ms. Martina Moloney, Elected Members and members of the Council's Management Team.

MAYOR OF THE COUNTY OF GALWAY.



Outgoing Mayor of the County of Galway Cllr. Jimmy Mc Clearn congratulates incoming Mayor of the County of Galway Cllr. Michael Maher following the Council's AGM on 17th June 2011.

DEPUTY MAYOR OF THE COUNTY OF GALWAY.



Outgoing Deputy Mayor of the County Cllr. Jim Cuddy congratulates incoming Deputy Mayor of the County Cllr. Bridie Willers following the Council's AGM on 17th June 2011.

CORPORATE PLANNING AND SUPPORT

Corporate Policy Group	Meetings
Corporate Policy Group	Five meetings
Strategic Policy Committees	Meetings
Housing Fire & Emergency Services	Three meetings
Roads and Transportation	Four meetings
Planning, Economic Development & Community	Four meetings
Environment, & Water Services	Four meetings
Corporate Affairs and Cultural	Four meetings

- Ethics Register – the Register for Members and relevant staff was updated during the year

An enhanced Extranet facility was introduced for the Elected Members in November 2011, with a view to providing an enhanced service whilst also reducing the volume of documentation being produced and circulated for Council Meetings.

ACCESSIBILITY

Under the National Disability Strategy, Galway County Council progressed the delivery of the Disability Action Plan 2007-2015, within the limits of previously allocated funding, to facilitate the completion of works in:

- Gort, Maigh Cuilinn and An Cheathrú Rua and
- Enhanced accessibility in Áras an Chontae with the provision of a number of accessible doors and additional improvements to accessible parking.
- The provision of an accessible sliding door at Ballybane Library and the provision of an accessible toilet in the Library in An Spidéal.
- A review of projects delivered to date under the Disability Action Plan 2007 -2015 was presented to the Corporate and Cultural Strategic Policy Committee in November 2011.
- Promotion of Accessibility Week 2011.

SUPPORTING CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

PROMOTING THE IRISH LANGUAGE 2011

Galway County Council is committed to improving service through Irish and have continued with the statutory obligations under the Official Languages Act 2003 and the implementation of Scéim Teanga 2005 -2008. The Council also looks to support and promote the Irish language throughout the County.

The following activities were achieved:

- *Language awareness* and language support material was made available to staff of Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe to enhance the provision of services through Irish.

- *Irish Language Service Complaints* - Various complaints from the public directly or through An Coimisinéir Teangas office were dealt with as they were received and subsequent actions taken in order to ensure compliance with legislation in cooperation with various units of the Council.
- *Official Investigations* - Two investigations were launched by An Coimisinéir Teanga into complaints that had identified breaches in compliance with Language Legislation by Galway County Council. One investigation was suspended when work on signage in Baile Chláir was completed. The second investigation which pertained to the use of Gaeltacht Placenames ran the full course and recommendations and findings were found which have been implemented by the Water Services section.
- *Staff Awareness* of the obligations under language legislation continued through various surveys, reports and ongoing consultation with Sections.
- *Spóirt & Spraioi* - Collaborative project with Coláiste Chroí Mhuire, An Spidéal & An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta & Gaelscolaíochta in which a boardgame in Irish was developed by secondary school students to assist vocabulary and language learning for younger children.
- *Do Sheans le Greannáin* - This project for national and secondary schools in east Galway in association with Gaeilge Locha Riach and County Galway VEC was to create new comic strips or characters through Irish to provide enjoyable reading material for young students of Irish. The new comic which included the excellent efforts of twelve schools was published in 2011.
- *Language Planning* - A Comprehensive Language Plan for An Spidéal was published in 2011 with the participation and assistance of Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe. Other areas were also encouraged to embark on the language planning process.
- *Dara Scéim Teanga Údaráis Áitiúla Chontae na Gaillimhe* – Discussion with An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe & Gaeltachta continued towards the approval and agreement of the second language scheme. The 2005-2008 Scéim Teanga remains in force until a new Scéim is agreed.
- *Glór na nGael* - Galway County Council continued its support of the Glór na nGael initiative in providing funding for a County Galway award for Communities that promote and enhance the Irish language.

MAYORAL AWARDS

Over 250 people from Community and Voluntary Groups from all around County Galway attended the first ever County Mayor's Awards held on Thursday 10th November 2011 in the Connemara Coast Hotel.

Speaking at the ceremony, the County Mayor Cllr. Michael Maher said that "Volunteers are a huge asset to communities and it's important that their efforts are recognised and celebrated". On behalf of Galway County Council the County Manager Ms. Martina Moloney congratulated all those who had received awards and thanked everyone for their time and commitment to voluntary work in their communities.



Pictured at the County Mayors Awards ceremony were (standing l – r) Gerry Larkin of Abbey Community Development Association (winners of the Green Award), Mary Mitchell of Portumna Active Retirement Association (winners of the Age Friendly Award), Ann O'Shaughnessy of Clann Resource Centre (winners of the Community Group Award) and Seamus Duffy of Ballinasloe Area Community Development Ltd. (winners of the Community Enterprise Award). (seated l- r) Susan Royston of Sign out Youth Café Portumna (winners of Youth Support Award), County Mayor Cllr. Michael Maher, Margaret McNulty (winner of Volunteer of the Year) and the County Manager

CIVIC RECEPTIONS



Civic Reception in Honour of the Caltra Cuans Junior Ladies Football Team All Ireland Club Champions 2011 18th April 2011 18th April 2011



Civic Reception in Honour of the Clarinbridge Senior Hurling Team All Ireland Club Champions 2011 18th April 2011



Killimor Senior Camogie Team All Ireland Club Champions 2011 18th April 2011



Civic Reception in Honour of the Galway Athletes in the Special Olympics World Summer Games 2011 Áras an Chontae, Monday, 26th September 2011.



Galway U21 Hurling Team All Ireland Champions 2011 24th October 2011



Galway Minor Hurling Team All Ireland Champions 2011 24th October 2011



Galway U21 Football Team All Ireland Champions 2011 28th November 2011

COURTESY VISIT



Courtesy Visit by the German Ambassador Dr. Eckhard Luebckemeier on the Mayor of the County of Galway, Cllr. Michael Maher and the Galway County Manager, Ms. Martina Moloney at Áras an Chontae on Monday, 10th October 2011.

MAXIMISING ORGANISATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

INTERNAL AUDIT

Internal Audit is an independent unit, attached to the Corporate Services Section, offering a consultancy service to Management and the organisation as a whole. The Unit carries out audits and reviews through its annual Audit Plan, which is drawn up in conjunction with the Management Team and approved by the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee held 5 meetings during 2011.

- A total of 9 audits were completed from the 2011 audit plan, inclusive of an examination of a sample of income generating activities in the Ballinasloe Town Council.
- Random checks were undertaken on development contributions
- Monthly checking of cash office, quarterly checking of revenue collector's receipts and lodgements, together with weekly checking in the motor tax headquarters office in County Hall. In addition, periodic checking was also undertaken in motor tax sub offices in Ballinasloe and An Cheathrú Rua.
- As assessment of the operation of 2 housing grant schemes –Housing Adaptation & Mobility Aid Grants Scheme and the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme.
- Internal Audit visited a number of area offices during 2011.
- Meetings were held with burial ground caretakers, for the purpose of matching their receipts and lodgements against burial ground register entries.
- Policy compliance testing was also undertaken in the following areas:
 - Travel & subsistence claims
 - Purchase of office consumables
 - Purchase of small electronic equipment

LEGAL ADVISORY SERVICES

The Department provided legal services for all programme areas, including the purchase and sale of properties, conduct of litigation including District Court Prosecutions, Circuit and High Court Litigation, including Judicial Review. In particular, the compulsory acquisition and preparation for oral hearing and arbitration of lands required for inter-urban routes was a substantial area of work.

- A system of annual meetings with all Units of the Council is being implemented in order to aid planning of work in progress and anticipated work.
- The Case Management system, which facilitates the use of templates to create work flows for the efficient and cost effective delivery of legal services, continues to be rolled out.

OFFICE ACCOMMODATION

Continuous progress was made during the year in the provision and maximising of office accommodation:

- A feasibility study was undertaken for Áras an Chontae to determine the potential for savings in the heating budget, by changing from heating oil to natural gas.
- A new cleaning contract, which was extended to include additional locations in order to achieve further value for money, was signed in September 2011

- A redecoration programme for Áras an Chontae, concentrating primarily on the public areas, commenced in late 2011.
- The office accommodation in Housing Section was reconfigured to facilitate the centralisation of the Housing & Tenancy Management Team.
- A range of actions were delivered under the 2011 Safety Management Programme for Office Accommodation, including the provision of defibrillators in our main offices and the commencement of a programme to replace operators chairs in Áras an Chontae, to ensure compliance with Health & Safety standards.
- Fire & Evacuation Training was provided for staff in all offices.

MANAGEMENT OF RECORDS AND ARCHIVES

The Archives Section works to ensure the care, preservation, management of and access to the Council's archives. Archives are valuable cultural assets which require specific care, and with growing interest in our past and in particular in family history, are also important for cultural tourism. The Section also provides policy advice to the Council on the care and management of its records.

- The Archives section continued to provide access to its holdings through its descriptive lists and also its web-site and various archival portals. The section also provided access for research purposes, assisted with research queries and provided research advice and guidance.
- The processing, care and management of archival collections was ongoing throughout 2011.
- The section continued to monitor the environmental conditions of the archives and endeavoured to ensure their continued protection, preservation and management, in the context of the standard of storage facilities currently available.
- The programme of providing security backup and reference microfilm to various collections was continued.
- Advice and assistance on records management was provided with file classifications and retention schedules drafted for several sections. In particular considerable work was undertaken to assist Corporate Services in transferring material to off-site storage, and to updating the relevant file classification system.
- The section continued to manage non-current record transfers to storage & record retrievals & returns: 951 recall requests were processed from January to November 2011, with a total 60,482 records on the ArcLink database.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.

A total of 55 requests were received by Galway County Council during 2011 under the Freedom of Information Act 1997 as amended.

Of these, 1 no. sought access to personal information and 54 sought access to non-personal information. The following table shows an analysis of the decisions made on these requests:

Decision	Number
Requests Granted	16
Requests Part-Granted	26
Requests Refused	13

WORKPLACE PARTNERSHIP

- Six meetings of the Workplace Partnership Committee were held in 2011
- Progress reports on all issues in relation to the Public Service Agreement 2010 – 2014 were discussed.
- The Committee held a workshop and submitted a report regarding a national Review of Workplace Partnership, which was undertaken by LANPAG in 2011.
- The Public Service Agreement 2010 – 2014 and the Local Government Efficiency Review Group Report were also considered by the Committee
- Bi-monthly publication of the organisation's internal newsletter Aon Scéal.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

- Bi-monthly meetings of the Customer Services Officers Group (CSOG) were held in 2011.
 - A Customer Services Action Plan for 2011 was devised, with a range of measures implemented.
 - The Customer Services Complaints procedure was enhanced.
 - A dedicated twitter account and text service was introduced to support the processing of student grant applications.
-

HOUSING SERVICES

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 County 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), will both play their parts as long-term social housing supports. The Department of Environment, Community and Local Government has indicated that it is committed to developing other funding mechanisms that will increase the supply of permanent new social housing. Such mechanisms will include options to purchase on lease agreements, build-to-lease, and sourcing of loan finance by approved housing bodies for construction and acquisition.

ACHIEVING BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Housing Construction:

As outlined above the housing construction budget has declined substantially over a number of years. However, seven rural houses commenced construction and were significantly complete by the end of 2011. Two of these units were to address special needs requirements. Two houses were taken under Part V and it is anticipated that a further 17 units currently under construction as part of a turnkey development will be finished in 2012.

Extensions to Local Authority Houses:

The Council continues to examine all options to meet the needs of housing applicants and existing tenants where needs have changed. This includes the provision of extension to existing local authority dwellings in order to address overcrowding or to meet other special needs of individuals/family members.

- Funding was provided for two units where the individuals had mobility issues. These were tendered and contracts awarded. These extensions are in addition to works carried out to address mobility issues in our local authority houses.

DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Housing Waiting List:

- On the 1st April 2011, the new Social Housing Assessment Regulations 2011 in relation to the assessment of applicants for social housing came into force. These regulations introduced standard national criteria which included income limits for the first time. The range of income limits for County Galway is from €25,000 to €30,000 per annum depending on the size and makeup of the family. Another significant aspect of the assessment regulations is that an application can now only be made to the local authority in which the applicant resides. If the applicant resides outside the county he/she must be able to prove that they have a local connection with the area. The City, County and Town Councils within a geographical county are now considered to be one application area.
- In the triennial Assessment of Housing Need carried out in March 2008, the total net need for social housing was 1,077 households. In March of this year the Assessment of Housing Need was carried out; the total net need for Social Housing was 2,433 households. This was an increase of 145.5% over the 2008 figure. To date, there has again been a marked increase in the demand for housing supports and the total net need at the end of 2011 was in excess of 3,000.

Void/Vacant Houses

- Galway County Council put a strong emphasis on the returning of vacant units to occupancy in 2011. At the start of the year the Council had approximately 176 vacant units. A framework of contractors was procured for minor civil and maintenance works and this increased the efficiency/ability of the team to turn houses over in a timely manner. Approximately 150 houses were turned over during the year using both direct labour and contractors. Work under the Energy Efficiency Programme (EEP) to improve the Building Energy Rating (BER)/ energy efficiency was carried out to a number of the units that were brought back to use.

Remedial Works

- Scheme housing remedial works include external refurbishment, internal refurbishment in some dwellings, and associated site works to include boundary walls, existing road resurfacing and landscaping. During 2011 works were finalised on the houses at Plunkett Park, Ballygar. These works together with the road resurfacing on the estate which will be carried out in early 2012 will see the completion of that remedial works scheme. The Final account was completed on the Ahascragh Scheme and money drawn down from the Department.
- The Rural Houses Remedial Works Programme was finalised on three lots which completed the original programme. The outstanding works were carried out in the Ballinasloe and Loughrea Electoral Areas. This meant that all qualifying houses in the county under the scheme had the works completed.

Housing Strategy

In line with the downturn in the construction industry/housing output there has been very limited activity in relation to Part V. While discussions took place with developers in relation to some existing agreements and new proposals, the Council did not enter into any new formal Part V agreements. However, given the uncertainty in the current economic climate, formal agreements will not be entered into unless there is an immediate need to. It is the policy that units will not be taken in incomplete/unfinished estates or where compliance with planning permission has not been met.

- Review of current Part V agreements undertaken by cross departmental team.
- 2 houses have been acquired under Part V for Social Housing.

Voluntary Housing

In addition to the changing role of the Council in relation to the provision of housing, with emphasis now gone from building to leasing and RAS, the Department is now putting an emphasis on the role of the voluntary sector in terms of the provision of housing and its ongoing management and maintenance. This poses a number of challenges for the Council as well as the voluntary sector whose funding streams have changed quite significantly.

In line with Government Policy, Galway County Council engaged with the voluntary housing sector in relation to the delivery of units under the various options including leasing and the Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF). CALF is a new arrangement whereby Approved Housing Bodies can apply for financial support in the form of a capital equity injection. The purpose of this new facility is to assist Approved Housing Bodies to access finance from financial institutions and the Housing Finance Agency that can be used to acquire or construct dwellings for social housing purposes under the leasing initiative. Engagement with the Voluntary Sector also included specific projects in relation to regeneration works and community participation projects which will have a view to enhancing the quality of life of local residents.

Discussions took place with the Department and voluntary housing associations on a number of Schemes that the Council are endeavouring to progress including the finalisation of schemes under CAS and CLSS. A number of meetings also took place with voluntary bodies in relation to proposals throughout the county under the newer options and it is anticipated that agreements will be entered into which will assist in meeting the housing need of those on the waiting list.

MAXIMISING SOCIAL INCLUSION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Housing Aid for Older People, Mobility Aids Grants, Housing Adaptation Grants

The activity on grants was significant in 2011 with the receipt of 340 applications under the Housing Adaptation Grants and Mobility Aids Grants and 629 applications under the Housing Aid for Older People category. The total expenditure on grants for 2011 was €2,574,945.

Homelessness

There has been a marked increase in the demand for homeless services and considerable efforts were made in 2011 to work with applicants regarding their housing needs and options. During the year the housing unit continued to work on the development and implementation of a Homeless Strategy that includes working with the voluntary housing sector and strengthening formal relationships with Galway City Council. Discussions took place with the City Council and voluntary services in relation to supported accommodation and tenancy sustainment services as a follow on from emergency accommodation. One of the existing arrangements that has been in place for a number of years with a voluntary group to address homelessness in the county was reviewed so as to ensure that the services provided are more in line with the Council's needs.

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS):

The Government has allocated funding for local authorities and approved housing bodies to lease or rent private residential properties. These properties will be used to provide accommodation to people who are currently unable to source suitable accommodation from their own resources. Traditionally RAS is aimed at persons who are in receipt of rent supplement for a period in excess of 18 months and since the 1st April 2011 any housing applicants that are in RAS type accommodation are deemed to have their housing need met. Should their circumstances change they are entitled to apply for a transfer and this application will be considered on the same basis as all transfer applications.

There are two options for property owners who are considering making their properties available to a local authority or approved housing body:-

1. Long Term Lease Arrangements (up to 20 years)
2. Shorter-Term Rental Arrangements (typically 4 years)

The Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) is a short-term arrangement and Galway County Council has been entering into this type of contract, with private landlords, since 2007.

The following table outlines the RAS agreements that Galway County Council has entered into with private Landlords.

Number of applicants in receipt of rent supplement 18 months plus	1460
Number of contracts agreed with private landlords since commencement of Scheme	394
Number of applicants accommodated to date	544

Private Residential Tenancies Board- Registration of Rented Units

The Residential Tenancies Act 2004 came into operation on 1st September, 2004. Part 7 of this Act deals with the registration of tenancies with the Private Residential Tenancies Board. The published register is available on the Private Residential Tenancies Board website at www.prtb.ie

- Galway County Council inspected 182 properties in 2011, to ensure compliance with standards for rented houses and issue of rent books. 132 Properties failed to comply with the current standards. The main areas where properties have failed to meet the standards are; due to lack of fire blankets, smoke alarms, lagging jackets on hot water tanks and no extractor fans over cooking areas. Under Section 18 of the Housing (Misc. Provisions) Act, 1992, 140 notices were issued, were served on landlords requiring improvements to be carried out. 35 Prohibition notices, under section 18B of the Housing (Misc. Provisions) Act, 1992 were served on landlords,

Tenancy and Estate Management

- A new Tenancy and Estate Management Unit was established within the Housing Unit in 2011. Greater emphasis is being placed 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. This unit was established in recognition of the fact that tenants and members of the community can assist in ensuring that their estates are better places to live, as well as the need to ensure that there is a strong emphasis by the housing unit on addressing anti-social behaviour.
- The Council's strategy in this area involves active community engagement/participation at local level on an ongoing basis with an emphasis on the early identification of anti-social behaviour and breaches of tenancy agreement. In this regard specific training on dealing with anti-social behaviour was provided to staff in 2011 as well as re-visiting the Council's Anti Social Behaviour Policy so as to ensure it was robust enough to deal with the issues being experienced on the ground.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

PRESERVING AND ENHANCING THE ENVIRONMENT

Galway Fire and Rescue Services Fire Operations

The total number of emergency turn-outs attended by Galway Fire Service from all 10 Fire stations on behalf of Galway County Council and Galway City Council in 2011 was 1783. This was a significant decrease on 2010 turn-outs (2263) and was driven largely by decrease of about 40% on previous years on bog/grass and forest fires.

Performance indicators are set by DEHLG for the Fire Service and are reported nationally on an annual basis. One of the key performance indicators is time to mobilisation of fire Engine from time of alert of fire personnel for both f-t and retained Fire stations

In 2011 the average time to mobilise fire brigades in full time stations in respect of fire incidents was 2.66 minutes and it was 4.99 minutes in part time stations (retained service) respectively.

For all other emergency incidents the average turn-out times were 2.27 minutes for Galway City and 4.77 minutes for county stations. These figures are more or less on par with previous years with a slight dis-improvement in f-t performance and a slight improvement on retained performance

The second performance indicator percentage attendance at scene for fires only was as follows for city and county brigades; less than 10 minutes 43%; more than 10 minutes and less than 20 minutes 31% and greater than 20 minutes 26%. The performance indicator for all other fires for same parameters was 71%; 21% and 8% respectively.

Training & Recruitment

Training was continued to be delivered in all Fire Stations as in previous years. Galway Fire Service continued role of out Standard Operating Guidance (SOG's) training to national template, but customised locally in all it's Fire stations. Some fire stations had roled out up to 25 SOG's by end of 2011

Galway County Council recruited 9 new f-t f- fighters in 2011 into Galway City Fire brigade following retirements over three previous years from existing retained ranks. The 9 new recruits completed a 6-7 week full -time recruits course in 2011 in Dublin Fire Brigade training Centre prior to their formal deployment on watches in the summer 2011

The 9 recruits were formally passed out in the presence of the both the Mayor of the City of Galway. Councillor Hildegard Naughton and the Mayor of the County of Galway Councillor Michael Maher on the 22nd July 2011 in Galway City Fire station

Galway County Council also recruited in excess of 12 personnel into the retained Fire Service in the City and County brigades to fill consequential vacancies and other vacancies due to retirements/resignations and ran two retained recruit courses in 2011 as induction training for new retained recruit f-re fighters

Fire safety and Prevention

Work was ongoing in Fire Prevention Department

The Fire Service fire prevention staff carried out **242** inspections of premises as part of its Fire Prevention Function, under the Fire Services Act 1981, Licensing Acts, Planning Acts, Dangerous Substances Act and carried out **305** inspections for the issue of Fire Safety Certificates etc under Building Control Act 1990 and 2007 . The Fire section received **374** public licence applications and dealt with **120** planning applications in the city and county in **2011**

The Fire Department dealt with **266** Fire Safety Certificate Applications under Building Control Regulations, **180** in the County area and **86** in the City Area. These figures reflected the downturn in construction activity in the Galway area in 2011, but have slightly increased in total on 2010 figures . Fire officers also processed 61 Disability Access Certificate applications for the County in 2011

Community Fire Safety

Self contained smoke alarms with long life batteries continue to be issued houses in the County for installation by Community Groups in conjunction with the Council's Community and Enterprise Section. The Council also received delivery of 700 smoke detectors in 2011 for issue in 2012

Capital

The Council received delivery of a new Aerial Ladder Platform(ALP) and an Emergency Tender (ET) for Galway Fire City Service at a total combined cost of just under €1million in December 2011 -following specific DECLG approval in Feb 2010.



New Aerial Ladder Platform(ALP)



New Emergency Tender (ET)

The Mayor of the County of Galway Cllr; Michael Maher and the Mayor of the City of Galway Cllr Hildegard Naughton respectively, officially accepted the keys of the two new specialist Fire Appliances in Galway City Fire Station on Wednesday December 21st on behalf of the two local Councils in Galway in the presence Mr. Rory Mc Carthy, Managing Director, Sidhean Teo, An Spidéal for the ET Appliance and a representative of Irish Commercials Oranmore Galway – local Volvo commercial agents- for the ALP Appliance respectively

Galway Fire Service was also given approval from the Dept of Environment, Community & Local Government in 2011 to seek tenders for a new class B fire appliance for Galway County as part of a regional Tender for 4 Class B Fire appliances for four County councils in Camp West Region.

Major Emergency Management (MEM)

The Major Emergency Development Programme remained ongoing, with the Council involved in West Regional MEM Working Groups and Regional MEM Steering Groups with its partner Principal Response Agencies i.e. other Local Authorities, local Garda Divisions and HSE West. Eugene Cummins Dos Corporate Housing and Emergency Services was appointed Chairman West Region MEM Steering Group, following his appointment to Galway County Council in early 2011. An interagency table-top exercise involving the local Principal Emergency Services i.e. Galway Fire Service, and Galway County Council personnel was held in December 2011 simulating a train crash at Oranmore to test the revised Galway County Council Major Emergency Plan which was re issued in late 2011

Work was ongoing in Galway County council using Galway major emergency development committee and in Galway region using county interagency group chaired by Ciaran Hayes DoS Galway City Council

Galway City and West of Galway Fire and Emergency Cover Review

The group was set up to review the provision of fire cover in Galway city and west Galway involving members from Galway County Council, Galway City Council, DECHLG, Mayo County Council- CAMP West- , and outside experts from Limerick City Council and Strathclyde Fire and rescue service in Scotland in mid 2010 .The review group continued it's work in 2011 under the chairmanship of Eugene Cummins Dos Corporate Housing and Emergency Services, and is expected to complete it's work by summer 2012

FATAL FIRES 2011 Unfortunately two persons lost their lives due to accidental house fires attended by Galway Fire services in the county in 2011.

ENVIRONMENT, WATER SERVICES, AND COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT

ENVIRONMENT & WATER SERVICES

In 2011, **Environment, & Water Services** continued to progress and develop its extensive and varied work programme, with significant progress being made in many key areas, the details of which are set out below.



Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government Phil Hogan TD pictured cutting the ribbon at the official opening of the Headford Sewerage Scheme on Monday 16th May 2011

ACHIEVING BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

WASTE MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE (EWS 4)

The Council operates three civic amenity sites in Tuam, Clifden and Ballinasloe, and the Part 8 for Cashla has been approved. Tenders are currently being assessed for the construction of Cashla civic amenity site. It is intended subject to continuation of Department grant to lease the civic amenity sites in 2012. The Council provides 86 Bring Bank Centres located throughout the County for the

collection of glass and beverage cans for recycling. Timpeallacht na nOilean continues to operate an integrated waste management scheme for the Aran Islands, on a partnership arrangement with the Council.

The implementation of the Local Authority Prevention Demonstration (LAPD) Programme continued in 2011, with the main focus of the programme to prevent waste and reduce consumption of water and energy and which included the following initiatives;

- Green Business Initiative
- Public Building Initiative
- Community Initiative
- Greening Festivals Initiative

Mobile Hazardous Waste, as well as Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment (WEEE) collections were organised throughout the year.

WASTE MANAGEMENT (END-OF-LIFE VEHICLES) REGULATIONS 2006

Under these regulations, a producer, who imports into or manufactures a vehicle, in the state, is responsible for the appropriate treatment and recovery of the end-of-life vehicle. In 2011, 21 producers were registered with Galway County Council.

There are 5 registered Authorised Treatment Facilities (ATF's) in the functional area of Galway County Council. ATF's are facilities which will accept vehicles free of charge in accordance with the provisions of Waste Management (End-of-Life Vehicles) Regulations 2006. .

WASTE MANAGEMENT (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) REGULATIONS 2005

Under the above Regulations, retailers are required to take back electrical and electronic equipment from members of the public, free of charge, on a one-to-one basis.

WASTE MANAGEMENT (PACKAGING) REGULATIONS 2007

The above Regulations are aimed at increasing recycling and recovery of packaging waste and place obligations on businesses which sell or supply packaging material or packaged products on the Irish Market.

PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING & ENFORCEMENT MEASURES (EWS 9)

The Council issued enforcement notices and initiated prosecutions under Waste Management, Litter Pollution, and Water Pollution Legislation. In 2011, the Council issued a total of 119 enforcement procedures in relation to environmental pollution, while 49 prosecutions were initiated and 6 prosecutions were secured. In the same period, a total of 366 on-the-spot fines for litter were issued. In 2011, 36 letters were issued in relation to the Solvents and Deco Paints Regulations and 72 warning letters were issued in relation to discharge licences. New discharge licences were issued in relation to 7 facilities.

The operations of selected waste collector permit holders and waste facility permit holders were inspected and audited during the year on a priority basis.

The use of CCTV to monitor illegal dumping was extended to various locations throughout the County, including several Bring Banks, while covert cameras were deployed in a number of locations.

Blue Flag status was awarded to the following beaches in 2011,

- The Long Point, Loughrea
- Traught, Kinvara
- Ceibh an Spideal
- Tra an Doilin, An Cheathru Rua
- Tra Mor Coill Rua, Indreabhan,
- Tra Cill Mhuirbhigh, Inis Mor

.Green Coast Awards were received by the following

- Dogs Bay, Roundstone
- East End Inishboffin
- Dumhach, Inisboffin
- Inis Oirr, Aran Islands
- Aillebrack, Ballyconneely

DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

DERELICT SITES (EWS 11)

There are currently 29 sites entered in the Derelict Sites Register. 22 sites have been removed from the register.

BURIAL GROUNDS (EWS 12)

There are currently 234 burial grounds situated throughout the County. The Council, with the participation of the many local burial ground committees, carry out works of maintenance and improvements.

An annual grant of €450 was provided to committees who maintain the burial grounds in their area and 164 committees were awarded a grant.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS & EDUCATION (EWS 14)

The Environment Awareness Officers were involved in promoting environmental awareness through information meetings with community, voluntary groups, and tidy towns committees. Press releases and radio advertising on environmental issues were produced and circulated.

The implementation of the Green Schools programme is on-going and has been very successful to date with 171 schools being awarded the Green Flag. 93% of all schools are now involved in the programme

The following actions and achievements were also undertaken in 2011

- Information meetings with the community, voluntary groups and tidy towns committees.
- Reusable shopping bags with anti-litter message distributed.
- A National Spring Clean campaign was undertaken..
- Published information leaflets on waste management issues.
- **ANIMAL CONTROL & WELFARE (EWS 16)**
- Animal welfare cases involving dogs, cattle and sheep were investigated in conjunction with Gardai, Dept of Agriculture and welfare groups.
- **FOOD SAFETY (EWS 17)**
- The council provides a Veterinary Public Health Inspection Service under the terms of its service contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland.

There are 10 licenced abattoirs in the county and the licencing of these is the responsibility of the local authority. The council approves, registers and has responsibility for the day to day supervision of these premises. The council supervises 10 premises in both the city and county.

MAXIMISING SOCIAL INCLUSION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

CORPORATE SUPPORT (EWS 22)

The Environment & Water Services Strategic Policy Committee met on 4 occasions during 2011. At these meetings, discussion took place in relation to:

- Waste Management Byelaws
- Environmental Inspections Plan
- Veterinary Services
- Water Services Investment Programme
- Remedial Action Programme
- Water Conservation Programme
- Burial Grounds
- Septic Tank Charge
- Dangerous Structures/Derelict Sites
- Draft Litter management Plan 2011-2014
- Claregalway Sewerage
- Connection Charges Water/Sewerage

**MAXIMISING ORGANISATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND
EFFECTIVENESS**

CUSTOMER SERVICE (EWS 24)

The Unit is complying with the service delivery standards as set out in the Customer Service Action Plan. A transaction aid kit is also available at the public counter in Centrepont to improve customer service.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (EWS 26)

The Units budgets are monitored on a monthly basis and regular financial reports prepared.

WATER SERVICES

The Water Services Investment Programme, the Drinking Water Remedial Action Programme and the Rural Water Programme enables the Council to upgrade existing or provide new infrastructure for use by domestic or non-domestic users, with a major emphasis on water conservation, source protection, catchment management and operational effectiveness. The Council acknowledges that water is a limited resource and must be managed in a sustainable manner, to allow for an increasing population and increased demand. There is an increasing emphasis on water conservation and the Council in 2011 brought phases 1 and 2 of the Water Conservation programme to substantial conclusion and has initiated the preparation of the necessary groundwork to progress phase 3 during 2012. The water conservation programme has been a success to date with approximately 10,000 cubic meters saved which equates to enough water to supply 16,000 households using an annual volume of 227 cubic meters.

**ACHIEVING BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE: EW1

The following schemes were under construction in 2011

- Tuam Town Water and Wastewater (Big Dig) €10m expenditure

Other Schemes on the WSIP

- Remedial Action Schemes €7.4m
- Payments on Completed Schemes €5.1m
- Payments on Schemes in Planning €0.8m

**RURAL WATER PROGRAMME
(GROUP WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES) EWS 2 & 3**

The Rural Water Programme plays a critical role in sustaining local communities through financial supports for new and existing Group Water Supply Schemes. The total expenditure on the programme was €15.6 m for 2011. The number of schemes assisted under the various headings are as follows :

Subsidies:

No. of Schemes assisted	127
No. of Individual Wells	20

Contract Works for Water Quality Improvement

DBO Bundle No. 1.	14
DBO Bundle No. 2	44
New Schemes and Upgrading	19
Taking in Charge	37

WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMME: EWS 6

The Water Conservation Programme enhances environmental sustainability and aims to improve operational cost and efficiency of water schemes by reducing the volume of unaccounted for water and it has the potential to be a viable alternative to capital expenditure on new infrastructure provisions. In the coming years it will be the case that before any new investment in existing water schemes to provide for extra capacity is approved, it will have to be shown that an active and effective water conservation programme is in place to justify such new investment.

At the end of 2011 both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the project are substantially completed. Phase 1 involved the identification and audit of all the water services infrastructure that is in place and this information was used to design the works for Phase 2. Phase 2 of the Water Conservation Programme commenced in 2009 and continued into 2011 and included the design and installation of district metering areas (DMAs), further leak detection and repair. Phase 3 which commenced in 2011 involves the tender out of water main replacement where investment in leak repair has proven that the only economic alternative is pipeline replacement. The investment in this phase will be substantial but the works of leak detection and repair is long term and will be continuing into the foreseeable future.

COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Community Enterprise and Economic Development Section contributes to the achievement of the corporate objectives of Galway County Council in the areas of Economic and Tourism Development, Social Inclusion, Arts, Culture and Sports. The Section operates its projects and services under three main areas

BRU- Business Response Unit – providing a point of contact for businesses to interact with the Council and services that support economic development

PLACE - Programmes and services that support local Communities including the Sports Partnership and County Arts Office.

INCLUSION – Programmes and services that support inclusion such as the RAPID programme in Tuam and Ballinasloe and the Social Inclusion Unit.

The nature of the supports provided included;

- direct financial assistance,
- capacity building
- advisory services,
- research, and
- project management services.

During 2011, the Unit invested on behalf of Galway County Council €237,000 in Community and Voluntary projects with a further €129,000 in the Arts Programme and community arts and additional funding of €136,000 through the Sports Partnership. During the year the Unit worked closely with the Community Forum and local groups to implement the Community Smoke Alarm Scheme, Pride of Place Competition and Comhairle na nÓg events.

ACHIEVING BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Supporting Development of County Galway

The Unit provides support services for **Galway County Development Board (CDB)** which met four times in 2011. Items dealt with at these meetings included:

- Specific Job Creation and Employment meeting which included updates from all members
- Progress report on the 2009-2012 CDB Implementation Plan
- Establishment of a Galway Film Partnership & a Music Education Partnership
- Development of an Age-Friendly County Programme
- Tourism & 2011 Year of Craft updates
- Endorsement of 3 No. Local & Community Development Co Plans
- Updates on Comhairle na nÓg, Tuam RAPID & Integration Funding Expenditure
- Joint FAS / Dept of Social Protection re-structuring update

Two CDB newsletters were produced and circulated in 2011. The aim of these is to promote the work of the CDB and increase its profile.

Some of the many achievements of the CDB were as follows;

- Initiatives under Craft (Year of Craft 2011 & the level of talent in the county)
- Adoption of a Wind Energy Strategy (which has seen 2 energy projects approved under Sustainable Energy actions)
- Eirgrid presentation at the November meeting of the County Council
- Transport Action regarding the Oranmore Commuter Rail Station (which will be progressed in 2012)
- Strong emphasis has been placed on Tourism (Greenway project is progressing & visitor numbers are up with potential for continued growth)
- Action under the School of Music is at an advanced stage (with an extremely professional funding application submitted under the Music Education Programme)

At the November meeting members paid tribute to Máirtín Ó Conghaile & Tony Hughes for their dedication to the CDB, particularly Máirtín who represented Údarás na Gaeltachta over the last 11 years on the CDB.

Supporting Economic Development

The Council operates **BRU** (a Business Response Unit) which provides a single point of contact for businesses to engage with the Local Authority.

The BRU co-ordinates the implementation of the BMW Regional Assembly ERDF Gateways and Hubs Fund for projects in Tuam.

Support for employment and enterprise creation initiatives remained a priority in 2011. Advice and financial support was provided to community groups in Ballinasloe and Tuam to develop Community Enterprise Centre facilities. Support was provided to Clonberne Enterprise Centre to upgrade and maintain their existing services and facilities. Community based Economic Initiatives were supported through the allocation €97,000 to 46 projects including Enterprise Centres, Tourist Offices, 20 agricultural shows, markets and 10 tourism based events, and 4 food festivals.

Support was also provided to the Chambers of Commerce in Tuam, Portumna, Loughrea and Clifden for the promotional activities carried out by these organisations for their respective Towns.

The Unit continued to promote Galway as an enterprise location and support entrepreneurship and broadband development. A major initiative undertaken by the Unit was the organisation of the MEET WEST 2011 business networking event. This was a business networking event for the West region undertaken in partnership with local authorities and enterprise boards in Galway Mayo and Roscommon. Approximately 300 companies attended a 2 day conference and business networking event in Galway in November 2011.



An Taoiseach Mr. Enda Kenny T.D. addressing the MEET WEST 2011 Business Networking Event.

The Unit supported a new initiative of the Galway Film Partnership to promote Galway as a film location. This involved bringing film scouts to visit potential locations throughout the County.

Enterprise Funding briefings were held in conjunction with Údarás na Gaeltachta and the Local Development Companies and these were attended by over 150 people.

2011 was the Year of Craft and the Council organised a Craft month which involved a range of events and activities. Also Craft display units were placed in the public foyer of County Buildings to provide a marketing outlet for craft producers from the County throughout the year. 40 different craft producers availed of the opportunity to present their products.

Supporting Tourism Development

In 2011 the Council continued its strategy to promote new things to do in the County and worked with members of the CDB City and County Tourism Forum which is made up of those in the tourism industry and Fáilte Ireland West. In 2011, self guided walking tours were developed in Clifden with funding from Fáilte Ireland.

The Council provided advice and financial supports to groups and local Chambers of Commerce to develop festival and events through its Arts Grants and Community Support Schemes

In conjunction with Ireland.com a visitor app has been developed for Galway and is available for android and i-phones. This provides details on visitor attractions, restaurants and accommodation in the County and City.

TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE ENVIRONMENT

The Unit continued to work with Environment, Planning and Roads Units to support **Tidy Towns** activities (including County winners Milltown, Abbey and Monivea & the National Bringbank award winners Oranmore). Galway County Council invested €65,000 supporting 29 Tidy Towns groups directly. The unit organised a Tidy Towns Grants & Information Seminar focusing on best practice with National Adjudicator, Mary Flynn, and Galway County Council staff presenting at the event.

The Unit also provided assistance to groups on their draft applications to the National Tidy Towns Competition. We continued to provide information / advisory support to all Tidy Towns groups in

the County, in part resulting in an average increase of 4 marks per group in 2011. The following towns had considerable increases in their marks; Ballinasloe, Clifden, Creggs, Glenamaddy, Glinsk, Leenane, Laurencetown, Oranmore & Tynagh. Ahascragh were awarded a National Endeavour Award having increased their score by 11 marks since 2010.



3rd from the right - Michael Ring Minister of State at the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport presenting Sean Nestor, Padraic Flannery & Padraic Coyne from Milltown Tidy Towns with the Galway County winners award at the Fáilte Ireland Regional Tidy Towns, also included are Fiona Monaghan Head of Operations Fáilte Ireland West and Richard Lennon Sales Manager SuperValu.



Michael Ring Minister of State at the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport presenting Margaret McNulty Oranmore Tidy Towns with the National Bringbank Award, also included are Noeleen Murren Oranmore Tidy Towns, Laura Murphy Marketing Manager Repak and Dolores Kilroe Oranmore Tidy Towns.



Sharon Finnerty Ahascragh Development Association & Tidy Towns Committee accepting the Galway County Endeavour Award from Michael Ring Minister of State at the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport and the award funding from Richard Lennon Sales Manager SuperValu. Also included is the Head of Operations Fáilte Ireland West, Fiona Monaghan.

DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

In 2011, the Unit invested €140,000 supporting 112 community projects (focused on public amenities, improving disability access and fire safety in community facilities, increased participation in sports and community services)



The Unit implemented the **All-Island Pride of Place Initiative** with Inishbofin, Letterfrack & the Ireland Reaching Out Project being the proud recipients of three 'Pride of Place' Awards presented at a gala ceremony in Gorey, County Wexford. These award winning communities were three of the four communities nominated by Galway Council County to represent the County this year's Pride of Place competition in 2011:

1. Ballinasloe for their Community Response to Safety

2. Ireland Reaching Out, South East Galway under Community Tourism Initiative
3. Under the Islands Category Inishbofin
4. Letterfrack under population category 0-200



Mayor of the County Cllr. Michael Maher, the Deputy Mayor Cllr. Bridie Willers & the County Manager Ms. Martina Moloney, were present at the awards ceremony to offer their support to all the nominees. Mayor Maher stated, *“I am delighted for all nominees as it demonstrates the level of commitment and involvement of so many people throughout the County who give their time to their community. I am particularly proud of Inishbofin, Letterfrack & South East Galway who have achieved so much for their communities. I also congratulate the people of Ballinasloe for their communities’ Response to Safety, who even though they weren’t successful on the night were highly commended by the judging panel.”*



The Ireland Reaching Out – South East Galway Diaspora Pilot Project were announced as the 2011 Special Achievement Award winners under the Community Tourism Initiative category. The Chairman of Co-Operation Ireland, Christopher Moran & the Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government, Phil Hogan T.D., presented the award which was accepted by the Chair of Ireland Reaching Out Mike Feerick, the Mayor of the County Cllr. Michael Maher and some of the many volunteers from the Pilot Project.



Letterfrack were nominated for their efforts in responding to change in their community and providing services for the entire community. Letterfrack was awarded runner up under the population category 0-200 and this award was accepted on behalf of the community by Pdraig Lyden, James Kane & the Mayor of the County Cllr. Mogie Maher.



Inishbofin were runners-up under the Islands category having achieved significant improvements in the infrastructure, social, economic and cultural aspects of island life. Their award was presented to Simon Murray, Mary Ward, Pat Coyne and his daughter Ruby, together with the Mayor of the County Cllr. Michael Maher.

Promotion of **Active Citizenship** is a goal of the Council and in 2011 the Unit continued to develop six Local Area **Comhairle nÓg** youth networks at Electoral area level and support the County Comhairle committee progress their 'Transport' issue with local decision makers. Over 120 young people attend the Comhairle na nÓg Annual General Meeting in Spiddal in October and 11 young people attended and participated at the National Dail na nÓg. The Unit developed links with external organisations such as Galway 2040; Engineers West and Young Social Innovators to support and develop our work in this area



Membership of the **Community Forum** grew to 720 Community and Voluntary Groups in 2011 and the Council continued to provide a full time worker to support the activity of this forum. With over 97% of membership on email, the Forum also provides an important information distribution service and social marketing tool for the Council and other public bodies. The forum maintain two area forum offices in Clonberne & Killimor which provide support and information to Community and Voluntary groups operating in rural areas. The forum continued to provide funding workshops, training and electoral area meetings countywide on issues of interest to the groups registered with the Forum

THE COUNTY MAYORAL CHARITY BALL

The County Mayors Awards 2011 proved to be a very successful evening. Over 250 people from Community and Voluntary groups from all around County Galway attended the Awards on 10th November in the Connemara Coast Hotel. There were 8 categories in total including the overall ‘Volunteer of the Year 2011’ category in which 38 volunteers were nominated by the public. The purpose of the Awards is to acknowledge and celebrate the community and voluntary activity that takes place around the County.



Front Row L to R: Mr. Frank Gilmore DOS, Bridin Feeney IS Department, Mayor of the County of Galway Cllr. Michael Maher, and Galway County Manager Ms. Martina Moloney.

Back Row L to R: Mr. Kevin Kelly DOS, County Secretary Mr. Michael Owens, and Mr. Eugene Cummins DOS

Supporting Social and Economic Development in RAPID areas Tuam and Ballinasloe

In 2011, the Council employed RAPID Co-ordinators in each town to provide ongoing advisory project management services to agencies and communities. The Co-ordinators facilitated RAPID Area Implementation Teams (AIT) and sub-groups involving a cross-section of agencies and community representatives to progress Strategic Plans on Community Safety & Anti Social Behaviour, Health, Family Support, Education, Employment & Training and the Physical Environment. This focused approach enabled staff to work closely with local groups and has assisted in delivering better services and securing additional national and local funding for both towns. Some of the specific initiatives included were:

- 14 local groups/projects were assisted in the Ballinasloe RAPID area using co-financing between Galway County Council and the Department of Community Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs
- Significant input of time and resources from Tuam Rapid to ensure the transfer of ongoing projects e.g. Community Creche to other organisations in Tuam.
- Under the theme of Employment & Training one event was organised in 2011 in Ballinasloe for 18–25 year olds. Over 1,000 people were in attendance.
- Tuam RAPID hosted the launch of Social Inclusion Week (Oct 19th-Oct 22nd) in Tuam in conjunction with the official opening and launch of the Parkmore Community House for Parkmore Residents and of Parkmore Community Allotments by Minister for Housing, Willie Penrose TD.
- Hub funding of 1.2 million available to Tuam Town via the Border Midlands and West Regional Assembly has been rolled out during the year in Tuam with much being spent during 2011. A number of key RAPID priorities in relation to infrastructure are being addressed under this funding opportunity.
- Delivery of a second “Strengthening Families” programme for Tuam led by the Western Region Drugs Task Force and supported jointly by members of Tuam RAPID Family Support Task Group.
- Negotiations were facilitated by RAPID AIT with St Vincent de Paul and Galway County Council regarding the possible development of a Youth and Family Centre for Tuam.
- Dormant Account funding continued to be made available for agreed projects in the Ballinasloe and Tuam RAPID Areas
- In Ballinasloe a work placement programme was implemented in conjunction with local employers and the local jobs club. 23 placements were organised in 2011.
- In relation to the RAPID community safety theme the establishment of a third neighbourhood watch scheme in the Ballinasloe RAPID area was supported.
- With support from Galway Rural Development Ballinasloe RAPID developed four local initiatives totalling €19,500.
- A programme of capacity building training for residents of five local authority housing estates in Tuam was undertaken leading to the establishment of three new Residents Associations and the strengthening of two existing associations. A pilot programme to establish a regular Community Enhancement Forum formally linking Residents Associations and the Housing Department and other agencies through RAPID was also established and will get underway during 2012.
- A number of initiatives were also continued and further developed under the Family Support Theme of Tuam RAPID, including the very successful PEEP initiative for families with under fives, the Incredible Years programme targeting primary school children, their teachers and parents (both with the Tuam School Completion Programme) and a second

Strengthening Families Programme was rolled out by the Western Regional Drugs Taskforce in conjunction with many of the other RAPID partners.

The Tuam sub-committee “Training Matters” which focuses on co-ordinating approaches to Training and Educational opportunities and supporting residents of the RAPID area to access employment, continued to be extremely active. Some specific activities included:

- Organising two Careers/ Education and Training Information sessions during 2011 involving all the education/training providers and some local employers
- Delivery of a programme of Social Media training targeting both local businesses and local community/ voluntary organisations in association with the Tuam Chamber of Commerce and with funding from Galway Rural Development.
- Developed links with local recruitment agencies and local employers with a view to referring unemployed to local vacancies
- Delivered a one week Winning New Opportunities programme for unemployed who had completed training and were ready to re-enter the labour market in association with Galway Rural Development

TO MAXIMISE SOCIAL INCLUSION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Social Inclusion Unit

The Social Inclusion Unit continued its work to embed social inclusion policy and practice into the day to day operations of the Council, and worked with other organisations to support the Council in improving the inclusion of all members of the Community in accessing services. The Social Inclusion Unit developed the Social Inclusion Action Plan 2011 and implemented a range of actions under the 5 key objectives.

Key achievements of the Social Inclusion Unit in 2011 included organising **Social Inclusion Week** in October and co-ordinated a number of activities as part of this. Over 70 events were held across the County which highlighted projects and initiatives that promote Social Inclusion. The Minister for Housing and Planning, Mr. Willie Penrose TD officially launched Social Inclusion Awareness Week in Parkmore Community House, Tuam along with their Community Allotment project.



A number of **awareness workshops** took place for staff during the year – Age & Opportunity delivered two **AgeWise workshops**, NALA delivered a **Plain English workshop** and Deaf Hear delivered training to staff in County Hall on the **Induction loop system** and how to communicate with customers who are hard of hearing.

The Unit produced and circulated a number of **Social Inclusion newsletters** for staff and elected members and produced and circulated **statistic / data sheets** on unemployment, poverty and the preliminary Census 2011 results. The Unit also finalised the **Poverty Impact Assessment (PIA)** report on the Tuam Local Area Plan 2011-2017.

The Unit worked with the Fire Service and County Galway Community & Voluntary Forum on the **Community Smoke Alarm Scheme 2011** which resulted in the delivery and installation of 400 sets of smoke alarms to vulnerable members of the community free of charge.

During 2011 the Unit facilitated the **Social Inclusion Measures Committee (SIM)** of the County Development Board. During 2011 the committee has been involved in delivering 4 priority actions focussing on Integration, Youth, Older People and Disability. Galway County Council was again successful in its funding application to the Office of the Minister for Migrant Integration in 2011 and secured €50,000 to develop and support projects that focus on integration.

The Unit supported the launch of the **Galway City & County Age Friendly Programme** in September 2011. The launch was held as part of Positive Ageing Week and 195 participants attended. The purpose of the launch was to stimulate interest in developing the Galway County & City Age Friendly Programme. The aim was to bring together the older residents of Galway and the key service providers from the statutory, voluntary, community and private sectors to identify the opportunities on how we can make Galway an excellent place in which to live, work and grow old. The Mayor of County Galway, Cllr. Michael Maher signed the **Age Friendly Communities Declaration** in Dublin as part of an International Conference.



Galway County Council facilitates the **County Galway Traveller Interagency Group** whose purpose is to improve the delivery of services to the Traveller Community through agencies, groups and Travellers working better together. The group met 4 times in 2011. The group is successfully working towards implementing the Traveller Interagency Strategy 2010 – 2013. The Group were invited by the Equality Authority to carry out an equality screening exercise on the Strategy and this is to be completed in early 2012.

TO SUPPORT COUNTY GALWAY'S UNIQUE CULTURE

Promoting and Developing Arts Activity

In 2011, the Arts Office continued its support for development of the creative economy locally, sustaining employment in the art sector and promoting access to the Arts. The office provides information and advice service to community groups, individual artists, Elected Members and other sections of the Council on arts activity.

The Council invested €60,000 under the supports to community to support 70 organisations to undertake festivals, events and to provide increased access to arts activity throughout the County. Support was provided for major events such as the County Programme of the Galway Arts Festival; Clifden Arts Week and development of Arts programme at Coole Park. The development and promotion of new arts activity by 16 Artists resident in County was supported by investing €15,000 on Individual Artist's Bursary Awards.

Under the Arts Programme and with support of 50,000 from the Arts Council the following projects were undertaken county-wide;

- Arts & Health& Disability- 17 completed projects
- County Age Friendly Arts Programme- 12 projects complete
- Bealtaine Programme-70 events for older people

- Arts & Education & Youth-45 individual projects
- Grants & Awards administered and allocated
- Arts & Libraries Programme- events in all 31 Libraries
- Artist Support Programme- 3 residencies complete
- Galway Music Education Partnership established
- Cultural Tourism Initiatives undertaken
- Arts Centres Programme completed
- Management of the Council Art Collection
- Public Art Programme established for next 2 years
- Information & Advice provided to artists, community groups, organisations and agencies on the arts

The development of the creative economy offers opportunities for County Galway and in 2011 Galway County Council was the first authority in the region to support 'Screen West' a web-site and marketing initiative to make it easy for filmmakers to come to the West to make productions - www.screenwest.ie Galway County Council was also the second authority in Ireland to establish a Film Partnership. Galway County Council in partnership with Galway Film Centre also hosted a 'film locations event' to attract more film shoots to the county.

Film Shoots on location in County Galway 2011

In the past 12 months the following productions have all shot on location in Galway: The Guard with Brendan Gleeson, Zoofactor (a children's television show shot in Studio Solas in Inverin for the BBC), Ken Bruen's The Guards, Leap Year, RTÉ's Single Handed, Monty Hall, and Colm McCarthy's Outcast. Earlier this year the American broadcaster, Samantha Brown did a special on Galway which will be aired on the Travel Channel in over 50 countries to audiences of over 93 million. (Source: Irish Film Board). These productions are in addition to the many shows created locally by indigenous companies, TG4, Telegael, Eo Telifís, Abú Media, etc. *songs for Amy* is filmed in Kinvara with a production budget of 1.2million

Supporting Access to Sport

The County Galway Local Sports Partnership is managed by Galway County Council. The vision of the Galway LSP is to make sport and recreation part of every day life for the citizens in County Galway. Our board convened on 10 occasions in 2011 discussing a proposed merger between County & City Partnership. The board also oversaw the allocation of €140,060 funding from the Irish Sports Council.

In 2011 we delivered 9 Buntús Play/Sport courses involving 68 teachers in total (798 students) And 3 Buntús Start courses involving 12 centres, 24 teachers and 354 children. We delivered 8 Code of Ethics courses, involving 26 clubs and 113 participants. We organised and delivered one Meet & Train group, (Ballinderreen) one Fit4Life/Meet & Train group (Ballinasloe), One Walking Club, (Moyleough), We grant aided 34 clubs in the county through the Galway County Councils Community Support grant scheme.



We delivered the following projects in 2011 – Intercultural handball camp in Tuam, Multi-cultural sports camp in Oranmore, Lep Rugby project in Ballinasloe in conjunction with Connaght Rugby, Traveller Women’s physical activity project and Traveller men’s handball project, both in Loughrea. We organised and delivered two First Aid courses, one Disability Awareness through Sport course, two Go for Life training days and two Walking Leader courses.

The Section also supported a number of events in the County during National Recreation Week 2011 – a range of projects and activities were supported to promote the recreational needs of children and young people aged 12 to 18 years old. Events took place in Ballinasloe, An Cheathrú Rua, Clifden, Inis Mór, Inis Oírr, Oranmore, Oughterard, Portumna and Tuam.

TO MAXIMISE ORGANISATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

Work commenced on reviewing the Community, Enterprise & Economic Development Section for the website and this will continue into 2012.

A questionnaire was carried out of groups drawing down the Community Support Grants in 2011. Over 100 responses were returned. The purpose of the survey was to get feedback on the funding process from application to drawdown stage and make any necessary improvements. The feedback was very positive and only minor adjustments were needed.

TO ENHANCE QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICES AND DELIVERY

All meetings / events and workshops organised by the Unit were, where possible held in venues that are suitable to the needs of people with a disability. As a result people with a disability are not excluded from attending events / meetings.

The Unit continued its Plain English campaign in 2011. A **Writing and Design Tips Poster** was developed and circulated to all staff and public offices. A Plain English competition was organised for staff as part of National Adult Literacy Week 2011 and a Power of Plain English workshop was held during Social Inclusion Awareness Week 2011.

PLANNING AND HUMAN RESOURCES SERVICES UNIT

PLANNING SERVICES

In year 2011 the Planning & Sustainable Development Unit continued to promote and support development within the county so that our customers can live in vibrant communities, where cultural differences are valued and encouraged, where everyone can be actively involved in economic, social and cultural life, where people have access to an acceptable level of services and infrastructure.

ACHIEVING BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

FORWARD PLANNING

- The Core Strategy in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 and the Regional Planning Guidelines (RPG's) was adopted in July 2011, and is included as a variation to the Galway County Development Plan 2011.
- The Galway County Wind Energy Strategy was adopted in September 2011.
- The Tuam Local Area Plan 2011-2017 was adopted in February 2011.
- The Local Area Plan review process for the towns of Athenry, Loughrea, Oranmore and Gort was commenced in 2011 to ensure that the objectives of the Local Area Plans are consistent with the objectives of the Core Strategy.
- Compile the Annual Housing returns for the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SECTION

The new legislation for Quarries under the Planning & Development Act 2010 came into effect on 15th November 2011 and was advertised in December inviting submissions by 10th January 2012.

1777 Planning Applications were presented to the Planning Office in 2011.

54 invalid applications received

1546 permissions were granted.

€640,965 was received in Planning Fees.

€63,367 was received in mapshop sales

ENFORCEMENT MEASURES

It is the policy of Galway County Council to secure compliance with Planning Permission and to prevent Unauthorised Development in accordance with the statutory requirements as set out in the Planning and Development Act and the Planning and Development Regulations.

No. of complaints received in 2011	318
Warning Letters served	246
Enforcement Notice served	159
No. of new cases referred to Law Agent for Summary Proceedings	52

BUILDING CONTROL

502 Commencement Notices were received in 2011

160 Fire Safety Certificates applications were submitted in 2011. The processing of Fire Certs has now been transferred to the Fire Station.

TAKING IN CHARGE

The Unit has continued to process Applications for the Taking in Charge of Housing estates.

8 Estates were taken in charge in 2011

15 New Applications for Taking in Charge were received in 2011

UNFINISHED HOUSING ESTATES SCHEME

The Unit continued to work with developers to alleviate all public safety risks in unfinished estates. Funding was approved by the Department of Environment in respect of fencing unfinished areas in 2 estates and this work was completed in 2011

HERITAGE

During 2011, the Co. Council continued its work to promote awareness, knowledge and appreciation of biodiversity The Heritage Officer works to promote interest, education, knowledge and pride in the heritage of County Galway.

PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN IN 2011

Biodiversity Project –

The project operates as a partnership Project between the County Council through the Heritage Office and the Applied Ecology Unit, NUI, Galway in conjunction with Galway Rural Development and Galway County Heritage Forum supported by the Heritage Council and Galway County Council.

Field Monument Advisor Programme (FMA) –

The role of the FMA is to provide advice and information on field monuments. The area chosen for this year was Doorus south of Kinvara. The Field Monument Advisor went out and visited the monuments and owners/occupiers and provided them with advice and guidance in relation to management of their monuments.

Lough Derg Heritage Audit –

An audit of 88 heritage sites around Lough Derg has taken place. This project was done jointly with Clare and North Tipperary County Councils.

Graveyards –

Digital Mapping of graveyards in the east of the county took place and all the memorial information and photographs of nine graveyards together with a digital map of the graveyard is available on www.galway.ie

Golden Mile Competition –

The Awards night took place in the Claregalway Hotel in December 2011 and the Golden Mile calendar was launched at the Awards ceremony.



Walled Town Day Athenry –

This event attracted over 3000 people and took place in August. The aim of the day was to showcase the rich heritage of Athenry.

Athenry Town Walls Capital Works Programme –

Funding was received from the Heritage Council towards this project. Work for 2011 concentrated on the walls adjacent to the North West Tower in Athenry.

Rinville Signage Programme –

Funding was received from the Heritage Council towards producing a heritage signage programme for Rinville Park. The signage programme has incorporated the natural and built heritage as well as information relating to litter and other key environmental messages. The signs will be erected in January 2012.



Stone Wall Workshop Inisheer 2011 – Starting the wall



Overall Winner Galway County Council Heritage Award 2011 – Portumna Workhouse

CONSERVATION

Galway County Council continued to implement the legislation for the protection of the architectural heritage through providing advice to the statutory agencies, local communities and to owners and occupiers of buildings of special architectural merit and to maintain and update the Record of Protected Structures in liaison with the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH).

It promoted awareness of the architectural heritage and the traditional skills and materials necessary to secure their survival into the future by hosting/participating in events.

It promoted best practise in conservation and traditional skills through the various conservation grant schemes, and in cooperation with national bodies, community groups and owners/occupiers of buildings of special interest.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

Comment and advice on planning applications for works to Protected Structures and those within Architectural Conservation Areas Preplanning consultations and advice on architectural conservation within the local authority and to the general statutory and non statutory bodies

Completed 2 section 57 declarations. The Department of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht allocation for Conservation Grants for 2011 were paused. The alternative Structures at Risk Fund was advertised, inspections carried out, and recommendations made. The full allocation was drawn down in November. The investigation of funding for Protected Structures owned by the Local Authority, as set out in Government policy on architecture/liaison, with LEADER/ local community groups regarding leases etc (Portumna Courthouse, Oughterard Courthouse Monivea C of I, Loughrea Town Hall etc), was commenced.

TOURISM

Promoted tourism grant aid available from Failte Ireland. Participated in Islands Tourism initiative. Lead contact on Pearse Cottage project. Participated in the Tidy Towns Project 2011 with the Community and Enterprise Unit and also liaised with C&E in relation to tourism signs.

DENNIS MAUSOLEUM PROJECT

Conservation works on the "Dennis Mausoleum" RPS 40 was completed. Co-ordinated meetings with representatives from the local community, the DAHG, and the Follies Trust Project to produce the publication which was launched by the Minister for Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht in October 2011.

OTHER PROJECTS:

The preparation of relevant sections of the Draft Athenry and Oranmore Local Area Plans was carried out. Liaison took place with Leader GRD for the lecture series on the "Care of Historic Ironwork" including a presentation at a public lecture. In addition to this, notices were placed in the paper for the attention of owners/occupiers and the wider public to increase awareness regarding Care of Historic Ironwork. Liaised with the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) which resulted in a Publication and a Website produced Ministerial Recommendation which was made at the launch in County Hall in October. Inspections of graveyards were carried out with DAHG archaeologists. Inspection of bridges with the OPW and DAHG regarding flood mitigation were performed. Ongoing research into thatch material and policy were carried out, while an input to the DAHG guidelines on same was provided.

MAXIMISING SOCIAL INCLUSION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

The Planning and Sustainable Development SPC had 4 meetings in 2011. The main policy issues discussed during the year included :

- The draft wind energy strategy
- The draft Core Strategy
- Unfinished Housing Estates and Taking in Charge of estates
- The new Quarry legislation

ORGANISATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

CUSTOMER SERVICE

The Planning and sustainable Development Unit continues to provide an excellent customer service with reduced resources.

Planning clinics are still being held weekly at County Hall. The appointment system was reviewed in 2011 and the waiting time for an appointment was decreased considerably.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The key functions of the Human Resources Department is to support Line Managers and Employees in achieving efficient and effective delivery of Galway County Council's corporate and business objectives; promote a positive working environment; manage workforce planning, training and development of staff, staff recruitment, delivery of statutory and non-statutory staff welfare policies and procedures; maintain stable industrial relations and create an equitable, consultative and supportive working environment.

The Human Resources Department engages proactively with staff in promoting their personal and career development thus enabling them to reach their potential and contribute fully to the achievement of the Councils strategic and business objectives.

Staff Training and Development

Galway County Council is committed to develop staff through a range of leadership development programmes, study assistance and training opportunities in order to improve performance, overcome challenges, and lead within the Council. A Learning and Development Plan is developed annually and heavily influenced by the training needs identified by staff and their Line Managers through the Performance Management and Development System ensuring appropriate access to learning and development. In 2011, in excess of 3% of total payroll costs were spent on staff training and development and 2,508 training days (excluding fire fighter training) were provided by both external and internal trainers.

Health and Safety Training formed a considerable part of the 2011 Training Plan with some new courses being rolled out as follows: Supervisory CI Confined Spaces Training, Agricultural Investigation Training and Teleporter Operator training.

Seventeen staff members successfully completed the Certificate in Bio Diversity in the academic year 2010/2011, with three of these staff continuing with M. Sc. studies in Bio-Diversity and Land Use Planning in the academic years 2011/2013. Eleven staff members piloted the newly developed Trench Support Training course. The aim of this course is to improve the competence of persons involved in excavations.



Congratulations to all who have successfully completed the Certificate in Bio-Diversity - Pictured with Martina Moloney, County Manager.

Back Row – Left to Right: Mark Molloy(Environment), John O'Donnell (Planning), Sinead Ni Mhainin (Environment), Fran McEvoy (Roads), Sean Langan(Roads), Paul Mulhern(Water Services), John Costello (Roads)

Front Row - Left to Right: Rosina Joyce(Corporate), Paula Hanlon(Planning), Martina Moloney(County Manager), Anna Kyne(Corporate) Teresa O'Reilly(WRA)

Missing from Photograph: Mary Power(Water Services), Michael Timmins(NRDO), Martin Lavelle(Water Services), John Coyle(Roads), Kurt Lydon (Roads), Diarmuid Dunne(Housing)

Galway County Council's commitment to training and staff development ensures that staff has the necessary skills and competencies to respond to the ongoing challenges of providing a high quality, customer focused and cost effective service.



Water Services Department **Staff** receiving Certificates following completion of the Water Services Module of the IPA Legislative Training Programme held in September/October 2011.

Environment Department **Staff** receiving Certificates following completion of the Environment Module of the IPA Legislative Training Programme held in May/June 2011.



IPA Certificate in Local Government Graduates. Left to Right: Marian Donohue (Training Officer), Gerard Morrissey (Firestation) Martina Moloney (County Manager), Aisling Skelly (Law Agents), Deirdre Spelman (Law Agents) Eugene Cummins (Director of Service). Missing from photo: Marilyn Gaughan (C&E).

Staff Recruitment

Galway County Council is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to the provision of a work environment that is safe and supportive, where individuals treat each other with dignity and respect. The Human Resources Department processed applications for various positions during 2011. Vacancies were advertised in the local and/or national press and also on the Council and Local Government Jobs websites: www.gialimhe.ie / www.galway.ie/www.localgovernmentjobs.ie. In addition, there were a number of promotional opportunities within the Council and interviews were arranged to have these positions filled. In total, 34 recruitment competitions were held during the year and 192 candidates were interviewed for the various positions and thirty five persons were appointed.

On the 1st of July 2011, the Government launched a new National Internship Scheme as part of its jobs initiative programme. Galway County Council continues to facilitate Internship Placements under the National Internship Scheme as a Host Organisation.

Galway County Council has through the FÁS Apprenticeship Scheme provided three apprenticeships places in 2011.

Retirements

In the course of the year a total of thirty three full-time employees and six part-time employees retired from the service of Galway County Council and Management and Staff of the Council would like to take this opportunity to thank all the retirees for their years of dedicated service and commitment to Galway County Council.

Industrial Relations

The Human Resources Department have a policy of fostering good industrial relations at corporate level and this has continued during 2011. Every effort to resolve staff issues, at the earliest possible stage, was made in an open and co-operative manner with Trade Unions, through the Workplace Partnership process and the Handling Significant Change mechanism.

The first progress report delivered by the Implementation Body in relation to the implementation of the Public Service Agreement 2010 – 2014 (Croke Park Agreement) was published in June, 2011 with significant savings of approximately €160M being reported by the Local Authority Sector. This Progress Report focused on savings achieved from the 1st April, 2010 to the 31st March, 2011. Galway County Local Authorities have contributed to this overall saving and achieved a pay bill savings of €1.4M(net). This saving was achieved through the non-filling of vacancies, curtailment of overtime and termination of temporary contracts. Significant non-pay savings in the sum of almost €600k, through improvements in energy efficiency and procurement etc. have also been achieved and substantial expenditure has been avoided for this period. This reduction in expenditure was achieved while at the same time, ensuring that services to the public were maintained and improved to the greatest extent possible and the flexibility shown by staff to meet service priorities is acknowledged.

Staff Welfare

Galway County Council recognise that work is just one part of our employees' lives and the Human Resources Department is responsible for formulating and implementing a range of policies and support mechanisms to help staff manage their work-life balance. The Human Resources Department manages the sick pay scheme and facilitates the provision of an independent Employee Assistance Programme. The Employee Assistance Programme provided by Quinn Healthcare is a

free, confidential and independent resource to help all Council staff with any work, family or personal issue. The service is also available to staff family members. Details of all family friendly policies are available on the Council's intranet website, the Human Resources Department and communicated to all new employees.

In the Course of 2011, 513 staff availed of family friendly policies to include Shorter Working Year Scheme, Parental Leave Scheme, Work Sharing Scheme, Career Breaks, Cycle to work Scheme, Travel Pass Scheme, Force Majeure leave, Compassionate leave, Paternity and Exam leave.

Core HR/Payroll and Superannuation Project

County Galway Local Authorities commenced the implementation of the new integrated Core Human Resources/Payroll and Superannuation System in 2010. The system comprises of the following modules: Organisational Structure and Department Returns; Payroll; Time and Attendance and Leave; Superannuation/Pensions; Recruitment; Training; Performance Management and Health & Safety. A key feature of the project is the design and standardisation of processes across the local authority sector. Performance Management and Health & Safety modules are currently being advanced nationally and piloted within the sector and will be advanced in due course by County Galway Local Authorities.

ROADS & TRANSPORTATION, MARINE AND GENERAL SERVICES UNIT

To provide a safe and efficient transport network for the movement of persons and goods within sustainable and integrated transportation policies

The Roads & Transportation Unit is responsible for the design, maintenance and improvement of the National, Regional and Local Road Network throughout the County and also has responsibility for Road Safety, Marine and Arterial Drainage.

A number of significant achievements were recorded by the Roads & Transportation Unit during 2011, including:

- The completion of work on the development of Cill Rónáin Harbour at a total tendered construction cost of €39,700,000. Harbour Bye-Laws were adopted for the safe, efficient operation of the Harbour.
- Progress was made in scoping and developing the Greenway Walk and Cycle Way, on a partnership basis with interested parties, such as landowners and tourist bodies.
- The coordination and delivery of a substantial work programme, aimed at identifying areas where an economically feasible solution to reduce the potential for future flooding existed, and the substantial completion of in excess of 30 such schemes at a cost of approximately €1.25 million.
- The delivery of a significant programme of works, with reduced staff numbers and funding. We also succeeded in achieving the continued employment of all roads staff, without any enforced layoffs or shorter working time.



Proposed location of Greenway Walkway

The Unit continued to work in partnership with the HSE, An Garda Síochána and the National Roads Authority, as required, to provide assistance during times of severe weather.

TO ACHIEVE BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The final grant allocation from the National Roads Authority, for National Roads, for 2011 was **€70,116,530** comprised as follows:

Improvement Works	€68,340,000
Maintenance Works	€ 1,776,530

Funding continued to be provided in 2011 to facilitate the continued advancement and delivery of the Major Inter Urban Routes element of the National Development Plan 2007 – 2013. The following projects were managed by the National Roads Design Office during 2011 with the costs associated with this programme recouped in full from the National Roads Authority:

National Road No.	Route Section
M6	Athlone / Ballinasloe
N6	Galway City Outer Bypass
M6	Galway / Ballinasloe
M17/18	Gort / Tuam (incl Tuam Bypass)
M17	Tuam to Claremorris
M18	Gort / Crusheen
N59	Moycullen Bypass
N59	Oughterard to Clifden

- The M18 / M17 Gort to North of Tuam PPP Scheme was advanced through the public procurement process as a public private partnership project. Land acquisition is ongoing on this project.
- The Supreme Court referred the issue of the interpretation of the EU Habitats Directive to the European Court of Justice, in the context of determining the appeal against the decision of An Bord Pleanála, regarding the Galway City Outer Bypass. A decision of the European Court is expected in 2012.
- The C.P.O. and E.I.S. was published for the N59 Moycullen Bypass on the 16th December 2011.

Other milestones achieved relating to the National Primary & Secondary Road Network during 2011 included:

- The construction of 3 salt barns in Gort, Loughrea and Tuam was completed and were used for the storage of salt in advance of the Winter of 2011.
- The development and delivery of a major programme of largely overlay projects on National Primary and National Secondary Routes totalling approximately 22kms.
- The completion of the design of the realignment at Castletown.
- The reconstruction of Crusheeney Bridge which had acted as a flood bottleneck for the hinterland in the East and exacerbated flooding in the area.

An extensive programme of Pavement & Minor Improvement works was undertaken on the National Primary & National Secondary Road network as follows:

National Primary Pavement & Minor Improvements:

N17 Carrownurlaur	N17 Claretuam	N17 Corrandrumm
N17 Milltown	N18 Claregalway Footpaths	N18 Oranmore to Gort

National Secondary Pavement & Minor Improvements:

N59 Kylebroughlaun/Moycullen	N59 Kylemore to Tullyconnor	N59 Leenane
N63 Abbeyknockmoy	N63 Ballygar	N63 Dangan Beg
N63 Lackagh to N17 Junction	N63 Mountbellew	N65 Ballydoogan
N63 Killimor	N66 Ballycuddy	N66 Ballymullen to Deerpark
N66 Castleboy	N66 Castleboy 2	N66 Castledaly
N66 Eskershanore	N66 Kilchreest	N66 Loughrea
N67 Ballinderreen to Kinvara	N83 Carrowmunniagh	N83 Derrymore
N83 Forty Acres	N83 Rahogarty	N84 Corradulla Cross
N84 Headford Town	N84 Largan	N84 Luimnagh
N84 North of Headford	N84 Shrulegrove	

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS:

The total initial grant allocation of **€20,852,950** for Regional & Local Roads divided as follows:

Improvement Works	€15,661,570
Maintenance Works	€ 4,771,634

The grant allocation can be classified under the following broad headings:

Grant Category	2011
Improvement Grant (2011)	€8,415,750
Restoration Maintenance Grant	€4,093,000
Discretionary Maintenance Grant	€3,764,820
Specific Improvement Grants	€1,148,000
Low Cost Safety Improvement Grants	€183,000
Regional Roads Signposting Grant	€150,000
Strategic Regional & Local Roads (SNNR) Grant	€1,850,000
Regional and Local Roads Winter Maintenance	€678,634

Specific Improvement & Strategic Regional & Local Roads:

The following roads were allocated funding under the Specific Improvement Grant Scheme during 2011:

L7113 Crusheeney Bridge	R339 Carnmore/Monivea Road
R351 Loughrea/Woodford (Ballinagar)	R332 Kilbannon

Improvement, Resurfacing & Maintenance Programme for Regional & Local Roads

A total of 80,143 square metres of regional roads were improved under the Improvement Grant at a total cost of €1,541,484 with a further 476,680 square metres of local roads improved under the grant at a cost of €7,614,981.

A total of 168,950 square metres of regional roads were surface dressed under the Restoration Maintenance Programme at a total cost of €858,450 with a further 399,067 square metres of local roads were surface dressed under the Programme at a cost of €3,187,514.

Local Roads Maintenance

The sum provided from the Council's resources in 2011 was **€6,423,512**. The Local Roads General Maintenance allocation of **€3,809,812** provided an allocation of **€698** per km.

The sum of **€3,809,812** was allocated as follows:

(1)	Local Roads Verge Trimming	€ 180,000
(2)	Local Roads Drainage	€ 220,000
(3)	Local Roads Renewal & Provision of Signage	€ 100,000
(4)	Local Roads General Maintenance	€2,475,692
(5)	Local Roads Winter Maintenance	€ 190,250
(6)	Local Roads Bridge Maintenance	€ 200,000

Funding of €763,464, to supplement the Council's resources for Winter Maintenance operations on regional and local roads was made available by the National Roads Authority in 2011.

PIERS & HARBOURS

Strategic Piers And Harbours:

- Work was substantially completed on the development of Cill Rónáin Harbour at an estimated total cost of approximately €40 million which represents the highest ever spend on island infrastructure in the history of the State.



An Aerial View of Cill Rónáin Harbour

TO PRESERVE & ENHANCE THE ENVIRONMENT

REGIONAL & LOCAL ROAD BRIDGE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME 2011

Engineering Area	Bridge Name	Budget Estimate €
Ballinasloe North	Boherbannagh Bridge on Road No. L-6334	120,000
Ballinasloe North	Drinaun Bridge No. 3 on Road No. L-7267	20,000
Ballinasloe North	Liscuill BR 654 on Road No. L-7261	10,000
Ballinasloe North	Ballymacward Bridge on Road No. R359	45,000
Clifden	Derryvoreada Bridge on Road No. L-5136	65,000
Clifden	Carrick East 1 on Road No. R345	10,000
Carraroe	Rosroe Island on Road No. L-52211	110,000
Tuam East	Marnellsgrove Bridge on Road No. L-6405	235,000
Tuam West	Cornacantha Bridge on Road No. L-6499	65,000
Tuam West	Clooninagh Bridge on Road No. L-61481	65,000
Tuam East	Pollremon Bridge on Road No. R327	15,000
Tuam East	Farm 2 Bridge on Road No. L-2202	40,000
Portumna	Oghilly Bridge on Road No. R352	45,000
		€845,000

Thirteen bridges were rehabilitated in 2011, some by contract and some by direct labour using County Council staff.



Marnellsgrove Bridge - Before'



Marnellsgrove Bridge - After'



ARTERIAL DRAINAGE

The Council discharged its statutory responsibility for the maintenance of certain drainage works in the County through the Roads and Transportation Unit and the Council's Regional and Area Offices. The Council has charge of twelve Drainage Districts and there are two Districts in the charge of Joint Drainage Committees with Roscommon and Clare County Councils.

Drainage Districts:

Ahascragh	Annagh	Boley
Dunkellin (Gort)	Dunkellin (Athenry)	Dunkellin (Loughrea)
Kellysgrove	Kilchreest	Lavally
Meelick Pollshask	Mountbellew	Oranhill

Joint Drainage Districts:

River Fergus Joint Drainage Committee
River Suck Joint Drainage Committee

Mountbellew Drainage District / Shiven River:



'Before'



'After'

Channel maintenance over a 4km stretch of channel was carried out on the Shiven River between Ballinamore Bridge and Islandcausk Bridge. This channel maintenance combined with works undertaken by the OPW on behalf of Galway County Council at Ballinamore Bridge has significantly improved flood conveyance within the river channel.

Lavally Drainage District / Graigabbey River, Athenry:

Channel maintenance over a 1.5km stretch of channel was carried out on the Graigabbey River east of Athenry town. This section of channel maintenance combined with works undertaken in 2010 by Galway County Council further downstream has significantly improved flood conveyance within the river catchment. Enhancement works requested by Inland Fisheries Ireland were also undertaken as part of these works to improve the aquatic habitat along this important stretch of channel.

Kilchreest & Kellysgrove Drainage Districts – Accommodation Bridges

During 2011 three accommodation bridges were rehabilitated, Eskershanore Bridge and Ballingarry Bridge on Kilchreest Drainage District and Gortnahorna Bridge on Kellysgrove Drainage District. Similar works were carried out at each bridge consisting of installing new galvanized steel deck support beams, fit new steel and timber decks and steel handrails.



'Eskershanore Bridge - Before'



'Eskershanore Bridge - After'



'Ballingarry Bridge - Before'



'Ballingarry Bridge - After'

FLOOD MITIGATION WORKS & STUDIES

- The Joint Flood Working Group comprising representatives from Galway County Council and the Office of Public Works met regularly during 2011 to identify and progress works aimed at reducing the risk of future flooding.
- A total of more than 45 areas were examined with a view to determining whether an economically feasible solution to reduce the potential for future flooding existed.
- Arising from the inspection of such areas, funding in the amount of approximately €1.208million for works at 20 locations has been allocated by the Office of Public Works with match funding from Galway County Council. In excess of 16 of these schemes have been substantially completed to date with design and works ongoing on the remainder.
- The Joint Steering Group established during 2010 comprising of representatives of Galway County Council and the Office of Public Works appointed Engineering and Environmental Consultants to design an engineering solution to alleviate flooding and prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Dunkellin River Flood Relief Scheme and the Clare River Flood Relief Scheme.
- The Engineering design and the Environmental Assessment of the preferred flood relief scheme for the Dunkellin advanced in 2011 and it is planned to make a planning application to An Bord Pleanála in the second quarter of 2012. The scheme is currently estimated to cost in the region of €3.8million
- Advance works on the N17 Baile Chláir Clare River Crossing consisting of the construction of an additional flood relief channel were completed in 2011. The advance works form part of the Clare River Flood Relief Scheme which has a current total estimated cost of approximately €7.5 million.
- Advance works commenced at Crusheeny Bridge in September 2011 consisting of the demolition of the existing narrow 1950's bridge which was restricting flood flows in the Clare River and the construction of a new three span, 40m long bridge to increase flood conveyance in the river channel. The bridge works are due to be complete in April 2012. The advance works form part of the Clare River Flood Relief Scheme which has a current total estimated cost of approximately €7.5 million.
- The Council supported the OPW and Jennings O'Donovan's review of the recommendations of the 1998 South Galway Report being undertaken in the context of the more severe flooding experienced in 2009.

Raheen Road Flood Relief Culvert, Kiltartan, Gort:

The Jennings O'Donovan's review of the flooding in south Galway recommended the construction of a number of culverts between Kiltartan to Coole and Coole to Kinvara. Two new culverts were recommended to facilitate large overland flows along the natural overland flow path during flood events. The culvert below was constructed in November-December 2011 on Local Road L-4506 at Corker and works were programmed to commence on a similar but much longer culvert under the N18 at Kiltartan in January-February 2012.



Before' – 2No. small diameter pipes



'After' – Larger pre-cast concrete box culvert

DEVELOPMENT OF PIERS:

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine allocated funding for the development of two piers in County Galway – Inis Ní Pier, Roundstone and Doonloughaun Pier

Project Location	Works	DAFM Funding	Council Funding	Total
Inis Ní Pier, Roundstone	Reconstruction of the Pier	€112,500	€37,500	€150,000
Doonloughaun Pier	Access Ramp for use by the Coastguard	€112,500	€37,500	€150,000
Total Funding Marine Piers				€300,000



Reconstruction of Inis Ní Pier, Roundstone



During Construction of Ramp at Doonloughaun Pier

TO DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

SMARTER TRAVEL & SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY:

The Council continued its proactive role in promoting sustainable mobility by delivering a programme of events to mark Bike Week 18th – 26th June 2011. Events included Cycles through Connemara, fun cycles, pedal a smoothie, cycle to work and the official launch of cycle racks in Tuam, to encourage people to consider changing travel habits to a more sustainable means of transport such as walking and cycling.

Under the Smarter Travel initiative, work was undertaken in Loughrea Tuam and Athenry to introduce traffic calming measures and improve walking and cycling routes for pedestrians along school routes and within town centres.

The development of a Walking and Cycling Strategy for the County was progressed and it is expected this Strategy will be substantially completed during 2012.



Pedestrian Crossing/Traffic Calming
Loughrea



Pedestrian Crossing/Traffic Calming
for school patrons Athenry

GARRAUN RAIL STATION:

The Transportation Unit also progressed the finalisation of an agreement in partnership with Irish Rail to advance the development of the Oranmore Rail Station which will include parking facilities at Garraun. Work will continue on this to ensure completion of this project in 2012.

ROAD SAFETY:**Road Safety Together Committee:**

- The Road Safety Together Committee continued its active role in the promotion of road safety and held 3 meetings in 2011.
- The County Galway Primary Schools Cycling Championship took place on Thursday, 23rd June, 2011. The event was organised by the Council as part of its Programme of Events to mark National Bike Week.
- Galway County Council joined up with its Sports Partnership Section and the Irish Heart Foundation in relation to a Fit Walking Programme which was carried out in Moylough in January, 2011, by providing high visibility vests to each person who took part in this walking initiative.
- Irish Road Safety Week took place between 10th and 16th October, '11, and the Council held various initiatives, e.g. distribution of 1,000 back-pack covers to NUI Galway students; distribution of high visibility vests to rural pubs in Co. Galway; road safety awareness poster competition; distribution of leaflets e.g. speeding; driver tiredness; drink driving; mobile phone use, etc; promotion of eye tests, promotion of free car 'health check', etc.
- Galway County Council, in association with Galway City Council, hosted the 'Think Twice' Road Safety Awareness Show for Teenagers on 12th October, '11, and over 800 pupils attended this worthwhile show.
- The Council's Road Safety Together Committee, in conjunction with Mayo and Donegal Co. Councils, was successful in its nomination of iRadio for the Road Safety Authority's annual 'Leading Lights in Road Safety' Awards - Media Award, for its consistent coverage and promotion of road safety amongst its listeners.
- Galway County Council & Galway City Council joined together on 11th May, '11, to mark the official global launch of the 'Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020' by having it's own launch in County Hall. With the campaign slogan 'Make Roads Safe', the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety aims to save 5 million lives on the world's roads in the next ten years representing a total reduction of 50% on the predicted global death toll by 2020.

Specific road safety initiatives undertaken by the Council during 2011 included:

- Promotion of the Drive for Life Programme for Post Primary Schools.
- Support for the operation of the Junior School Warden Scheme.
- Support for the Cycling Safety Training Programme in national schools.
- Road safety messages on iRadio in May, June and August Bank Holidays in conjunction with Mayo, Donegal and Sligo County Councils.
- Road safety promotional material distributed to Galway Motor Club for circulation at the Galway Summer Rally held in August, '11.
- During 2011, road safety awareness messages appeared in 'Aon Scéal', the Council's staff magazine in order to continue raising road safety awareness to its staff members.



Junior School Wardens Competition 2011
Winners - St Marys National School,
Mountbellew



County Galway Primary Schools Cycling
Championship 2011 Winners –
Castlefrench National School



Launch of Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011 - 2020

Safety Improvement Works and Measures:

The National Roads Authority provided funding of €247,000 for Safety Measures on the following National Primary & Secondary roads:

- N17 Knockdoe, Claregalway
- N18 Corporate Park Footpath
- N59 Newtown School, Moycullen
- N59 Junction at Garroman
- N59 Weir Bridge Garroman
- N63 Mount Talbot, Garreer, Ballygar
- N84 Corrandulla Cross

An allocation of **€183,000** was provided by the Department of Transport to enable low cost safety improvement works on the following regional and local roads:

- R359/L3401 Alloon Upper
- R333/L21043 Arrowconlaun, Tuam
- L3450/L3401 Ashfield, Mouthazel
- R336/L1200 Balinahown, Rossaveal
- R360 Ballintlava, Dunmore
- L3101/L3102 Cregmore Crossroads
- L3206 Fairhill, Menlough
- L7127/L7143 Monivea
- L5105 Renvyle, Clifden

PUBLIC LIGHTING:

- A sum of **€622,000** was provided in the 2011 Budget to fund the cost of the public lighting programme including the maintenance/energy costs.
- In addition the National Roads Authority provided funding of **€138,302** for National Primary/Secondary Route Lighting.
- The Council, in conjunction with other Western Seaboard Councils, tendered for the ongoing maintenance and repair of public lighting. The contract was awarded for a period of 3 years to Electric Skyline, commencing in December 2011.

TO MAXIMISE SOCIAL INCLUSION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE**Community Employment Schemes:**

The Council, in partnership with FÁS and the local community, continued to promote and encourage the development of Community Employment. Accordingly, the Council continued to sponsor 5 schemes in the following locations: Maigh Cuilinn / Oughterard, Laurencetown / Abbey, Gort and Environs, Tuam and Environs and Cloch na Rón / Clifden.



Improvement works completed by
CES Tuam

Palace Grounds Tuam maintained by
CES Tuam

Community Involvement in Roadworks Scheme

The Council continued to actively promote the Community Involvement in Roadworks Scheme as a means of harnessing community support for road works on suitable local roads. A sum of **€196,495** was provided from the 20110 Improvement Grant with a further sum of **€222,300** from the Restoration Maintenance Grant provided a total budget of **€418,795** for the scheme. A total of **41** applications were received to avail of the 2011 scheme. Following assessment **30** were recommended for funding with **28** schemes completed in 2011.

Town & Village Maintenance & Enhancement

The Council continued to support community effort in maintaining and enhancing the physical environment of town and villages and provided funding of **€1,000,000** in 2011 to facilitate maintenance and small improvement works. An element of the funding was focused to facilitate the Council in further supporting the input and performance of communities involved in the National Tidy Towns Competition.

TO SUPPORT COUNTY GALWAY'S UNIQUE CULTURE

SIGNAGE

- A grant of **€150,000** was provided in 2011 by the Department of Transport for the ongoing replacement and repair of signage on Regional Roads, a Programme of works which commenced in 2003.
- Funding in the amount of **€100,000** was provided from the General Maintenance allocation for the provision and renewal of signage on local roads.

TO MAXIMISE ORGANISATIONAL EFFICIENCY & EFFECTIVENESS

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Galway County Council and the Office of Public Works worked together on the Joint Flood Working Group and the Steering Group for the Dunkellin & River Clare Flood Relief Schemes to advance suitable projects and measures to minimise the potential for future flooding.

The Council continued to liaise with the Galway Transportation Unit and Galway City Council in advancing the Galway City & Environs Walking & Cycling Strategy including Bearna, Oranmore and Baile Chlair.

The Unit continued to engage with An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta and Údarás na Gaeltachta through regular meetings to address a broad range of issues of mutual interest.

MACHINERY YARD:

The supply and maintenance of Plant and Machinery for the Council's use is managed by the Machinery Yard. The Council is committed to the ongoing development of this service in order to provide an efficient and effective resource to facilitate the delivery of the Council's Work Programmes. The plant and machinery available to the Machinery Yard was further supplemented during 2011 with the acquisition of 2 additional salt gritters with additional funding provided by the National Roads Authority.

TO ENHANCE QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICES & DELIVERY

CUSTOMER SERVICE

- The Unit continued to operate an On Line Payment Facility to allow for the payment of Fixed Charge Notices (Parking Fines).
- The Unit continued to avail of www.galway.ie throughout 2011 to provide a Traffic Information Service, providing information on traffic disruptions arising as a result of road works, temporary road closures, roadwork's speed limits etc.
- The Unit communicated with the public through the use of various media, such as newspapers, local radio, website, twitter, e-mails, texts and through the usage of the on-line customer comments system.

TO SUPPORT & ENHANCE LOCAL DEMOCRACY

CORPORATE SUPPORT

The Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee met on 4 occasions during 2011 and recommended the following policies which were subsequently adopted by Council:

- Sponsorship of the Maintenance of Designated Roundabouts
- Traffic Management Plan 2011
- Charging for Attendance by Staff at Out of Hours Incidents

An updated Winter Service Plan was prepared in 2011 as required by the National Roads Authority and the Department of Transport and following consideration by the Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee was approved by Council.

COUNCILLORS NOMINATED TO COMMITTEES & OTHER BODIES

Galway Harbour Board Company

Cllr. Peter Feeney

River Suck Joint Drainage Committee

Cllr. Kevin Ryan
Cllr. Sean Canney
Cllr. Tomas Mannion

Road Safety Together Committee

Cllr. Liam Carroll

West Regional Authority

Comh. Tomas O Curraoin
Cllr. Gerry Finnerty
Cllr. Tiarnan Walsh
Cllr. Peter Feeney
Cllr. Tim Broderick
Cllr. Kevin Ryan
Cllr. Peter Roche

B.M.W. Regional Assembly

Cllr. Gerry Finnerty
Cllr. Tiarnan Walsh
Cllr. Peter Feeney

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

Comh. Seosamh O Cuaig
Cllr. Tomas Mannion
Cllr. Gerry Finnerty
Cllr. Peter Feeney
Cllr. Tom McHugh
Cllr. Peter Roche
Cllr. Michael Maher
Cllr. Liam Carroll

Galway County and City Enterprise Board

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn

Galway Rural Development Company

Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe
Cllr. Michael Finnerty
Cllr. Tim Broderick

Athenry Heritage and Tourism Co. Ltd.

Cllr. Peter Feeney
Cllr. Michael Maher

Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd.

Cllr. Jarlath McDonagh

Association of County and City Councils

Cllr. Seamus Walsh
Cllr. Jarlath McDonagh
Cllr. Peter Feeney

General Council of County Councils

Cllr. Mary Hoade
Cllr. Jarlath McDonagh
Cllr. Sean Canney

Fáilte Ireland West

Cllr. Peter Feeney

County and City Tourism Forum

Cllr. Eileen Mannion

County (Local) Rural Water Monitoring Committee

Cllr. Michael Connolly
Cllr. Eileen Mannion
Cllr. Kevin Ryan

Loughrea Heritage Committee

Cllr. Bridie Willers
Cllr. Michael Maher

Knock Airport Consultative Committee

Cllr. Jim Cuddy

Board of Directors of Corrib Airport Ltd

Cllr. Liam Carroll

Integrated Transport Coordinating Group

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn

LAMA

Cllr. Tom McHugh

Meitheal Forbartha na Gaeltachta/Cumas

Comh. Seosamh O Cuaig

Comh. Sean O Tuairisg

Board of Directors of Galway Arts Centre

Cllr. Eileen Mannion

Western Inter-County Rail Committee

Cllr. Michael Connolly

Cllr. Sean Canney

Cllr. Bridie Willers

Cllr. Peter Feeney

Cllr. Peter Roche

County Galway Vocational Education Committee

Cllr. Michael Connolly

Comh. Sean O Tuairisg

Comh. Seosamh O Cuaig

Cllr. Jarlath McDonagh

Cllr. Liam Carroll

Cllr. Kevin Ryan

Cllr. Eileen Mannion

Cllr. Peter Roche

Cllr. Michael Maher

Regional Health Forum Representation, West

Cllr. Mary Hoade

Cllr. Tomás Mannion

Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe

Cllr. Michael Finnerty

Cllr. Tim Broderick

Forum Conamara Ltd.

Cllr. Eileen Mannion
Comh. Seosamh Ó Laoi
Cllr. Seamus Walsh
Cllr. Thomas Welby

Comhar na nOileán Teoranta

Comh. Seosamh Ó Laoi

City and County Liaison Committee

Cllr. Bridie Willers
Cllr. Seosamh O Cuaig
Cllr. Peter Feeney
Cllr. Mary Hoade
Cllr. Jim Cuddy

Galway County Committee of Agriculture & Rural Development (CCARD)

Cllr. Michael Connolly
Cllr. Dermot Connolly

County Development Board

Cllr. Tom McHugh,
Cllr. Tiarnan Walsh,
Cllr. Jimmy McClearn
Cllr. Michael Fahy
Cllr. Jim Cuddy
Cllr. Pat Hynes

Western River Basin District Advisory Council

Cllr. Peter Feeney
Cllr. Tom Welby

Shannon River Basin District Advisory Council

Cllr. Michael Connolly
Cllr. Jimmy McClearn

County Galway Local Sports Partnership

Cllr. Tomás Mannion
Cllr. Dermot Connolly

Joint Policing Committee

Cllr. Tom McHugh, Comh. Seamus O Cuaig, Cllr. Sean Canney, Comh. Tomas O Curraoin, Cllr. Mary Hoade, Cllr. Malachy Noone, Cllr. Thomas Welby, Cllr. Tim Broderick, Cllr. Tomas Mannion, Cllr. Jimmy McClearn, Cllr. Michael Connolly, Cllr. Michael Fahy, Cllr. Peter Roche, Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe, Cllr. Seosamh O'Laoi

Audit Committee

Cllr. Tim Broderick
Cllr. Jim Cuddy

CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY MEMBERS IN 2011

	Conference	Organised By	Date & Venue	No. Attended	Conference Fee €	Travel & Subsistence €	Total €
1	Time Management Success; Double your productivity, double your time off!	TGR Seminars	Maritime Hotel, Bantry, Co. Cork 21. – 23.01.2011	1	195.00	588.68	783.68
2	Volcanic Ash, Major Flooding, Freezing Spells – Crises Impacts on Ireland	Kadenza Consultancies	Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal 21. – 23.01.2011	4	145.00	2,015.68	2,595.68
3	Re-finding success in Europe: The Challenge for Irish Institutions & Policy	National Economic & Social Council	Royal College of Physicians, Kildare St., Dublin 2 26.01.2011	2	0.00	708.43	708.43
4	Economic Seminar for Councillors	TJK Conferences	Thomond Park, Limerick 28. – 29.01.2011	4	120.00	790.06	1,270.06
5	Local Authority Water Supply	Esperanza Enterprises	Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth, Co. Kildare 28. – 30.01.2011	1	170.00	440.40	610.40
6	Anti-Social Behaviour and Health & Safety	Kadenza Consultancies	Clonea Strand Hotel, Clonea, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford 04. – 05.02.2011	1	145.00	333.31	478.31
7	Renewable Heat Incentive	Esperanza Enterprises	Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth, Co. Kildare 04. – 06.02.2011	1	170.00	440.40	610.40

	Conference	Organised By	Date & Venue	No. Attended	Conference Fee €	Travel & Subsistence €	Total €
8	A.M.A.I. Spring Seminar 2011 – The Case for Municipal Government	A.M.A.I.	Westlodge Hotel, Bantry, Co. Cork 11. – 12.02.2011	4	200.00	1,796.80	2,596.80
9	Taking Care of Business – Health & Safety for Small Business Owners	Health & Safety Authority	Convention Centre, Dublin 16.02.2011	1	0.00	491.72	491.72
10	Charities Act 2009 – Implications for the Voluntary Sector	Esperanza Enterprises	Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry 18. – 20.02.2011	3	170.00	1,330.70	1,840.70
11	22 nd Colmcille Winter School – The Future of the Irish Educational System	Colmcille Heritage Trust	Colmcille Heritage Centre, Gartan, Church Hill, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal 25. – 27.02.2011	1	195.00	550.66	745.66
12	9 th National Tourism Conference – A River Runs Through It	Carlow Tourism	Seven Oaks Hotel, Carlow 03. – 05.03.2011	9	150.00	3,685.11	5,035.11
13	A Guide to Effective Public Relations	Smart Marketing	Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare 11. – 13.03.2011	3	160.00	996.12	1,476.12
14	The Local Government Planning Service	Esperanza Enterprises	Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal 11. – 13.03.2011	1	170.00	529.74	699.74

	Conference	Organised By	Date & Venue	No. Attended	Conference Fee €	Travel & Subsistence €	Total €
15	ACCC Conference 2011 – Rebuilding Confidence in urban & rural communities	Association of County & City Councils	Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly 24. – 25.03.2011	8	125.00	1,819.13	2,819.13
16	How to be an Effective Chairperson	Celtic Conferences	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork 01. – 03.04.2011	1	100.00	531.65	631.65
17	20 th Annual Kerry Environmental Conference	Rattoo Heritage Society	Meadowlands Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry 07. – 10.04.2011	1	150.00	377.92	527.92
18	Planning & Development (Amendment) Act 2010	Dept. of Environment, Heritage & Local Government	Douglas Hyde Lecture Theatre, Athlone I.T. 15.04.2011	8	0.00	1,146.67	1,146.67
19	The Future of Local Politics	Celtic Conferences	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork 15. – 17.04.2011	1	100.00	525.94	625.94
20	Robert John Kane Energy Symposium 2011	MSB Events	Ramada Hotel, Lough Allen, Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim 27. – 29.04.2011	2	367.84	329.51	1,065.19
21	Spring Seminar 2011 – Economic Revival – A Role for Local Government	LAMA	Fairways Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth 29. – 30.04.2011	8	190.00	3,505.85	5,025.85
22	Annual Conference 2011 – Innovation & Competitiveness – Restoring the Regional Economy	Border, Midland & Western (BMW) Regional Assembly	Sheraton Hotel, Athlone 06.05.2011	1	0.00	226.75	226.75

	Conference	Organised By	Date & Venue	No. Attended	Conference Fee €	Travel & Subsistence €	Total €
23	Programme for Government & Local Government	Kadenza Consultancies	City North Hotel, Gormanstown, Co. Meath 06. – 07.05.2011	1	145.00	263.23	408.23
24	Lessons from the Crisis: Money, Taxes & Saving in a Changing World	TASC – Think Tank for Action on Social Change	Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin 09.05.2011	1	0.00	382.73	382.73
25	Mash 2011 – Exploding Media	Mediacontact.ie	Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin 10.05.2011	1	195.00	240.42	435.42
26	Public Speaking & Promotional Literature Design	Celtic Conferences	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork 13. – 15.05.2011	2	100.00	1,093.70	1,293.70
27	Renewable Energy – Local Government can make a difference	Ashford Building Services	Mill Park Hotel, Donegal Town, Co. Donegal 03. – 05.06.2011	7	150.00	2,798.30	3,848.30
28	Is increasing Life Expectancy also improving Ageing?	Centre for Ageing Research & Development in Ireland	Radisson Blu Hotel, Golden Lane, Dublin 07.06.2011	1	0.00	382.73	382.73
29	European Union Funding & Functions	Celtic Conferences	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork 17. – 19.06.2011	3	100.00	1,558.23	1,858.23

	Conference	Organised By	Date & Venue	No. Attended	Conference Fee €	Travel & Subsistence €	Total €
30	A Flavour of the Future – The Challenges for Irish Agri-food in the Global Marketplace	Institute of International & European Affairs	RDS, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 05.07.2011	2	150.00	672.32	972.32
31	Time Management, Media & IT Skills	Celtic Conferences	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork 08. – 10.07.2011	3	100.00	1,296.47	1,596.47
32	Transforming Ireland 2011 – 2016 : The First Hundred Days, The Next Five Years	MacGill Summer School	Glenties, Co. Donegal 24. – 29.07.2011	7	150.00	3,482.12	4,532.12
33	William Carleton Summer School 2011	William Carleton Summer School Committee	Corick House Hotel, Clogher, Co. Tyrone 01. – 04.08.2011	1	225.00	654.58	879.58
34	Equality Then & Now	Parnell Summer School	Avondale House, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow 14. – 19.08.2011	4	275.00	2,279.20	3,379.20
35	Local Government promoting Renewable Energy – The Advantages of Solar Power	Esperanza Enterprises	Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry 19. – 21.08.2011	1	150.00	495.53	645.53
36	Enhancing Promotional Media & Microsoft Office Workshop	Celtic Conferences	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork 02. – 04.09.2011	1	100.00	525.94	625.94

	Conference	Organised By	Date & Venue	No. Attended	Conference Fee €	Travel & Subsistence €	Total €
37	98 th Annual Conference	A.M.A.I.	Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim, Co. Meath 08. – 10.09.2011	7	200.00	2,909.96	4,309.96
38	Autumn Seminar 2011 – The Role of Tourism in Economic Recovery	LAMA	Clonea Strand Hotel, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford 23. – 24.09.2011	7	150.00	3,389.25	4,439.25
39	Incomes – Instruments of Recovery	TASC	Metropole Hotel, Cork 29.09.2011	1	0.00	327.61	327.61
40	European Waste Water Laws	Esperanza Enterprises	Mill Park Hotel, Donegal Town, Co. Donegal 30.09. – 02.10.2011	3	150.00	1,278.73	1,728.73
41	23 rd Annual La Touche Legacy Seminar	Greystones Town Council	Charlesland Golf & Country Club, Greystones, Co. Wicklow 30.09. – 02.10.2011	1	150.00	459.41	609.41
42	Local Government & Planning Seminar	TJK Conferences	Patrick Punch Hotel, Limerick 08. – 09.10.2011	3	120.00	857.98	1,217.98
43	Autumn Conference 2011 – From Debt to Recovery	TASC	Croke Park Dublin 14. – 15.10.2011	2	0.00	712.24	712.24
44	Social Housing Assessment Regulations 2011	Esperanza Enterprises	Carlton Atlantic Coast Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo 14. – 16.10.2011	5	150.00	1,160.50	1,910.50

	Conference	Organised By	Date & Venue	No. Attended	Conference Fee €	Travel & Subsistence €	Total €
45	Irish Planning Institute Autumn Conference 2011	Irish Planning Institute	The Gibson Hotel, The Point Village, Dublin 1 21.10.2011	2	240.00	289.84	769.84
46	Optimising Taxation Allowances & Benefits	Celtic Conferences	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork 21. – 23.10.2011	1	100.00	575.37	675.37
47	Social Inclusion Forum 2011	Department of Social Inclusion	F2 Centre, 3 Reuben Plaza, Rialto, Dublin 8 09.11.2011	1	0.00	380.83	380.83
48	Waste Water Discharge – Control design, operation & maintenance	Esperanza Enterprises	Carlton Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry 11. – 13.11.2011	2	150.00	823.13	1,123.13
49	Alcohol: Where's the Harm? Conference	Alcohol Action Ireland	Royal College of Physicians, Dublin 2 15.11.2011	2	0.00	776.87	776.87
50	The Nordic Models: Resilience in Changing Times	TASC	Croke Park, Dublin 17.11.2011	3	0.00	1,215.37	1,215.37
51	The Local Government Budget 2012	Superior Training	Carlton Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co. Wexford 18. – 20.11.2011	4	100.00	1,805.96	2,205.96
52	Local Authority's role in preventing water pollution	Esperanza Enterprises	Mill Park Hotel, Donegal Town, Co. Donegal 18. – 20.11.2011	3	150.00	1,129.82	1,579.82
53	Meetwest Business Networking 2011	Galway Chamber of Commerce	Galway Bay Hotel, Salthill, Galway 21.11.2011	1	195.00	50.32	245.32

	Conference	Organised By	Date & Venue	No. Attended	Conference Fee €	Travel & Subsistence €	Total €
54	Digital Local Agenda Conference 2011	Midland Regional Authority	Sheraton Hotel Athlone, Athlone, Co. Westmeath 23.11.2011	1	0.00	179.33	179.33
55	9 th Irish National Radon Forum	Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII)	Chartered Accountants House, Pearse St., Dublin 2 24.11.2011	4	0.00	1,415.93	1,415.93
56	Tourism – The Potential for Economic Growth	Clare Tourism	Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare 25. – 26.11.2011	4	229.00	912.36	1,828.36
57	Renewable Energy 20-20-20 – Transforming Ireland into a highly energy-efficient, low carbon economy	Esperanza Enterprises	The Lucan Spa Hotel, Lucan, Co. Dublin 25. – 26.11.2011	2	150.00	676.12	976.12
58	Promoting Volunteerism	Esperanza Enterprises	Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo 02. – 04.12.2011	1	150.00	282.61	432.61
59	2 nd International Conference on Networks, Learning & Entrepreneurship	Sustainable Learning Networks in Ireland & Wales (SLNIW)	Waterford Institute of Technology 07. – 08.12.2011	1	0.00	527.84	527.84
60	Water Services (Amendment) Bill 2011	Superior Training	Carlton Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co. Wexford 09. – 11.12.2011	3	100.00	1,480.89	1,780.89
61	Proposed Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy	Ashford Building Services	Carlton Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry 09. – 11.12.2011	1	150.00	358.02	508.02

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES

Corporate & Cultural Affairs SPC

Cllr. Pat Hynes – Chairperson
Comh. Seosamh Ó Cuaig
Cllr. Mary Hoade
Cllr. Tom McHugh
Cllr. Malachy Noone
Comh. Seosamh Ó Laoi
Cllr. Tom Reilly – Town Council
Ms. Frances O’Reilly
Ms. Maura Kelly Stewart
Ms. Noreen Uí Dhonnacha

Environment, Water & Emergency Services SPC

Cllr. Jim Cuddy – Chairperson
Cllr. Michael Maher
Cllr. Eileen Mannion
Cllr. Tim Broderick
Cllr. Gerry Finnerty
Cllr. Michael Finnerty
Cllr. Lucy Lloyd-Keighery – Town Council
Mr. Mark Green
Mr. Diarmuid Mulcahy
Mr. Christy Cunniffe

Housing Services SPC

Cllr. Tiarnan Walsh – Chairperson
Cllr. Seamus Walsh
Cllr. Tomás Mannion
Cllr. Bridie Willers
Cllr. Thomas Welby
Cllr. Jarlath McDonagh
Cllr. Sally Ann Flanagan – Town Council
Cllr. Sylvia Burke – Town Council
Mr. Joe Naughton
Mr. Dan Dowling
Mr. Noel Tarmey
Mr. Mark Coffey

Planning & Sustainable Development SPC

Cllr. Michael Fahy – Chairperson
Cllr. Dermot Connolly
Cllr. Liam Carroll
Comh. Seán Ó Tuairisg
Cllr. Seán Canney
Cllr. Peter Roche
Cllr. Geraldine Bane – Town Council
Mr. Ray O’Donoghue
Mr. Justin Molloy
Mr. Michael Naughton
Mr. Michael Healy

Roads & Transportation SPC

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn – Chairperson
Cllr. Kevin Ryan
Comh. Tomás Ó Curraoin
Cllr. Peter Feeney
Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe
Cllr. Michael Connolly
Cllr. Mike Kelly – Town Council
Mr. Aodan MacDonnacha
Mr. Martin Callanan
Mr. Pat Keane
Mr. Michael Long

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

COUNTY MANAGER

Ms. Martina Moloney

CORPORATE , HOUSING, & EMERGENCY SERVICES

Director of Services:	Mr. Eugene Cummins
Senior Executive Officer, Housing:	Mr. Alan Farrell
Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services:	Mr. Michael Owens
Administrative Officer, Housing:	Ms. Margaret Jordan
Administrative Officer, Corporate Services:	Ms. Eimear Dolan/M.J. Walsh
County Librarian:	Mr. Pat McMahan
Senior Social Worker:	Ms. Mary Forde
Senior Executive Librarians:	Ms. Maureen Moran
	Ms. Bernie Kelly
	Mr. Peter Rabbitte
Senior Executive Engineer, Housing:	Mr. Michael Sheil
Senior Executive Engineer, Corporate Services:	Mr. Steven Lally (Acting)
Law Agent:	Ms. Vivian Raine
Senior Executive Solicitors:	Ms. Angela Casey
	Ms. Anne McCormack (Temp)
Executive Solicitors:	Ms. Margaret Flynn
	Mr. Michael O'Doherty (Temp)
Internal Auditor:	Ms. Bernie Welby
Chief Fire Officer:	Mr. Michael Raftery
Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officers:	Mr. Joesph Kelly
	Mr. Michael Clifford
	Mr. Paul Duffy
Civil Defence Officer:	Mr. Tom Casserly

WATER, ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Director of Services:	Mr. Jim Cullen
Senior Executive Officer:	Ms. Jean Brann
Administrative Officer, Water Services:	Mr. Enda Moloney
Administrative Officer, Environment:	Mr. Paraic Carroll
Administrative Officer, Community & Enterprise:	Mr. Brian Barrett
Senior Engineers, Water Services:	Mr. Martin Lavelle
	Mr. Michael Dolly
	Ms. Maire Ni Chionna
Senior Executive Engineers, Water Services:	Ms. Martina Connaughton
	Ms. Fiona Holland
	Mr. Diarmuid Croghan
Senior Executive Engineer, Environment:	Mr. Tony McInerney
Safety Advisor/Health & Safety Officer:	Ms. Julianne Gavin
County Veterinary Inspector:	Ms. Rita Gately
Veterinary Inspector:	Mr. James Casey
Rapid Co-Ordinators:	Ms. Ann Mallaghan
	Mr. Kieran Coyne
Arts Officer:	Ms. Marilyn Gaughan Redden

PLANNING & HUMAN RESOURCES

Director of Services:	Mr. Kevin Kelly
Senior Executive Officer, Planning:	Mr. Albert Comer
Senior Executive Officer, Human Resources:	Ms. Bríd Dooley
Administrative Officer, Planning:	Ms. Eileen Keaveney
Administrative Officer, Human Resources:	Ms. Anne Gardiner
Senior Planner:	Ms. Catherine McConnell
Senior Executive Engineer:	Mr. Paraic Breathnach
Senior Executive Planners:	Ms. Saoirse Kennedy
	Ms. Valerie Loughnane Moran
Senior Executive Planning:	Mr. Noel Burke
Heritage Officer:	Ms. Marie Mannion
Conservation Officer:	Ms. Máirín Doddy
Chief Technician:	Mr. Enda Thompson

ROADS, TRANSPORTATION, MARINE & GENERAL SERVICES

Director of Services:	Mr. Frank Gilmore
Administrative Officer:	Ms. Nuala Heffernan
Senior Engineers:	Mr. Evan Molloy
	Mr. Liam Gavin
	Mr. Michael Timmins
Senior Executive Engineers:	Mr. John Leahy
	Mr. Uinsinn Finn
	Mr. Aengus Breathnach
	Mr. Anthony Kelly
	Mr. Sean Breathnach
	Mr. Fintan O'Meara
	Mr. Anthony Collins
	Mr. Rory Timlin
	Mr. Alan Raleigh
	Mr. Fran McEvoy (Acting)
Chief Technician:	Mr. John Maloney

AREA ENGINEERS

South Division (Ballinasloe):	Mr. Adrian Headd
South Division (Ballinasloe):	Ms. Olive Finnerty
South Division (Portumna):	Mr. Cyril Mitchell
South Division (Loughrea):	Mr. Enda Mulryan
South Division (Gort):	Mr. John Costello
North Division (Tuam West-Oranmore):	Mr. Enda Gallagher
North Division (Tuam East):	Mr. John Flesk
West Division (South Connemara):	Mr. Feidhlim McGillicuddy
West Division (North Connemara):	Mr. T.J. Redmond

FINANCE UNIT

Head of Finance:	Mr. Gerard Mullarkey
Senior Executive Officer:	Mr. Gerard Scully

Financial Accountant:	Ms. Áine Fenton
Management Accountant:	Mr. Michael McGovern
Administrative Officer:	Mr. Sean Groarke
Administrative Officer, Motor Tax:	Ms. Mary McGann
Head of Information Systems:	Mr. Morgan Matthews (Acting)

BALLINASLOE TOWN COUNCIL

Administrative Officer:	Mr. Mark O'Donnell
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WEST REGIONAL AUTHORITY

Director:	Mr. Jim McGovern
Senior Executive Planner:	Ms. Teresa O'Reilly (Temp/Acting)

PARTNERSHIP FACILITATOR:	Mr. M. J. Walsh
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OFFICES OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

HEADQUARTERS:

Áras an Chontae,
Prospect Hill,
Galway.
091 – 509000

FIRE BRIGADE:

Headquarters:
Fr. Griffin Road,
Galway.
091 - 570900

Housing Applications	(091) 509300
Housing Loans and Grants	(091) 509301
Environment	(091) 476402
Human Resources	(091) 509303
Motor Taxation	(091) 509099
Driving Licences	(091) 509305
Water Services	(091) 476427
Community, Enterprise & Economic Dev.	(091) 476400
Planning	(091) 509308
Engineering	(091) 509309
Register of Electors	(091) 509310
Higher Education Grants	(091) 509310

AREA OFFICES:**TELEPHONE NO.**

Athenry	(091)	844042
Lackagh	(091)	737020
Ballinasloe	(09096)	42274
Portumna	(09097)	41019
Gort	(091)	631040
An Cheathrú Rua	(091)	595771
Clifden	(095)	21186
TuamEast (Tuam)	(093)	24123
Tuam East (Mountbellew)	(09096)	79221
Tuam West (Milltown)	(093)	51314
Loughrea	(091)	841536
Oughterard	(091)	552353

OPENING HOURS – MONDAY TO FRIDAY:

GENERAL: 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

MOTOR TAXATION: 9.00 a.m. – 3.30 p.m.

OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN THE COUNTY



BALLINASLOE TOWN COUNCIL

Ballinasloe Town Council, Civic Offices, Ballinasloe

Tel: (09096) 42263

Cllr. Jerry Broderick	54 St. Joseph's Place, Ballinasloe
Cllr. Cathal Concannon	Harbour Road Ballinasloe
Cllr. Matthew Ganly	Dunlo Hill Ballinasloe.
Cllr. Carmel Grealy	Brackernagh, Ballinasloe
Cllr. Mike Kelly	4 Oakmill Drive, Derrymullen,
Cllr. Lucy Lloyd-Keighery	27 St. Brendan's Terrace, Ballinasloe.
Cllr. Aidan McGrath	Ardcarn House Shannonbridge Road, Ballinasloe.
Cllr. Pat O'Sullivan	7, Kilgarve Park, Ballinasloe.
Cllr. Johnny Walsh	59 St. Joseph's Place, Ballinasloe.
Town Clerk: Mr. Mark O'Donnell	



TUAM TOWN COUNCIL

Tuam Town Council, Shop Street, Tuam

Tel: (093) 24246

Cllr. Tom Reilly	20 Trinity Court Galway Road Tuam
Cllr. Sally Anne Flanagan	12 Woodfield Galway Road Tuam
Cllr. Peter Warren	64 Athenry Road Tuam
Cllr. Mary Loftus	High Street Tuam
Cllr. Eamonn Kitt	Weir Road Tuam
Cllr. Imelda Kelly	3 Waterslade Downs Tullinadaly Road Tuam
Cllr. Lary Bane	3 the Oaks, Ballygaddy Road Tuam
Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe	Ballygaddy Road Tuam
Cllr. Martin Ward	36 Tirboy, Tuam
Town Clerk: Ms Angela Holian	



LOUGHREA TOWN COUNCIL

Loughrea Town Council, Barrack Street, Loughrea

Tel: (091) 841536

Cllr. Geraldine Bane	17 Fahy Gardens, Loughrea.
Cllr. Gabriel Burke	Main Street, Loughrea.
Cllr. Sylvia Burke	Hollyhill, Gurtymadden, Loughrea.
Cllr. Jimmy Curley	8 Tullagh Na Corraig, Loughrea.
Cllr. Mary Gunter-Nix	Garrybreeda, Loughrea.
Cllr. Pat Hynes	Gort Road, Loughrea.
Cllr. Michael 'Moegie' Maher	Clostoken Loughrea.
Cllr. Norman Morgan	Bride Street, Loughrea.
Cllr. James Regan	Earlspark, Loughrea.
Town Clerk:	Ms. Ann Monaghan/Ms Margaret Gilchreest

SERVICE INDICATORS 2011

F: FIRE SERVICE

F1: Fire Service Mobilisation

A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire	2.66
B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire	4.99
C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other emergency incidents	2.27
D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other emergency incidents	4.77

F.2 Percentage of attendances at scenes

A. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	43.04
B. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	30.81
C. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	26.15
D. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	43.37
E. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	40.45
F. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	16.18

F.3 Fire Prevention

A. Total number of fire safety certificate applications received	190	Total consists of County 131 and City 59
B. Total number of fire safety certificate applications processed (including cases deemed invalid)	173	Consists of County 121 and City 52
C. Total number of applications deemed invalid	26	Consists of County 19 and City 7

CP: COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION**CP.1 Participation in local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Og scheme**

Percentage of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/ Comhairle na n-Og scheme 75

CP.2 Groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum

Number of groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum 710

C: CORPORATE ISSUES**C.1 Working Days lost to Sickness**

A. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through certified leave 4.77

B. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through uncertified leave 0.61

C.2 Staff Training and Development

Expenditure on Training and Development as a percentage of total payroll costs: 5.51 Includes Galway Co Co & Ballinasloe TC

E: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**WATER****E.1 Unaccounted For Water**

Unaccounted for water (UFW) as a percentage of total volume of water supplied under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for 37.63

E.2 Drinking Water Analysis –Compliance with Statutory Requirements

A. Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to public schemes 97.60

B. Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to private schemes (where appropriate) 96.80

WASTE MANAGEMENT**E.3 Waste Segregation**

A. Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for dry recyclables 99.67

B. Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service And are provided with segregated waste collection for organics 17.26

E4: Housing Waste Sent for Recycling

A. Percentage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling 36.87

B. Tonnage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling 17956

C. Tonnage of households waste recycled, which arises from waste collected from recycling facilities sent for recycling 5228

E5: Household Waste Sent for Landfill

A. The percentage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill	57.01
B. The tonnage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill	30750

E6: Recycling Facilities

The total number of Bring Sites in the local authority area for recycling	85
The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	4

Glass

A. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	85
B. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	4
C. The total number of facilities for recycling	89
D. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	2.54

Cans

E. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	84
4F. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	4
G. The total number of facilities for recycling	88
H. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	2.51

Textiles

I. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	70
J. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	4
K. The total number of facilities for recycling	74
L. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	2.11

Batteries

M. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0
N. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	4
O. The total number of facilities for recycling	4
P. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.11

Oils

Q. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0
R. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	3
S. The total number of facilities for recycling	3
T. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.09

Other materials

U. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0
V. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	4

W. The total number of facilities for recycling	4
X. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.11

E7: Litter Prevention and Enforcement

A. Number of full-time litter wardens	0
B. Number of part-time litter wardens	16
C. Number of litter wardens (both full- and part-time) per 5,000 population	0.46
D. Number of on-the-spot fines issued	383
E. Number of on-the-spot fines paid	159
F. Number of prosecution cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	35
G. Number of prosecutions secured in cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	10
H. Number of notices issued (under sections 9, 15, 16, 17 and 20 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997)	0
I. Total number of prosecutions taken (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	35
J. Total number of prosecutions secured (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	10
K. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are unpolluted (i.e. litter-free)	6
L. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are slightly polluted with litter	55
M. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are moderately polluted with litter	29
N. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are significantly polluted with litter	8
O. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are grossly polluted with litter	3

E8: Environmental Complaints and Enforcement

A. Total number of cases subject to complaints concerning environmental pollution (relating to waste, litter, water pollution, noise pollution, air pollution)	843
B. Number of complaints investigated	1249
C. Number of complaints resolved where no further action was necessary	791
D. Number of enforcement procedures taken	338

E9: Percentage of schools participating in environmental campaigns

A. Percentage of primary schools participating in environmental campaigns	90.91
B. Percentage of secondary schools participating in environmental campaigns	91.18

H: HOUSING**H1: Housing Vacancies**

A. The total number of dwellings in local authority stock	2366
B. The total number of dwellings, excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects	2301
C. The overall percentage of dwellings that are empty (excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects)	3.09
D. The percentage of empty dwellings unavailable for letting	88.73
E- The percentage of empty dwellings available for letting	11.27

H2: Average Time Taken to Re-let Available dwellings

The average time taken (in weeks) from the date of vacation of dwelling to the date when all necessary repairs are carried out which are deemed necessary to re-let the dwelling 39.31 This has increased from 2010 due to long term voids being brought back into used

The average time taken (in weeks) from the works (above) being completed to the date of the first rent debit 3.66

H3: Housing Repairs

Number of repairs completed as a percentage of the number of valid repair requests received 88.24

H4: Traveller Accommodation

Total number of traveller families accommodated as a percentage of the targets set in the local traveller accommodation programme 47.06

H5: Enforcement of standards in the private rented sector

A. Total number of registered tenancies	11875
B. Number of dwelling units inspected	182
C. Number of inspections carried out	182
D. Number of dwellings inspected as percentage of registered tenancies (i.e. B as percentage of A)	1.53

H6: Grants to adapt housing for the needs of people with a disability

A. Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme, including any necessary inspection(s), from the date of receipt of a valid application to the date of decision on the application 12

B. Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability, including any necessary inspection(s), from the date of receipt, to the date of decision on the application 12

H7: Pre-Tenancy Familiarisation Courses

A. Total number of new local authority tenants 96

B. Percentage of new local authority tenants who have been offered pre-tenancy familiarisation courses	100
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L: LIBRARY SERVICES

L.1 Library Public Opening Hours

A. Average number of opening hours per week for full-time libraries	33.75
B. Average number of opening hours per week for part-time libraries (where applicable)	11.50
C. Percentage of full time libraries that have lunchtime openings	20
D. Percentage of full time libraries that have evening openings	80
E. Percentage of full time libraries that have Saturday openings	100

L.2 Library Visits

Number of visits to full time libraries per 1,000 population	3398.65	Population includes County & City 231,670
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L.3 Library Stock

A. Annual expenditure on stock per head of population (county/city wide)	1.40	Population includes County & City 231670
B. Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for books	2.56	Population includes County & City 231670
C. Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for other items	0.08	Population includes County & City 231670

L.4 Internet Access through Libraries

Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population	274.00
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M: MOTOR TAXATION

M.1 Number of Motor Tax Transactions

A. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter	150018
B. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post	31381
C. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	102149
D. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter	52.90
E. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post	11.06
F. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	36.02

M.2 Time Taken to Process Motor Tax Postal Applications

A. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the same day as receipt of the application	30677
B. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the second or third day from receipt of the application	590
C. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	19
D. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) in over five days from receipt of the application	95
E. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the same day as receipt of the application	97.76
F. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the second or third day from receipt of the application	1.88
G. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	0.06
H. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) in over five days from receipt of the application	0.30

M.3 Time Taken to Process Driving Licence Applications

A. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	4937
B. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of the application	23101
C. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the Fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	6052
D. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with in over five days from receipt of the application	696
E. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	14.19
F. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of the application	66.41
G. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	17.40
H. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with in over five days from receipt of the application	2.00

M.4 Public opening hours

Average number of opening hours per week	32.50
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P: PLANNING**P.1 Planning Applications - Decision Making****Individual Houses**

A. Number of applications decided	369
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	121
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	194

D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	54
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	77.84
F. Percentage of applications granted	85.91
G. Percentage of applications refused	14.09
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	63.64
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	36.36

New Housing Development

A. Number of applications decided	12
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	4
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	4
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	4
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	80.33
F. Percentage of applications granted	58.33
G. Percentage of applications refused	41.67
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	100
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	0

Other: Not requiring Environment Impact Assessment

A. Number of applications decided	1190
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	858
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	278
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	52
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	78.63
F. Percentage of applications granted	95.63
G. Percentage of applications refused	4.37
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	60.98
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	39.02

Other: Requiring Environment Impact Assessment

A. Number of applications decided	4
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8	3

weeks	
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	1
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	0
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	111
F. Percentage of applications granted	100
G. Percentage of applications refused	0
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	100
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	0

P.2 Planning Enforcement

A. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were investigated	377
B. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were dismissed	62
C. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were resolved through negotiations	215
D. Number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters	268
E. Number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices	156
F. Number of prosecutions	19

P.3 Planning Public opening hours

Average number of opening hours per week	34
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P.4 Pre-Planning Consultation

A. Number of pre-planning consultation meetings held	427
B. Average length of time (in days) from request for consultation with local authority to actual formal meeting for pre-planning consultation	20.75

P.5 New Buildings Inspected

Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	0
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P.6 Taking Estates in Charge

A- The number of residential estates for which the planning permission has expired, in respect of which formal written requests for taking in charge (from residents or developers), were on hands at the beginning of the year	100
B- Number of estates that were taken in charge in the year in question	11
C- Number of dwellings in respect of column B	409
D- Percentage of estates in column A not completed to satisfaction of the planning authority in line with the planning permission	76
E- Number of estates in column D in respect of which enforcement	7

action was taken in the year in question and/or the bond was called in

F- Number of estates in column D in respect of which works were undertaken by the authority to bring the estate to taking in charge standard 1

Rec: RECREATIONAL SERVICES

Rec.1 Children's Playgrounds

A. Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population directly provided by the local authority 0.08

B. Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population facilitated by the local authority 0.21

Rec.2 Local Authority-Facilitated Leisure Facilities

Number of visitors to local authority-facilitated leisure facilities per 1,000 population 1037

Rev: REVENUE COLLECTION

Rev.1 House Rent

A. Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from House Rent 91.13

B. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are up to 4 weeks old 7.98

C. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 4-6 weeks old 7.76

D. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 6- 12 weeks old 9.24

E. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are more than 12 weeks old 75.02

Rev.2 Housing Loans

A. Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from Housing Loans 80.76

B. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 1 month old 6.10

C. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 1-2 months old 6.80

D. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 2 -3 months old 5.30

E. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are more than 3 months old 81.70

Rev.3 Commercial Rates

Amount collected at year-end as a percentage of amount due from Commercial rates 72

Rev.4 Refuse Charges

Percentage of households paying refuse charges (including waivers) at year end 0

Rev.5 Non-Domestic Water Charges

Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due for Non-Domestic Water Charges 53

R: ROADS

R1: Road Restoration Programme

Number of kilometres of local and regional roads improved and maintained under the Restoration Programme per annum **400.2 kms**

Number of kilometres of local and regional roads constructed under the specific improvement grants scheme per annum **3.05kms**

47% of the total allocation for 2011 was for the reconstruction of a bridge, which has resulted in a significant reduction in kms of road construction under this scheme this year.

UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME 2011

Galway County Council adopted a Development Contribution Scheme under Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to apply to all planning decisions made on or after the 8th March 2004. This scheme has subsequently been amended on 22nd September 2008 and on 17th December 2010.

In order to meet the Council's core objectives, as outlined in the Corporate Plan, there is a requirement for significant investment in creating the necessary infrastructure to meet the needs of an expanding population. The Development Contribution Scheme is designed to help bridge the funding gap between the actual costs of creating that infrastructure and the exchequer and other funding that will be available. Since the inception of the scheme, whilst significant funding has been raised, the demands being placed on the Council are proving to far exceed the funding available.

The attached table summarises the funds collected since the inception of the scheme of €39.52 million to the end of December 2011, and the allocation of those funds. Also attached is an estimate of commitments for projects due to commence in 2012 and beyond which total €111 million demonstrating the large funding gap that must be bridged to ensure that these projects proceed as planned.

Summary of Development Contribution Scheme to 31 December 2011

Development Contributions Income

Pre December 2010	33,487,353
Year ended 31 December 2010	3,651,182
Year ended 31 December 2011	2,384,970
Total Income Received	39,523,505

Development Contributions Allocated

Water and Waste Water Facilities	21,300,000
Recreation & Amenity	14,500,000
Roads & Car Parking Facilities	3,750,000
Funds Committed	39,550,000

Estimated Future Demands

Water and Waste Water Facilities	95,000,000
Recreation & Amenity	8,500,000
Roads & Car Parking Facilities	7,500,000
Subtotal of future demands	111,000,000

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2011

Income & Expenditure Account

EXPENDITURE	2010 €M	2011 €M
Housing	9.590	10.061
Roads	38.569	39.029
Sanitary Services	23.933	24.843
Planning & Development	7.237	7.261
Environmental Protection	17.224	17.710
Recreation & Amenity	7.899	8.029
Agriculture & Education	26.468	24.238
Miscellaneous Services	12.946	12.252
 Total Expenditure	 143.866	 143.423
 INCOME		
State Grants	95.167	91.597
Other Sources	54.998	56.121
Total Income	150.165	147.718
Surplus / (Deficit) for year before transfers	6.299	4.295
Transfers from / (to) Reserves	(6.410)	(4.314)
Overall Surplus / (Deficit) for year	(0.111)	(0.190)
General Revenue Reserve at 1st January	(1.272)	(1.383)
General Revenue Reserve at 31st December	(1.383)	(1.402)

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2011

Net Assets	2010 €M	2010 €M	2011 €M	2011 €M
Fixed Assets		3,752.782		3,759.780
Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses		228.249		241.969
Long Term Debtors		60.189		60.895
Current Assets	86.217		80.713	
Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)	(56.474)		(53.672)	
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		29.743		27.041
Creditors (Amounts falling due after one year)		(124.910)		(126.631)
Total		3,946.053		3,963.054
Represented By				
Capitalisation Account		3,752.782		3,759.780
Receipts - Work in Progress		224.636		238.315
Other Reserves		(29.982)		(33.639)
General Revenue Reserve		(1.383)		(1.402)
Total		3,946.053		3,963.054

Further details of the AFS are available on request:

PROMPT PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS ACT 1997

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL OBSERVES THE REQUIREMENT OF THE PROMPT PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS ACT 1997.

