

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE
MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL
Held at ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL
Friday 19th June 2026 at 2.30 pm

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Cllr David Collins
Cllr Andrew Reddington
Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill:

Comh./Cllr. S. Broderick, I. Canning, J. Charity, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, S. Cunniffe, T.Ó Curraoin, G. Donohue, P. Feeney, G. Finnerty, T. Grealish, A. Harney, L. Harney, M. Hoade, C. Keane, P. Keaveney, D. Killilea, P. Killilea, M. Kinane, G. King, M. Lee, M. Maher, E. Mannion, J. McClearn, S. McHugh Ryan, M. McNamara, E.F. Parsons, M. Regan, N. Thomas, O. Turner, and T. Welby.

Oifigh:

Mr. L. Conneally, Chief Executive, Mr. L. Hanrahan, Director of Services, Mr. Michael Owens, Director of Services, Mr. Uinsinn Finn, Director of Services, Ms. E. Ruane, Director of Services, Ms. K. O'Connor, Director of Finance, Mr. D. Mitchell, Director of Services, Ms. L. Keady, Meetings Administrator, Ms. C. Connolly, Staff Officer, Ms. T. Costello, Assistant Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

Cathaoirleach Collins reflected on his term of office as both an honour and a memorable experience. Among the many highlights of the year, he referenced the adoption of a record budget and the significant progress achieved across the Council's service areas, with particular emphasis on the delivery of affordable and social housing.

He was pleased to announce that the Cathaoirleach's Ball had raised €22,364.78, with the proceeds to be shared between Epilepsy Ireland and the National Breast Cancer Research Institute. He expressed his sincere appreciation to the outgoing Leas-Chathaoirleach, Cllr. Mary Hoade, for her support and contribution throughout the year, and presented her with flowers as a token of appreciation.

Cathaoirleach Collins thanked the Elected Members for their courtesy and cooperation during his term and expressed his gratitude to the Chief Executive and Council staff for their support, guidance and assistance. He also acknowledged the role of the media in keeping the public informed on Council activities and extended special thanks to his wife Lorraine, his family and friends for their support throughout the year.

The Members paid tribute to the outgoing Cathaoirleach, commending his fairness, transparency, diligence and strong work ethic. He was widely praised for the exemplary manner in which he represented Galway County Council and the county both at home and abroad.

Cllr. Hoade was also congratulated on her year as Leas-Chathaoirleach. In response, she paid tribute to the strong working relationship and teamwork that existed between herself and the Cathaoirleach throughout their term of office. She noted that, through their close collaboration and commitment to representing the Council, between them they attended every event to which they were invited across the county during the year. She also commended the Cathaoirleach for his outstanding service as First Citizen.

The Chief Executive, on behalf of himself, the Management Team and the staff of Galway County Council, congratulated Cllr. Collins on his outstanding service as Cathaoirleach and thanked him for the dedication and commitment he demonstrated throughout his term. He acknowledged the excellent ambassadorial role Cllr. Collins played in representing the county both at home and abroad. The Chief Executive also thanked Cllr. Hoade for her valuable contribution and commitment during her term as Leas-Chathaoirleach.

Cllr. Hoade reflected on her year as Leas-Chathaoirleach and the many events she attended across the county. She stated that she was proud to support the Cathaoirleach throughout the year and had greatly enjoyed the functions they attended together. Cllr. Hoade also noted that the funds raised at the Cathaoirleach's Ball would make a significant and meaningful difference to the two nominated charities.

ITEM NO.1 ELECTION OF THE CATHAOIRLEACH OF THE COUNTY OF GALWAY FOR YEAR 2026/2027

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McClearn **SECONDED** by Cllr. Charity, the Members **AGREED** to elect Cllr. Reddington Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway for year 2026/2027

Cllr. Reddington was vested with the Chain of Office and assumed the chair.

Cathaoirleach Reddington addressed the Chamber. He thanked the Members. He thanked Cllrs. McClearn and Charity for nominating him for position of Cathaoirleach. He acknowledged the work of outgoing Cathaoirleach Cllr. Collins as a fantastic first citizen. He thanked the Members for bestowing the responsibility and their trust in him, and to his wife, Bernie, parents and family for their support. He undertook to serve the people of Galway with compassion, enthusiasm, fairness and transparency. To afford adequate time to the Members in the Chamber, to achieve consensus quickly and efficiently. He confirmed his respect for the mandate from the constituents and will work to achieve the Council's goals. He paid tribute to the work of the Chief Executive, Directors and Staff of Galway County Council, emphasising the need to let the public hear the good stories of the Council's work.

Priority areas for him in the coming year will be:

- Strengthen relationships with Uisce Eireann, I.D.A and Enterprise Ireland
- Support and drive Communities and Voluntary groups across the county
- Work to increase funding required to deliver vital services.
- Work with council to deliver more housing for all including affordable housing.

- Important time for County Galway with the engagement of the EU Presidency, the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, from July to December 2026

The Members offered their individual congratulations to the newly elected Cathaoirleach, acknowledging it was a very special day for him and his family and extended their best wishes to him for the year ahead.

ITEM NO.2 ELECTION OF THE LEAS-CHATHAOIRLEACH OF THE COUNTY OF GALWAY FOR YEAR 2026/2027

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Hoade **SECONDED** by Cllr. Finnerty, the Members **AGREED** to elect Cllr. Regan as Leas-Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway for 2026/2027.

Cllr. Regan was vested with the Leas Chathaoirleach's Chain of Office.

The Cathaoirleach, Chief Executive and Members congratulated Cllr. Regan on his election as Leas-Chathaoirleach. Members acknowledged his more than 20 years of service as an Elected Member and paid tribute to his extensive experience in public life, his diligence, and his strong commitment to serving the people of County Galway.

Cllr. Regan thanked his colleagues for their support in electing him to the role of Leas-Chathaoirleach. He committed to working closely with the Cathaoirleach, fellow Members, the Management Team and staff of Galway County Council to advance the Council's priorities and deliver positive outcomes for the people and communities of County Galway.

ITEM NO.3 FIXING A SCHEDULE OF DATES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS.

The Schedule of Dates for Council Meetings as circulated prior to the meeting was noted as follows:

- 22nd June 2026

- 20th July 2026
- August 2026 – (no meeting as per standing orders)
- 28th September 2026
- 19th October 2026
- 23rd November 2026
- 14th December 2026
- 25th January 2027
- 22nd February 2027
- 22nd March 2027
- 26th April 2027
- 24th May 2027

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Mannion the Schedule of Dates for Council Meetings was **AGREED**.

Chriochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.

Submitted, Signed and Approved

Cathaoirleach:



Date:



