



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Galway County Council Annual Report 2025





Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

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Message from the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway

As Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council, it gives me great pleasure to present this Annual Report, which outlines the work undertaken and the significant progress achieved by the local authority throughout 2025. Serving as Cathaoirleach and representing Galway as its First Citizen has been an honour and a privilege, one which I have approached with pride, commitment, and a deep sense of responsibility.

This report provides a comprehensive overview of the wide range of services, programmes, and strategic projects delivered across the County over the past year. The scale and diversity of this work reflect the Council's continuing commitment to supporting the economic, social, cultural, and physical development of our communities. Central to this commitment is our determination to ensure that all citizens receive services that are efficient, reliable, and delivered with integrity.

Throughout 2025, my fellow Elected Members and I worked closely with Council Management to allocate resources to essential services and priority initiatives. The achievements detailed in this report are the result of strong collaboration between Elected Members, the Executive, Oireachtas representatives, community organisations, and many other stakeholders who contribute to the wellbeing and advancement of the County.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the staff of Galway County Council for their professionalism, dedication, and daily contribution to the people and communities of County Galway. I am especially grateful to our Chief Executive, Liam Conneally, and his Executive Team for their ongoing support to me and to all Elected Members in the performance of our duties.

I also extend particular thanks to my Leas-Chathaoirleach, Cllr. Mary Hoade, for her invaluable assistance and commitment throughout the year. Her support has been greatly appreciated and reflects the high standards upheld by this local authority.

Finally, I acknowledge and commend my Councillor colleagues for their continued hard work and dedication to improving the quality of life for all who call our county home. I look forward to building on this progress together in the year ahead.

Ba mhaith liom mo bhuíochas a chur in iúl leis na comhairleoirí eile, leis an bhfoireann feidhmiúcháin agus le foireann na Comhairle ar fad. Leanfaimid orainn ag obair linn agus ag comhoibriú lena chéile, ar son mhuintir na Gaillimhe ar fad.

Message from the Chief Executive



I am pleased to present the Galway County Council Annual Report for 2025. This year has been one of ambition, steady progress and resilience across the organisation, as we continued to serve our communities while advancing the priorities set out in our Corporate Plan 2025–2029.

Throughout 2025, we focused on delivering high quality services, strengthening governance, and ensuring that our planning, infrastructural and community supports remained responsive to the needs of a growing and diverse county. We increased our staffing levels to support service delivery and strengthen organisational capacity. We also placed a strong emphasis on sustainability, digital capability, customer experience and communications—recognising that these areas are central to the future of local government and essential to meeting the needs of the people we serve. The Customer Service Action Plan 2025–2029, adopted by the Elected Members and aligned with the Corporate Plan, further reinforces our commitment to providing accessible, consistent and customer centred services across all units.

This year also saw the commencement of several important strategic initiatives. Work began on the Galway Economic Strategy, which will guide economic development and investment priorities for the county. We advanced our Digital Agenda through the launch of the Council’s new website, the commencement of the Council’s Cyber Security Plan, strengthening our resilience and ensuring secure, modern systems for staff and service users. This investment in digital service delivery strengthens our overall transformation agenda and enhances our ability to meet evolving customer expectations. Significant progress continued on Galway’s Decarbonised Zone, supported by strong community engagement and high levels of local participation. Across our five Municipal Districts, we placed particular emphasis on responding to the distinct needs and priorities of each area, recognising the importance of local identity and tailored service delivery.

Again, during 2025, the Council focused on Health & Safety work practices across the organisation.

Progress continued on the Council’s multi-year HQ Office Accommodation Expansion Project. The work will guide long-term planning to ensure safe, modern and efficient work environments for staff and strong foundations for effective service delivery. The support of the Elected Members has been central to advancing this important strategic initiative.

A notable highlight of the year was the launch of the Council’s new website, representing a significant step forward in accessibility, communication and public engagement.

These achievements were made possible through the collective efforts of our elected members, staff, government partners, stakeholders and community groups across the County.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to the staff of Galway County Council for their professionalism, resilience and dedication throughout the year. Their commitment to public service continues to drive the organisation forward. I also wish to acknowledge the Cathaoirleach and Elected Members for their leadership and ongoing support in representing and advocating for their communities.

As we look ahead to 2026, we will continue to build on the progress made this year—advancing key projects, embracing innovation and working collaboratively to support sustainable, vibrant and inclusive communities across County Galway.

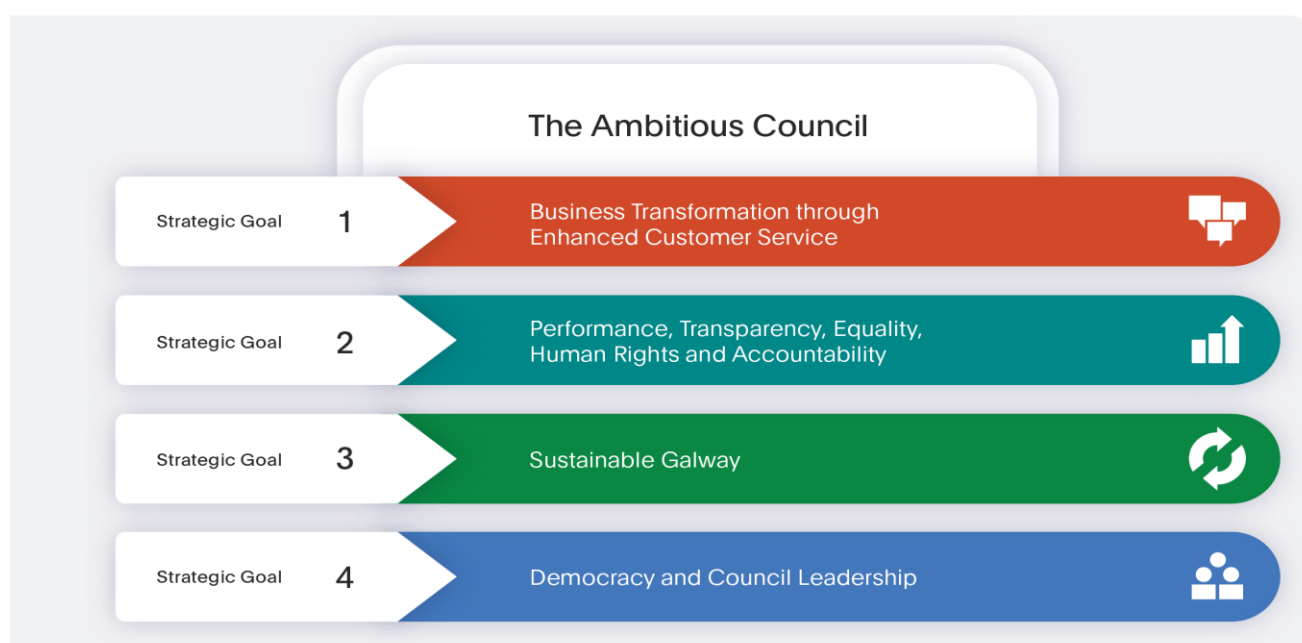
Galway County Council Corporate Plan 2025-2029



The Galway County Council **Corporate Plan 2025–2029**, adopted by the Elected Members, sets out the Council’s strategic direction for the development of our county over the next five years. It defines our mission, vision and core values, all centred on improving quality of life for the people of County Galway by supporting strong communities, enabling a resilient local economy and delivering efficient, sustainable public services.

<https://www.galway.ie/sites/default/files/2025-05/Corporate%20Plan%202025-2029.pdf>.

2025 marked the first year of implementing the Corporate Plan. The Plan sets out a series of **strategic goals** and supporting strategies that guide how the Council plans its work, prioritises actions and measures progress. These strategies also underpin the development of the Annual Service Delivery Plans (ASDPs) and the Schedule of Municipal District Works each year.



The Annual Service Delivery Plan 2025 outlines the Council’s key objectives, services and priorities for the year. It strengthens accountability by presenting clear targets, guiding how resources are allocated and providing a framework for monitoring performance. The Plan also reflects the Council’s commitment to national standards and good practice, including the NOAC Performance Indicators, the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Public Sector Duty.

<https://www.galway.ie/sites/default/files/202506/Annual%20Service%20Delivery%20plan%202025.pdf>

A summary of performance against the 2025 ASDP targets is presented in the Strategic Objectives and Performance section of this report, with further detail on key performance indicators in [Appendix 1](#).

Additional information is available in the Annual Progress Report on the Corporate Plan 2025–2029, which is published alongside the Galway County Council Annual Budget 2025.

<https://www.galway.ie/en/finance/financial-publications/budget>

Our Vision

A county with a clear sense of identity that reflects its diverse heritage, cultures and communities, while promoting sustainable and inclusive economic and community development, and engagement through collaboration with stakeholders and participation of its many diverse communities

Our Mission

It is our mission between 2025 and 2029 to promote the creation of an attractive, resilient and inclusive county in which to live, work, visit. We will enable our diverse communities and businesses to flourish in an environment that offers a range of housing options, a robust range of employment opportunities, access to quality infrastructure and community facilities with a high-quality sustainable environment to meet the needs of all.

We will do so as the leading local democratic body in Galway, representing the people of Galway, with dignity, in all aspects of their lives and identities, committed to equality, diversity, participation, dignity and inclusion in all aspects of our democratic role. We will be strategic in our future planning and focused on our daily delivery of services to the people of Galway

Our Core Values

Democratic

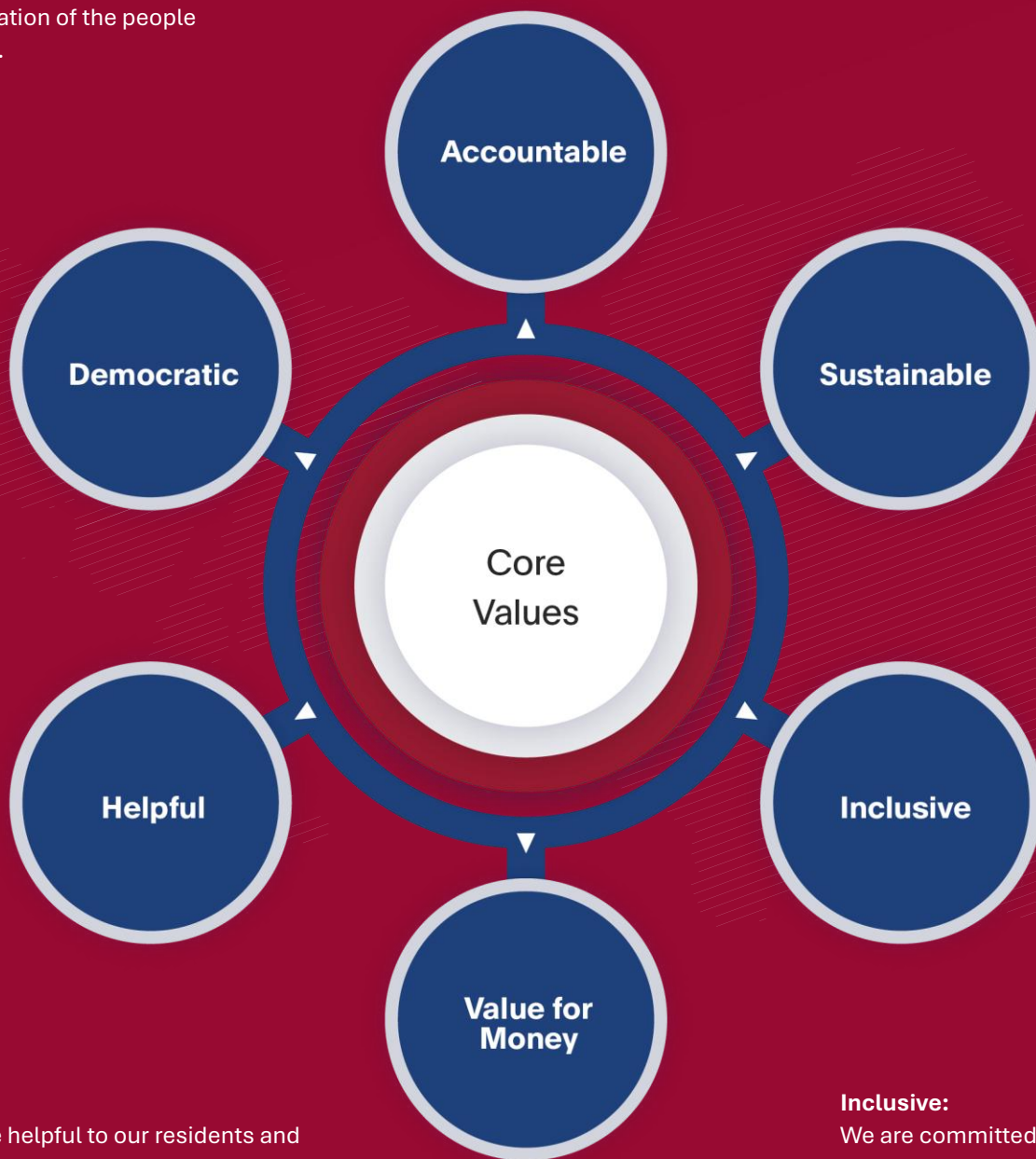
We are the democratic representation of the people of Galway.

Accountable:

We will be accountable to the people of Galway.

Sustainable:

We will sustain the identity of the County. We will deliver our services to make sure Galway is sustainable and that the people of Galway are treated with dignity and respect.



Helpful:

We will be helpful to our residents and customers and will promote and support an accessible environment for all our communities, while striving to advance, apply and enable principles and practice of universal design for infrastructure and the public realm, and for service provision and workplaces.

Value for money:

We will provide value for money.

Inclusive:

We are committed to being inclusive, enabling the wellbeing and quality of life of the full diversity of the people of Galway. We will work to promote and support participation and to establish and engage in participative structures and partnership processes.

Governance and Structure

Organisational structure in Galway County Council

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2001, and Local Government Reform Act 2014 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 and for the development of key areas including economic, business, heritage and cultural affairs. The Reform Act which established the Municipal Districts and dissolved the Town Councils also introduced Local Community Development Committees (LCDC) to be established as committees of the local authority in each local government area. The legislation provided for the cessation of the County Development Boards and the introduction of the Public Participation Network.

In June 2025, the Government established a Local Democracy Taskforce to progress a programme of reform aimed at strengthening local government. The Taskforce's remit includes examining the structure, powers and governance of local authorities, with a specific focus on the role and operation of Municipal Districts. The Terms of Reference provide for an evidence-based review across key areas such as structure, finance, functions and accountability, and the Taskforce is expected to bring forward its recommendations within a 6–9 month period from its establishment.

The final report of the Local Democracy Taskforce was completed and submitted to the Minister in March 2026, and an implementation plan is now being developed. Both the report and the implementation plan will be published once considered and approved by Government.

The Council

The thirty-nine elected Councillors from the Municipal Districts collectively lay down the framework for the policy under which an Executive Team operates. A Corporate Policy Group and six Strategic Policy Committees (SPC) 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. The Management Team headed by Chief Executive consists of Directors of Services, Head of Finance, the Law Agent, and the County Secretary operates in an executive capacity.

Municipal Districts

Five Municipal Districts are established in the County of Galway, (with seven Local Electoral Areas), and are served by the elected representatives from that Area. The Municipal Districts are designed to enhance democratic governance, subsidiarity, and accountability. These arrangements are also intended to improve operational efficiency and value for money, with a single county-wide executive and operational structure. The Municipal Districts are decision-making entities rather than corporate structures.

Corporate Policy Group (CPG)

The Corporate Policy Group comprises the Cathaoirleach of the County Council, Chairs of the Strategic Policy Committees and is supported by the Chief Executive. The CPG links the work of the different SPCs and provides 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. 11 Meetings of the CPG took place in 2025. The CPG also plays a key role in:

- **Preparing the Budget:** Develop the budget in accordance with established guidelines on the budgetary process.

- **Providing Input to the Full Council:** Offer insights and recommendations on matters of general concern to the Council, either proactively or upon request.
- **Addressing Service Delivery Issues:** Oversee overall issues related to service delivery plans, customer service, and value for money. Individual SPCs will handle these issues within their specific service remit.
- **Coordinating SPC Work:** Coordinate the activities of the SPCs and monitor their work programmes.
- **Requesting Policy Considerations:** Ask SPCs to consider specific policy issues when appropriate.
- **Providing Feedback:** Offer feedback to the SPCs on Council policies and views in areas relevant to their work.

Two meetings of the Joint Galway County Council and Galway City Council Corporate Policy Groups were also held in 2025. These committees facilitate a collaborative approach to governance.

In addition, both Corporate Policy Groups met with Members of the Oireachtas in County Hall during the year. These engagements provide an important opportunity for both councils to communicate directly with Government representatives.

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.

For the period 2025- 2029, the Council established six Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) comprised of Councillors and Sectoral Representatives. The composition of these committees is detailed in the table below:

SPC Scheme 2025-2029	Elected Members	Sectoral Representations	Committee Total	Number of Meetings held Jan – Dec 2025	Items considered & progressed
Housing	7	4	11	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'West Region Homelessness Action Plan 2025-2027 • Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy • Proposal for the amendment of the Housing Allocation Scheme - Safe Home Ireland • Galway County Council's Draft Homeless Action Plan 2025 – 2027
Economic Development & Enterprise	6	4	10	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Regeneration fund • RZLT • Town Centre Plans • Joint retail strategy • LEO Programmes • Development Plan Variation
Transport & Infrastructure	7	4	11	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Speed Limit Review • Hedge Cutting Policy • Draft Road Safety Plan • Galway County Council paid parking • Bus Stops initiative from active travel

Community & Cultural Development	6	4	10	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given the significant work on the agenda and anticipated changes in committee membership, it was deemed best to progress these issues under the new committee to ensure thorough and consistent deliberation
Climate Change & Biodiversity	6	4	10	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Heritage and Biodiversity Plan and Climate Action Plan, Community Engagement and Funding
Environmental Protection & Agriculture	6	4	10	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Litter Management Plan 2023-2025 National Agricultural Inspection Plan / Water Plan Waste Management Infrastructure

Elected Members

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Cllr. PJ Murphy

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Co-Options to the Council in 2025:

Following the Seanad Éireann elections in January 2025, two serving Members of Galway County Council – Councillor Shane Curley and Councillor P.J. Murphy – were elected to Seanad Éireann. In line with statutory provisions, the Council completed the co-option process to ensure continued representation for the Loughrea Municipal District. At the Plenary Meeting on 24 March 2025, Councillor Michael Regan was co-opted to fill the vacancy arising from Councillor Curley's election. At the Plenary Meeting on 28 April 2025, Councillor Laurie Harney was co-opted to fill the vacancy arising from Councillor Murphy's election.



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Cllr. Tomás Ó
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Cllr. Michael
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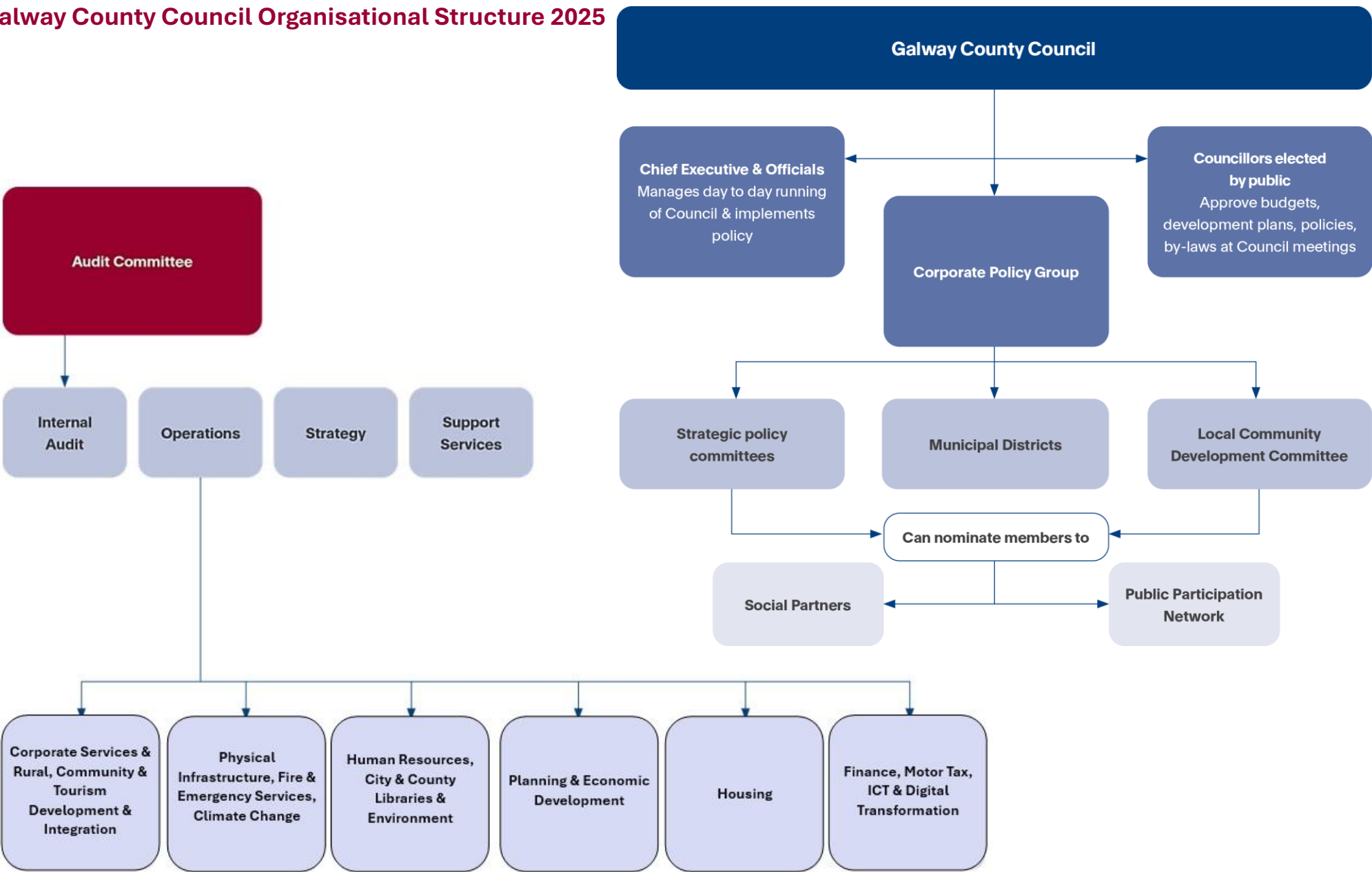


Cllr. Dr Evelyn
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Galway County Council Organisational Structure 2025



Liam Conneally
Chief Executive

Housing

**Ballinasloe
Municipal
District**

**Damien
Mitchell**



**Physical
Infrastructure,
Fire &
Emergency
Services,
Climate Change**

**Conamara
Municipal
District**

**Uinsinn
Finn**



**Human
Resources, City
& County
Libraries &
Environment**

**Loughrea
Municipal
District**

**Eileen
Ruane**



**Planning &
Economic
Development**

**Athenry
Municipal
District**

**Liam
Hanrahan**



**Corporate
Services and
Rural,
Community &
Tourism
Development &
Integration**

**Tuam
Municipal
District**

**Michael
Owens**



**Finance, Motor
Tax, ICT &
Digital
Transformation**

**Katie
O'Connor**



Law Agents

**Robert
Meehan**



Governance

Good governance in the public sector is about delivering priorities, achieving objectives, behaving with integrity, and acting in the public interest and in ways that are consistent with legal, regulatory and government policy obligations. A new code of governance for local authorities was published in 2024 and following consultation with stakeholders, it was agreed would be rolled out on a phased basis, with transitional arrangements in place pending full implementation. Built on seven governance principles, this Local Government Code of Governance reflects local authorities' specific needs, recognises their independent statutory basis and distinctive governance structures, and their compliance with statutory obligations and regulatory requirements.



Governance Statement

Purpose

The purpose of this governance statement is to provide relevant information on the governance structures and governance arrangements within the local authority including on council, committees, senior management and related areas. It demonstrates our commitment to effective governance, recognises key legislative and good governance requirements, and affirms the Council's compliance with the Local Government Code of Governance obligations.

Good Governance

Fundamentally, good governance in the local government sector and wider public sector is about delivering priorities, achieving objectives, behaving with integrity and acting in the public interest, in ways that are consistent with legal, regulatory and government policy obligations. Governance refers to the framework of rules, relationships, systems and processes by which the local authority is directed, controlled and held to account and whereby authority within

an organisation is exercised and maintained. It encompasses authority, accountability, stewardship and leadership, direction and control.

Good Governance Principles

CORE PRINCIPLE 1 - Good governance means focusing on the purpose of the authority, on outcomes that deliver sustainable economic, community and wider societal benefits and on implementing a vision for the local authority.

CORE PRINCIPLE 2 - Good governance means promoting and demonstrating public service values through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour.

CORE PRINCIPLE 3 - Good governance means members and officials working together to achieve a common purpose within a framework of clearly defined functions and roles.

CORE PRINCIPLE 4 - Good governance means developing the organisational capacity and the leadership capability and competencies of members and officials to operate effectively and fulfil the purpose of the organization.

CORE PRINCIPLE 5 - Good governance means taking well-informed and transparent decisions and managing risks and performance.

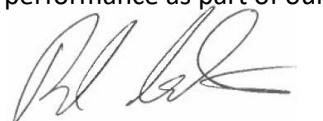
CORE PRINCIPLE 6 - Good governance means engaging openly and comprehensively with local people, citizens and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability.

CORE PRINCIPLE 7 - Good governance means actively contributing to the furtherance and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by delivering on the priorities and actions within the Climate Action Plan and the provisions of the Climate Act

Our Commitment to Good Governance

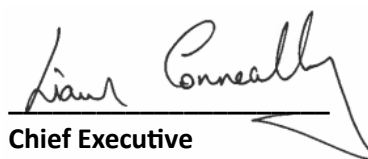
As the Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive of the council, and on behalf of the elected members, management and staff we confirm that:

- We have adopted the governance principles as the fundamental bedrock and philosophy on how we operate as a governing body and as an executive.
- The Local Government Code of Governance has been adopted and the extent to which the Council is in compliance with the Code is being reviewed and assessed.
- The Statement of Internal Financial Control is submitted by the Chief Executive to the Elected Members and to the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee reviews the SIFC and provides an assurance on an annual basis to the Elected Members. Mechanisms are available to the Audit Committee to notify the Elected Members of any issues that arise outside of the normal annual reporting.
- Compliance with legal and regulatory obligations are acknowledged and adhered to.
- There is clarity of roles and responsibilities based on the reserved and executive functions and based on committee terms of reference.
- Codes of Conduct and ethics declarations for members and employees are in place.
- Procedures are in place for the making of protected disclosures in accordance with section 21(1) of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 and confirmation that the annual report required under section 22(1) of the Act has been published.
- The Council and Committees review their own performance on a periodic basis.
- We have instituted appropriate governance oversight arrangements in respect of subsidiary, associated and related companies.
- As part of our commitment to effective oversight and accountability, we have developed and continue to enhance our overall assurance framework utilising external and internal assurance sources to ensure good performance as part of our governance culture.



Cathaoirleach

Date: 27th April 2026



Chief Executive

Date: 27th April 2026

Statement of Internal Financial Control 2025 (SIFC)

Introduction

I, Liam Conneally, Chief Executive (CE) of Galway County Council am responsible for the annual financial statement (AFS), prepared by the Director of Finance, in accordance with the accounting code of practice issued by the Minister under section 107 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

I certify that the financial statements of Galway County Council for the year ended 31 December 2025, are in agreement with the books of account and have been prepared in accordance with the accounting requirements of the Minister of Housing Local Government and Heritage.

The AFS is subject to external audit, by an auditor of the Local Government Audit Service, whose purpose is to form an independent opinion of the accounts and state whether the annual financial statement presents *fairly the financial position* of the local authority and of its income and expenditure for the period in question, and whether the transactions of the audited body conform with the statutory or other authorisation under which they purport to have been carried out.

The AFS reports on the day-to-day activity of Galway County Council in the form of the Statement of Comprehensive Income & Expenditure, summarised by Division. The Statement of Financial Position outlines the Galway County Council overall financial position as of the 31st of December 2025.

The *Statement of Comprehensive Income* represents expenditure and income on the day-to-day running of the Galway County Council.

The key sources of income for Galway County Council are as follows:

	Current Year 2025 €	Previous Year 2024 €
Goods & Services	25,912,580	25,643,229
Grants & Subsidies	96,483,831	96,716,263
Other Contributions (as appropriate)	8,973,701	9,026,836
Rates	42,634,599	36,093,665
Local Property Tax	22,680,030	20,309,071

Activity on the Income and Expenditure account for 2025 is as follows:

	Current Year 2025 €	Previous Year 2024 €
Total Income (including rates and LPT)	196,684,741	187,789,064
Expenditure	187,843,046	181,356,236
Transfer to reserves	8,840,212	6,431,275
Surplus for the year	1,484	1,553
Opening Revenue Reserve	47,756	46,204
Closing Revenue Reserve	49,240	47,756

The total income in the current year of 31 December 2025 saw an increase year on year of nearly €9m (5%) and an increase of €10m when compared to the Adopted Budget. This level of growth in expenditure is indicative of the level of services Galway County Council is providing to the local economy.

The income and expenditure account covers the everyday expenses of the Council, to include expenditure such as the maintenance of housing, roads, Uisce Éireann, land-use planning, provision of waste management infrastructure, pollution control, fire protection and firefighting, library services, administration and support service costs, payroll, repayment of loan charges, insurance, central management charges and payment of government funded support grants for various schemes.

The main drivers of this increase when compared to the prior year, include:

- Housing and Building saw an increase on the actual spend when compared to the prior year of €3.8million. The main driver for the increase here includes the maintenance and improvement of Local Authority Housing and the rental accommodation schemes (RAS) and leasing programmes.
- Road Transport & Safety saw a net increase in expenditure of €1.8m. The main drivers for the increase relate to the funding made available by the Department for additional maintenance and improvement works.
- The net expenditure in the development management directorate increased by nearly €1.5m when compared to the prior year.
- Galway County Council operated a small surplus of €1,484 for the year ended 31 December 2025. This surplus for the year 2025, reflects the efforts to safeguard assets and stimulate economic growth while maintaining services. The *Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)* represents the total financial activity of the council for the year together with comparative year figures as appropriate.

The statement includes assets and liabilities as follows:

- Assets both recently constructed/purchased and historical assets
- Work in progress and preliminary schemes- mainly roads and housing
- Long Term Debtors – housing loans
- Current Assets- including Stock, Debtors, Cash at bank
- Current and long-term liabilities- mortgage and non-mortgage loan borrowings
- Various Reserves/Balances

The Net Assets of Galway County Council at the end of 2025 total €3,961,388,809 and are as follows:

	Current Year 2025 €	Previous Year 2024 €
Fixed Assets	3,758,906,895	3,751,990,981
Works in Progress	181,378,289	180,237,701
Long Term debtors	55,624,981	50,996,763
Current Assets	101,448,199	93,443,274
Current Liabilities	54,314,218	48,134,956
Net Current Assets/ (Liabilities)	47,133,981	45,308,318
Creditors (Amounts greater than 1 year)	70,766,928	64,272,561
Net Assets/(Liabilities)	3,972,277,218	3,964,261,203

A *Statement of Funds Flow* was introduced as part of AFS 2011. While the guidance of International Accounting Standard 7 Statement of Cash Flows has been followed, the business of local authorities is substantially different to most private sector organisations and therefore some minor changes to the format have been agreed to ensure the data displayed is meaningful and useful within the local government sector.

System of Internal Financial Controls

As Chief Executive of Galway County Council, I acknowledge my responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial control is maintained and operated by Galway County Council. This responsibility is exercised in the context of the resources available to Galway County Council. Also, any system of internal financial control can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely manner. Maintaining the system of internal financial controls is a continuous process and the system and its effectiveness are kept under ongoing review.

Financial control environment

As Chief Executive of Galway County Council, I confirm that a financial control environment containing the following elements is in place:

- Financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability.
- Reporting arrangements have been established at all levels where responsibility for financial management has been assigned.
- Formal procedures have been established for reporting significant control failures and ensuring appropriate corrective action.
- There is an Audit Committee which as part of its work programme regularly review the internal financial control system.
- Procedures for all key business processes have been documented.
- There are systems in place to safeguard the assets.

Administrative Controls and Management Reporting

As Chief Executive of Galway County Council, I confirm that a framework of administrative procedures and regular management reporting is in place including segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability and, in particular, that:

- procedures for key business processes have been documented
- there are systems aimed at ensuring the security of the ICT systems
- there are systems in place to safeguard the assets of the local authority and
- there are appropriate capital investment control guidelines and formal project management disciplines in operation.

Procurement Compliance

Galway County Council ensures that there is an appropriate and ongoing focus on good practice in tendering and purchasing and that procedures are in place to ensure compliance with all relevant procurement guidelines.

Internal Audit and Audit Committee

As Chief Executive, I can confirm that Galway County Council has an internal audit function with appropriately trained personnel, which operates in accordance with a written charter. Its work is informed by analysis of the financial risks to which Galway County Council is exposed and its annual internal audit plans are based on this analysis. I am satisfied that there are procedures in place to ensure that the reports of the internal audit function are followed up. I can confirm that Galway County Council has an effective audit committee which carries out an annual effectiveness review of their activities. I can also confirm that an Audit Committee is in place in accordance with the requirements of Section 122 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

The statutory functions of audit committees as set out in section 59 and 60 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 are as follows:

- I. to review financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within the local authority that has established it;
- II. to foster the development of best practice in the performance by the local authority of its internal audit function;
- III. to review any audited financial statement, auditor's report or auditor's special report in relation to the local authority and assess any actions taken within that authority by its chief executive in response to such a statement or report and to report to that authority on its findings;
- IV. to assess and promote efficiency and value for money with respect to the local authority's performance of its functions; and
- V. to review systems that are operated by the local authority for the management of risks.

I recognise that the audit committee plays a crucial role in the governance framework of local authorities, particularly in the context of increased public sector accountability. They have an independent role in advising the Council on financial reporting processes, internal control, risk management and audit matters as part of the systematic review of the control environment and governance procedures of the local authority.

I acknowledge the Audit Committee's role in the risk management process and in the continuing review of the control environment and governance procedures in Galway County Council.

Risk and Control Framework

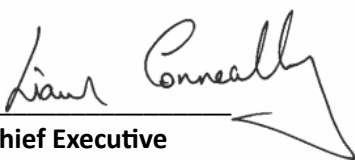
Galway County Council has implemented a risk management system which identifies and reports key risks and the management actions being taken to address and, to the extent possible, mitigate those risks.

A corporate risk register is in place which identifies the key risks and evaluates and grades them according to their significance. The register is reviewed and updated by the Management Team on a regular basis. There is also a risk register in place for each service divisions and these are also reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

The outcome of these assessments is used to plan and allocate resources to ensure risks are managed to an acceptable level. The risk register details the controls and actions needed to mitigate risks and responsibilities for the operation of controls are assigned to specific staff.

As Chief Executive, I confirm that key risks and related controls have been identified and processes have been put in place to monitor the operation of those key controls and report any identified deficiencies.

The Statement of Internal Financial Control will be included in the draft Annual Report submitted to Council members by 30th April 2026 and thereafter included in the published Annual Report prepared and adopted by the Council by 30th June 2026.



Chief Executive

Date: 27th April 2026

Financial Overview

The Finance Department has primary responsibility for a range of functions including financial accounting and reporting, budgeting, commercial rates billing and collection, supplier payments, payroll administration, procurement compliance, the budget process, treasury management and other accounting and compliance activities. The Finance Department oversees effective expenditure controls and debt collection, with the overall objective of providing support services to the Social, Economic, Physical and Rural directorates of the Council where total annual expenditure for 2025 exceeded €188million.

Annual Financial Statement 2025

The Annual Financial Statement 2025 gives an overview of the financial position of Galway County Council at 31st December 2025. The 2025 Statement of Comprehensive Income (Income and Expenditure Account) shows a near balanced position. This represents a positive outcome and builds on the results of recent years.

Local Property Taxation

Every local authority can vary the basic rate of local property tax (LPT) by up to +/-15%. As part of the 2025 budget process, Galway County Council agreed to increase the LPT by 15% over 5 years. 2025 was the first year of this five year resolution.

Annual Rate on Valuation

Commercial Rates helps to support public projects and services across County Galway in line with the Corporate Development Plan, demonstrating Galway County Council's commitment to expanding and improving core services for its citizens.

The Elected Members approved a Rates Payment Incentive Scheme for local businesses following an increase in the ARV in 2025.

The Development Contribution Scheme

Galway County Council adopted a Development Contribution Scheme under Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 in March 2016. 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 cost 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. During 2025 the collection of Development Contributions remained a priority for the Council. The monies collected will be used to assist in the provision of necessary public infrastructure and community facilities for the County. A sum of €2.1 million was collected under the Council's Section 48 Development Contribution scheme in 2025. Since the commencement of the Government Development Contributions Waiver Scheme €8.595 million was claimed from the Department and paid under this scheme in respect of for all residential developments that commence on or after 25th April 2023 and on/before the 31st of December 2025.

Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997

The Council operates to the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) Framework. In 2025 this area supported all sections as expenditure across all directorates reached a level in excess of €188m. Galway County Council abides by the requirements of the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997.

27,578 invoices were subject to Prompt Payment Interest (PPI) assessments, resulting in only 0.0689% invoices which were subject to PPI charges.

Motor Taxation

The number of motor tax transactions carried out by Galway County Council motor tax offices in 2025 was 57,330. Over €9.2m was taken in by Galway Motor Tax Offices for this period. Approximately 85% of total motor tax transactions for the Galway area were carried out online in 2025. The motor tax office continues to deal with phone queries in relation to the on-line taxing of vehicles. The motor tax offices issue tax discs for private and commercial vehicles, tractors, hackneys, taxis and large public service.

Risk Management

Risk management continued to be a core governance priority for Galway County Council during 2025. The Council completed a full review of its Risk Management Policy during the year, including an Equality and Human Rights assessment, and reaffirmed its alignment with the principles and guidelines of ISO 31000:2018.

A new corporate risk management system was procured and implemented in 2025, providing a consistent, organisation-wide approach to identifying, assessing, monitoring, and reporting risks. Quarterly reviews were undertaken by the Senior Management Teams and the Management Team, with risk management remaining a standing item at each Audit Committee meeting. Risk Champions were designated across all units to support implementation and promote strong governance practice.

The Corporate (Strategic) Risk Register sets out the organisation's most significant risks—those that may impact statutory compliance, financial sustainability, service delivery, or achievement of strategic objectives. Each risk has defined controls and mitigation actions, reviewed and updated through the corporate risk management system as part of quarterly oversight by the Management Team and Audit Committee.

At the beginning of 2025, nine strategic risks were included on the Corporate (Strategic) Risk Register. During the year, two further emerging risks were identified for inclusion. Both reflect national policy priorities and the scale, complexity, and resourcing demands associated with the Council's delivery responsibilities.

- **Safety, Health and Welfare at Work**
Ensuring compliance with health and safety legislation and maintaining safe working environments for staff and the public.
- **Information Security: Cyber Risk Management**
Protecting ICT systems and data through strengthened cyber-security controls, monitoring, and resilience measures.
- **Data Protection: GDPR Compliance**
Meeting statutory obligations under GDPR and the Data Protection Act, with appropriate policies, systems, and staff awareness.
- **Child Safeguarding**
Fulfilling duties under child protection legislation through safeguarding policies, vetting, and staff training.
- **Public Sector Duty**
Integrating equality and human-rights considerations into decision-making, policy development, and service delivery.
- **Budgetary Control, Procurement Compliance and Fraud Prevention**
Ensuring sound financial management, adherence to procurement rules, and effective controls to prevent irregularities or fraud.

- **Service Provision**
Ensuring continuity of essential services by maintaining effective business continuity arrangements to manage unplanned interruptions or incidents.
- **Local Government Funding**
Managing financial sustainability in a variable funding environment with rising service demands.
- **Workforce Planning**
Ensuring capacity, skills, and succession planning to meet statutory and strategic requirements.
- **Housing for All Delivery Risk**
Meeting significant delivery targets under Housing for All—including social housing, right-sizing, emergency accommodation, and supports for priority groups—poses challenges related to funding, construction capacity, and increasing housing need.
- **Major Capital Projects and National Planning Framework Delivery**
Delivering multiple NPF-aligned capital projects requires strong coordination, technical capability, and resources; projects may face risks of delay, cost pressures, or compliance constraints relating to environment, heritage, or sustainability.

The Council will continue in 2026 to advance the strong risk management practices established in 2025, ensuring consistent oversight and supporting effective governance across all directorates.

Internal Audit, to include Audit Committee

Internal Audit Work Undertaken in 2025

In 2025, Galway County Council's Internal Audit Unit (IAU) strengthened governance, assurance, and risk management throughout the organisation. Acting under its statutory mandate (S.I. 508/2002) and Global Internal Audit Standards, the IAU delivered independent assurance and advisory services to support sound decision-making, enhanced internal controls and organisational improvement.

The 2025 risk based Internal Audit Plan, approved by the Audit Committee in February, guided audit activity for the year. Key audits completed included:

- Cyber Security Controls (ICT) – Limited Assurance with 4 high, 6 medium, and 3 low recommendations.
- Heritage & Conservation Grants (Planning) – Substantial Assurance with 2 low recommendations.
- Public Spending Code In-depth Reviews–

Revenue (Finance) – Increased Cost of Business Grants €6.34m - Substantial Assurance with no recommendations.

Major Capital Projects (Infrastructure & Operations) e.g., Gort Lowlands FRS €24m, Clifden FRS €5.3m, Inis Oírr Pier €38.52m – Substantial Assurance across all.

Turnkey Housing Developments €17.79m (Housing) – Substantial Assurance.

- SICAP 2024–2029 Year 1 (Community & Rural Development) – Substantial Assurance.
- Litter Fines 2024/2025 (Environment) – Moderate Assurance with 3 medium and 2 low recommendations.
- Compliance Checks (MTO Stock Take, Cancelled/Exempted Discs, PPI) – Substantial Assurance across all.

Across all audits, no restrictions on scope were encountered, and management engagement remained positive.

Benchmarking & Compliance

The IAU completed a self-assessment against the 11 Internal Audit good practice benchmarks. Of the 41 criteria:

- 29 Compliant
- 6 Partially Compliant
- 6 Noncompliant

Partial/Noncompliance areas related to the Strategic Audit Plan 2026–2030, which remained substantially complete pending approval at yearend, and the Antifraud & Corruption Policy and Contingency Plan, still awaiting HR clarification and Chief Executive signoff. Both are expected to be fully adopted in early 2026.

Engagement, Networking & Oversight

The Head of Internal Audit (HIA) participated in national and regional Local Government Internal Auditor Network events, taking up the role of national network secretary.

The HIA also provided secretariat support to the Audit Committee, which met five times during 2025. The Committee considered internal and external audit findings, alongside risk management reports, budgets, annual financial statements, statutory audit outputs, and NOAC/VFM reports.

Interactions with departments were consistently constructive and collaborative. Although certain audit delays occurred due to operational demands, management has maintained a high level of dedication to implementing audit recommendations and enhancing internal controls.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee of Galway County Council provides independent oversight of governance, financial management, and risk across the Council. In 2025, the Committee met five times, engaging with senior management, the Chief Executive, and the Internal Audit Unit to fulfil its statutory responsibilities.

Key Activities and Focus Areas

- *Governance & Financial Oversight:* The Committee scrutinised budgetary processes, financial reporting, internal controls, and value for money. It reviewed audited financial statements and auditor's reports, ensuring transparency and accountability.
- *Risk Management & Cyber Security:* Risk management remained a priority, with regular reviews of the Corporate Risk Register at each meeting and a dedicated meeting on cyber security. Both areas will remain as a standing agenda item of the committees work programme for 2026.
- *Internal Audit:* The Committee approved the 2025 Internal Audit Plan and monitored audit recommendations and compliance checks. The Internal Audit Unit was commended for its professionalism and effectiveness, also recognised by the Local Government Auditor.
- *Principal Matters Considered:* The Committee examined issues related to procurement, housing, planning, financial standing, asset management, and governance. Directorate presentations facilitated thorough oversight of all Council operations. Additionally, publications from the National Oversight & Audit Commission (NOAC), as well as Value for Money (VFM) reports, represent key components of the committee's work programme.
- *Conflict of Interest:* The Committee maintained a register of interests, managing any declared conflicts transparently.
- *Effectiveness Review:* An annual self-assessment confirmed the Committee's effectiveness, independence, and professionalism, with all statutory and governance responsibilities met.

The Committee submitted all required reports to the Council and Chief Executive within statutory timelines. The committee's statutory reports are available on our website at: <https://www.galway.ie/en/governance-administration/your-county-council/committees>.

The Chairperson expresses appreciation for the cooperation and support provided by the Chief Executive, Directors of Services, Internal Audit, and all staff who assisted with the Committee's work. The Audit Committee is confident that it met its statutory responsibilities in 2025, contributing to stronger governance, risk management, and financial

oversight at Galway County Council. The committee remains dedicated to ongoing improvement and will further prioritise cyber security and risk management throughout 2026.

Legal Advisory Service

The Law Agent Department continued to provide important legal and advisory services for all programme areas and Directorates during 2025. The primary objective in this ongoing cross-directorate engagement and co-operation is to enable and ensure the most effective and efficient delivery of legal advisory services to the various Directorates within the organisation.

These services included the acquisition and sale of properties (an area of practice ever increasing in light of the ongoing challenges regarding homelessness and housing), the conduct of litigation (both plaintiff & defense) to include District Court enforcement prosecutions, legal proceedings at Circuit and High Court, including Judicial Review, and the Superior Courts, as and when required. Code Enforcement also represents a crucial area of service delivery for the organisation and involves a significant workload for the Law Agent Department in both planning and environmental prosecutions at various court jurisdictions.

The completion of land acquisitions, CPOs on inter-urban routes and road widening schemes, continue to represent substantial areas of work for the Law Agent Department in its cross-Directorate engagement with the NRPO in Ballybrit and the Directorate for Infrastructure.

A new area of significant work that has continued to grow steadily throughout 2025 is represented by the new Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant Scheme which is implemented by the Law Agent Department in tandem with our colleagues in the Housing Directorate. It is envisaged that growth in this area of practice will continue and will be accompanied by new schemes introduced by central government in its actions to tackle the housing crisis.

The Case Management System, which facilitates the use of templates to create workflows for the efficient and cost-effective delivery of legal services, is continuously updated each year in our efforts to ensure maximum efficiency in our use and operation of this essential office management toolkit.

e-Discovery has represented an area of significant development for the Law Agent Department and members of staff and has required supplemental engagement with our Head of Information Systems in this fast-developing area of legal practice and litigation. It is anticipated that the council and its Law Agent Department will be required to acquire a specific IS management system during 2026 to enable the council to fulfill its requirements in this regard.

Work continues in terms of populating and strengthening the council Register of Lands, in co-operation with our partners in all Directorates and units within the organisation but, in particular, with staff from IS, Finance, Infrastructure and Housing. The Law Agent has delegated to a senior member of staff the significant task of making formal registration applications to Tailte Eireann to perfect unregistered and old title to council lands and assets, and indeed for crucial record keeping and the archiving of old files.

In parallel with, and to further enhance and strengthen this significant area of practice, the Law Agent Department continues in efforts to progress the establishment of a dedicated and stand-alone Property Interest Register. Funding for a software solution for the Property Interest Register remains in place and the Law Agent Office continues to engage with various service providers with the view to an ultimate acquisition of the most appropriate and efficient system to meet its needs across all Directorates. Staffing for a new Property Interest Register Unit has also been approved with initial staff requirements identified internally. Formal staffing requests have been filed with the Human Resources Department in line with Local Government Auditor requirements.

The Law Agent Department has also continued in its important role of providing additional support and advisory services to the Executive of the Council and the administrative support staff within specialised areas of Corporate Governance, Public Procurement, Data Protection (GDPR), Freedom of Information (Fol), Access to Information on the Environment (AIE), the Office of the Ombudsman and the Ethics Registrar, to include the sourcing of specific and specialised Advices and Opinions from Legal Counsel, as and when appropriate and called upon to do so.

The department has looked to ensure that the appropriate Staff Training is provided for all team members within the unit, whether provided on an organisational basis by the Human Resources Unit or in terms of identifying and implementing more specialised legal training in an ever-changing statutory landscape. Many of the Law Agent staff members have also continued in their self-improvement during 2025 by enrolling and engaging in Irish language classes organised and provided internally by the council.

Public Sector Duty

Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014 requires public bodies to have

regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality and protect human rights for service-users, members, employees and policy beneficiaries in carrying out all their functions.



On 25 July 2023, the Management Team adopted the Implementation Plan for the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, following the development of the Human Rights and Equality Assessment and accompanying Evidence Book. In Quarter 1 2025, Galway County Council reviewed and updated both documents to ensure alignment with the latest guidance issued by the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC). The revised Implementation Plan and Evidence Book are now available on our website ([Public Sector Duty | Galway County Council](https://www.galway.ie/en/governance-administration/governance/public-sector-duty) - <https://www.galway.ie/en/governance-administration/governance/public-sector-duty>).

During 2024, a key development was the incorporation of the Duty in the Corporate Plan 2025–2029. In compliance with the Duty, the Corporate Plan provides access to the assessment of equality and human rights issues relevant to our functions and outlines the plans, policies and actions Galway County Council will undertake to address these issues. The development process also included an equality and human rights impact assessment of the final draft.

During 2025, we continued to implement the Duty, progressed the Implementation Plan, and agreed and progressed our Annual Duty Action Plan 2025 (<https://www.galway.ie/en/governance-administration/governance/public-sector-duty>).

The following is a summary of developments and achievements in 2025:

- **Steps taken under Section 42(1) – Overarching Duty:** Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessments were completed for the Risk Management Policy, Child Protection & Welfare Policy and the Customer Action Plan 2025-2029, embedding equality and human rights considerations into core policy and service delivery.
- **Steps taken under Section 42(2) – Strategic Duty:** Targeted actions were delivered across multiple service areas, including implementation of the Child Protection & Welfare Policy; Libraries, which progressed financial-literacy supports, health-literacy programming under Healthy Ireland, sensory-service improvements, and Age Friendly initiatives; Environment, which advanced the planning and design of a dedicated Muslim Burial Space and introduced an accessibility and safety grant scheme for Burial Grounds; Rural & Community Development, which advanced the Age Friendly Strategy 2026–2031 and continued interagency work through the Traveller Interagency Group (TIG); and The Arts Office, which delivered inclusive arts programmes supporting people with disabilities, older people, Travellers, refugees and disadvantaged communities. Within the Housing Directorate, targeted actions continued through implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025–2029 and the ongoing delivery of the Regional Homeless Action Plan 2025-2027. This work was further supported by

the Disabled Persons Grant, which provided essential home adaptations for people with disabilities, and by strong partnerships with Approved Housing Bodies and voluntary housing providers to deliver group homes and specialised accommodation for older residents, people experiencing homelessness, and individuals with special or complex needs.

- **Enabling steps** for Duty implementation were taken through four PSD staff training workshops, attended by over 400 staff, and one dedicated workshop for Elected Members, strengthening organisational capability to meet Duty requirements.

The new outcomes for the identified groups and improvements made in the delivery of our functions in addressing the equality and human rights issues identified in our assessment under the Duty, have been gathered separately and are included at [Appendix 3](#) of this report.

Public Consultation and Engagement Activities

The participation of citizens in public life and their right to influence the decisions that affect their lives and communities are at the centre of deliberative democracy. Open and inclusive policymaking increases public participation, enhances transparency and accountability, builds civic capacity and leads to increased buy-in and better decision-making. In carrying out our consultation and engagement activities, the Council is mindful of 'A Guide for Inclusive Community Engagement in Local Planning and Decision Making' published in October 2023 by the Department of Rural and Community Development, which supports inclusive consultation and engagement at local level. Inclusive engagement ensures that the most marginalised and disadvantaged communities have opportunities to engage and participate in local planning and decision-making. The following areas provide a snapshot of consultation and engagement activities throughout the year.

Public Consultation Processes:

Throughout 2025, the Council conducted public consultations to ensure that decision-making processes were transparent and inclusive. These consultations provided a platform for citizens to voice their opinions, concerns, and suggestions on various issues affecting them, allowing Galway County Council to make informed decisions that reflect the needs and desires of the community across the following range of plans and policies:

- Customer Services Action Plan
- The Age Friendly Strategy 2026-2031
- Galway County Heritage & Biodiversity Plan 2024-2030
- Installation of CCTV for the prevention of litter and illegal dumping at Bottle Bank sites
- Draft Gort Local Area Plan 2025-2031
- Part VIII planning for construction of 2 No. Dwellings at Garbally Drive, Ballinasloe. Ref: LA01/25
- Tuam Station Quarter Masterplan
- Residential Zoned Land Tax – Final Map 2025
- Residential Zoned Land Tax – Annual Draft Map 2026
- Dunmore River Walk – Public Consultation
- Public Consultation – Dunmore Urban Regeneration Plan – Concept Proposal For Bridge Street
- Part VIII planning, LA 03/25. Cold weather response and Medium term support unit at Vicar Street, Tuam
- LA02/25 Part VIII Tuam Station House, Tuam, Co. Galway
- Ballinasloe Town Centre First Plan
- Part VIII Planning. LA07/25 Proposed construction of a 66No. unit Residential Development at Farrannamartin, Tuam.
- LA06/25 – Part 8 Planning Application for Residential Development at Cullairbaun Athenry
- LA04/25 Part 8 Application for Rinville Burial Ground Extension
- LA05/25 Part 8 Application for Annaghdown Burial Ground Extension

- LA09/25 Part 8 Planning Proposal for Partial demolition of 11 no. detached dwelling houses and complete refurbishment and extensions to provide 11 No. 2 Bedroom single-storey detached dwellings at St. Bridget's Road, Portumna, Co. Galway
- LA 08/25 Part 8 Planning for Residential Development at Raheen, Athenry
- Draft Gort Local Area Plan 2025-2031 – Proposed Material Alterations
- Notice – Section 38 – Pedestrian Crossing at Creggs, Co Galway
- LA/10/25 Part 8 Planning Application for construction of Housing Development at St. Joseph's Road, Portumna, Co. Galway
- Kinvara Community Transport Study
- Clifden Town Centre Enhancement / Significant FI / ABP-321144-24
- LA11/25 Part 8 application Ballinasloe Leisure Centre
- NOTICE SECTION 38 – Safe Routes to School Scheme for Scoil Iosa Campus 2, Oranmore
- NOTICE SECTION 38 – Safe Routes to School Scheme for Gaelscoil De hide, Oranmore, Co Galway
- NOTICE SECTION 38 – Safe Routes to School Scheme for Calasanctius College, Oranmore, Co Galway
- Fógra Iarratais chuig an Coimisiún Pleanála I gcomhréir le hAlt 177AE (4) (a) den Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt, 2000 – Cuan na Loinge, Ceantar na nOileán, Co. na Gaillimhe
- Gort Town Centre Public Realm Enhancement Project – Part 10 Planning Application
- Section 38 – Safety Improvement Works L-2123 Corofin, Co Galway
- Adopted Gort Local Area Plan 2025-2031
- Part VIII Planning, LA12/25 Proposed construction of a 62No. unit Residential Development at Farrannamartin, Tuam
- NOTICE SECTION 38: Pedestrian Crossing, R352 St. Joseph's Road, Portumna
- Safe Routes to School – Scoil Na bhForbacha
- Safe Routes to School – Scoil Sailearna
- LA13/25 – Part 8 Application Ballinasloe Leisure Centre
- Portumna Courthouse Collective
- Rinville Park Sustainable Development Plan
- Tuam, Vicar Street to GAA Sports Grounds on R332 Dublin Road, Active Travel Scheme
- Variation No. 1 to the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028
- Active Travel Scheme – Church Road, Headford – Deadline Extended
- Fógra Alt 38 – Trasrian Coisithe I sráidbhaile An Spidéil
- Part VIII Planning LA15/25, Proposed residential Development at Grove House, Gort
- Headford Town Centre Health Check
- Oranmore Town Centre First Health Check
- Loughrea Long Point Amenity Enhancement Project – Part 10 Planning Application

Inclusive consultations through participative structures - Public Participation Network (PPN), Age Friendly Programme and Comhairle na nÓg

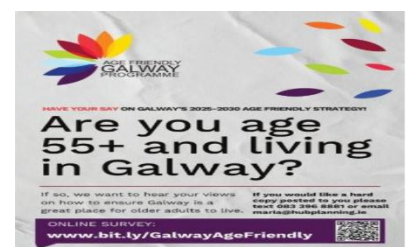
As well as facilitating the provision of information of interest to Member Groups, particularly around funding opportunities, the PPN also facilitates its Member Groups to have their say in a range of consultations of importance to them. Notification of these consultation opportunities are sent from the local authority or other agencies to the PPN Workers and responses may take the form of online consultation forms or surveys, focus groups, or consultation events with Member Groups. Other key mechanisms to increase participation and consultation are the recognised participative structures for older people and young people, i.e., Older People's Council and Comhairle na nÓg. Some of the activity during the year in these areas were:

- In order to ensure that the consultation process on the Heritage & Biodiversity Plan 2024-2030 was as inclusive as possible, a survey was carried out with a mix of multiple-choice and open-answer formats - contributors were not required to register and no questions were mandatory. Submissions were also accepted via e-mail to the Heritage and Biodiversity Officers. In total, 177 responses were received via the online consultation portal and an additional 11 responses via e-mail within the submission deadline. In-person public consultation workshops were held between 15-20 April in Oranmore, Milltown, Killrerin, Abbey, Ballygar, Oughterard and Leitir Mealláin. Between 16-25 April, a series of consultations delivered through six interactive creative workshops, were carried out with minority groups throughout County Galway, in conjunction with the Wishing Tree Project which included 117 participants.
- Comhairle na nÓg is the representative structure for the voice of young people and each year is a key consultative forum at local and national level. During the year, Galway County Comhairle na nÓg Members held meetings to discuss issues such as climate, online health and road safety as well as other issues, participated in Dáil na nÓg and attended a regional networking event. At local level, all Secondary Schools were surveyed on the topic of Student Mental Health and targeted engagements were held with groups representing seldom-heard youth such as CAMHS Schools, Young Carers, Traveller Representative Groups and Youth Organisations. There were 66 young people in attendance at a Local Area Consultation Event and Youth Conference to further discuss the topic of Youth Mental Health, which is the priority area selected by Comhairle na nÓg



Attendees at the Galway County Youth Conference 2025 held on the 21st October.

- For the Age Friendly Strategy consultation with the community this centred around several key focuses in 2025:
- - Focused Consultation with Older People's Councils
 - Public Survey
 - Coffee Morning Focus Groups
 - Action Planning Workshops
 - Draft Plan based on emerging issues
 - Present Draft Plan to SPC & Plenary



The Older People's Council (OPC) represents the voice of older people and is a key structure for the local authority and other agencies to engage with in planning and delivering services which impact quality of life for older people. The Older People's Council was also one of the focus groups targeted for consultations on the Age Friendly Strategy 2026-2031.



Members of the County Galway OPC at a consultative meeting in 2025

Community engagement is key pillar to the Heritage and Biodiversity plan and essential to the delivery of the plan. Galway County Council managed and supported several key programmes, including:

- World Wetlands Day
- National Tree Week
- National Biodiversity Week (17 Galway County Council events)
- Invasive Species Week
- National Heritage Week
- Hedgerow Week

Throughout 2025, the Heritage and Biodiversity Office conducted extensive public consultations for the development of Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2024 – 2030 to ensure that decision-making processes were transparent and inclusive. These consultations included a series of art workshops which helped create engagement with a wider range of people. These included targeted workshops with primary and secondary schools, older people, the Traveller Community, people with disabilities and our new communities

Input into decision-making processes through PPN representation on a range of Boards and Committees.

One of the primary purposes of the PPN is to facilitate the election of representatives to represent communities on a range of Local Authority Boards and Committees. The Council facilitated community representation on the following Boards and Committees during the year:

Consultative Board / Committee:	No. of Representative Posts:
Local Community Development Committee	5
Strategic Policy Committees	11
Galway City & County Childcare Committee	1
Western Drugs & Alcohol Taskforce	1
Galway Sports Partnership	2
Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG)	1
Galway Rural Development	3
Older People's Executive Committee	15

Targeted Programmes to support inclusive consultation and engagement at local level.

In collaboration with the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and other interagency structures, the Council coordinated and supported several key programmes to promote social inclusion and reduce social disadvantage through targeted community engagement including:

- SICAP (Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme): measures included social events to combat social isolation & loneliness, individual and group training supports, skills development, employability, progression opportunities, supports for Men's & Women's Sheds, New Communities, etc.
- Empowering Communities Programme: measures include advocating on behalf of the community in the target areas to help raise awareness of the ongoing issues they are encountering with a specific focus on anti-social behaviour and estate management issues.
- Healthy Ireland Fund: measures included the Women's Health Programme, Taking Stock Farmers Health Programme, Health & Wellbeing events, the growth of the Dementia Cafe Network in Connemara and the rollout of the Healthy County Galway newsletter.
- Local Enhancement Programme: measures included small-scale capital grants to improve accessibility and combat social isolation & loneliness, and targeted grants aimed at improving sustainability of small grassroots groups through support towards running costs.

- The Local Authority Integration Team worked with 75 services providers and link organisations to provide 212 information clinics and 13 community integration events to support 1,294 Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection across 33 accommodation centres and 380 International Protection Applicants across 7 accommodation centres.

Innovative activities to promote public participation and engagement

The Council is proud to partner with our local communities to actively promote engagement in a range of activities which have social, economic, cultural, environmental, and wellbeing benefits for our County. The following are a sample of the activities which took place during the year:

- In 2025, the Galway Sports Partnership engaged over 16,000 citizens by removing participation barriers through strategic infrastructure and targeted programming. High-visibility events like National Bike Week and National Play Day achieved significant mass participation, providing low-barrier entry points for families, while the installation of 9 'BoxUp' equipment lockers, including a flagship unit in Tuam - provided universal, free access to sports gear. This expansion was bolstered by a new website and the appointment of two additional staff members, a dedicated Active Islands Coordinator and an ESF+ Social Innovation Officer - to support offshore and marginalised communities. Additionally, GSP strengthened local club sustainability by delivering 60+ training courses to over 1,000 volunteers across the county.
- Your Council Day 2025: Our Customer Services team on the 27th June hosted 'Your Council Day 2025' as part of highlighting Galway County Council's role in supporting quality living throughout the County. We posted on our social media platforms using #YourCouncilDay /#DoLásaChomhairle to introduce people to our staff and to create more awareness of our services and amenities as well as to share details of upcoming events. The day was used to promote the very positive impact local authorities have. On a day-to-day basis, an extensive array of Galway County Council's services are used by people within our community, such as: parks, leisure, sports, library, arts, heritage and community services not to mention our leading the way in protecting our living environments with services like street cleaning, litter control, dog control, monitoring of waterways and beaches, urban and village renewal schemes, as well as the maintenance of our roads and footpaths. Your Council Day is an integral part of our annual calendar to promote awareness of these services. Posts and learning were shared from across the Council teams including Environment, Biodiversity, Roads, Heritage, Archives and Libraries to name but a few!

Community Engagement through the different Departments:

Housing

Vacant Homes information evenings were held in conjunction with SEAI, Galway Chamber of Commerce and the PPN to promote the schemes available to bring vacant properties back in to use. Following information evenings held in Clarinbridge, Tuam, Ballinderreen, Lawrencetown, Lackagh, Loughrea, Clifden, Gort, Furbo, Inis Mór and Inis Meáin in 2024, further information events were held in Ballinasloe, Athenry, An Cheathrú Rua, Corr na Móna and Rosmuc in 2025. The VHO also presented at the EU Housing Summit held in Galway City in December 2025.

Ballinasloe Thursday 03rd of April 2025



The Vacant Homes Officer (VHO), Staff Officer for Affordable Housing and the Housing Liaison Officer for Ballinasloe attended the 'Housing for Everyone' Exhibition in the Ballinasloe Library on Thursday 03rd of April. The VHO provided information on the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, the Local Authority Home Loan, the Local Authority Renovation Loan, the Disabled Persons Grant, the Housing Aid for Older Persons, and the Mobility Aid Grants. The Exhibition was also attended by the Housing Agency, European Movement Ireland, Snug Home and Unitherm.

L-R: Ms. Patricia Delaney and Ms. Michelle Connellan, Vacant Homes Officer, Galway County Council

Athenry PPN Tuesday 16th September 2025

The Vacant Homes Officer (VHO) and the Assistant Staff Officer (ASO) for Housing Grants attended the Galway County PPN Plenary Meeting in the Raheen Woods, Hotel in Athenry on Tuesday 16th of September. The VHO and ASO provided information on the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, the Local Authority Home Loan, the Local Authority Renovation Loan, the Disabled Persons Grant, the Housing Aid for Older Persons, and the Mobility Aid Grants. The event was well attended.



L-R: Ms. Michelle Connellan, Vacant Homes Officer, and Mr. John Moore, Galway County Council

*An Cheathrú Rua Wednesday 19th November
Corr na Móna on Thursday 27th November*



The Vacant Homes Officer with Cllr. Eileen Mannion, Micheál Éinniú (Bainisteoir, Comharchumann Dhúiche Sheoigheach Teo), Colm MacEachmarcaigh (Vacant Homes Co-ordinator for the Gaeltacht), and members of the Comharchumann Dhúiche Sheoigheach Teo.



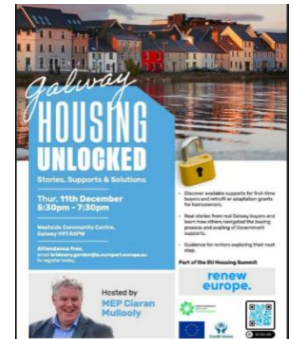
The Vacant Homes Officer (VHO) attended the Town Centre First (TCF) Public Consultation event in An Cromptán, An Cheathrú Rua on Wednesday 19th November and an information event in the Comharchumann Dhúiche Sheoigheach Teo, in Cloch Bhreac, Corr na Móna on Thursday 27th November. The VHO provided information on the Local Authority Home Loan (LAHL), Housing Grants, and the Vacant Homes Schemes including the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grants (Croí Cónaithe Scheme).



The Vacant Homes Officer at the Town Centre First (TCF) public consultation event in An Cromptán, An Cheathrú Rua.

Galway Housing Unlocked Event

The Affordable Housing Team and the Vacant Homes Team attended the Galway Housing Unlocked event hosted by MEP Ciarán Mullooly in December. The Vacant Homes Officer delivered a formal presentation outlining Vacant Property Refurbishment Grants (Croí Cónaithe Scheme) and the Affordable Housing Officer, provided a formal presentation on the Galway County Council's Affordable Housing Programme. Information was provided by both teams to the attendees.



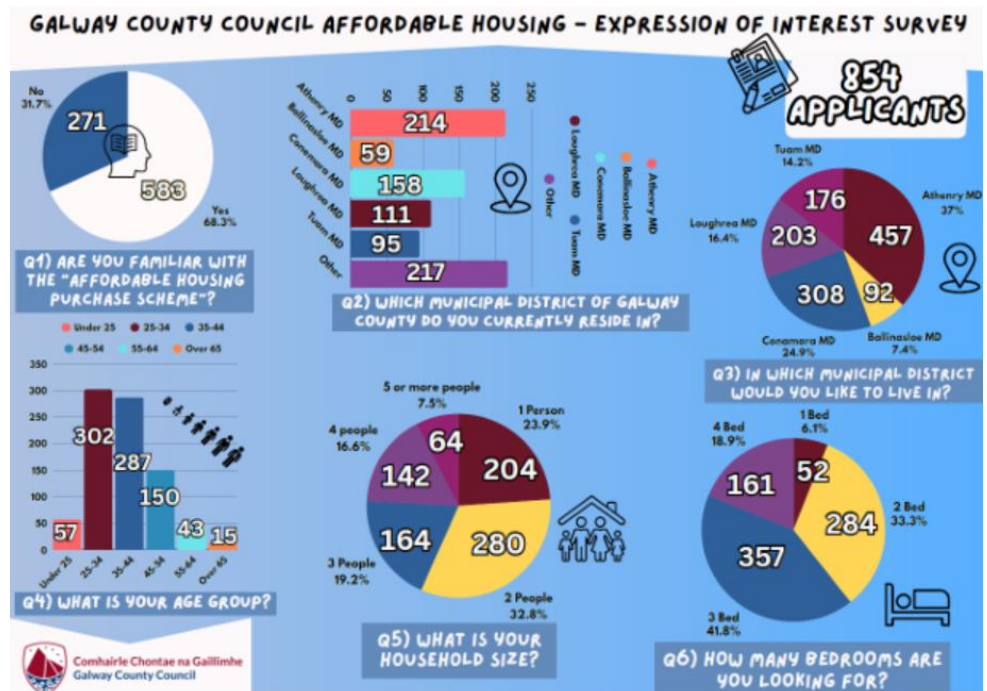
Housing Delivery Forum - World Café

Senior officials and housing stakeholders met at the Galmont Hotel on 12 November 2025 for a forum titled "Speeding up and Scaling up Housing Delivery" to explore ways to accelerate housing delivery in Galway. Organised by Galway City Council, Galway County Council, and the Department of Housing, the event brought together councils, agencies, and developers to address barriers and share practical solutions. Speakers stressed the need for coordinated planning, enabling infrastructure, and real-time data sharing to

unlock housing potential. The Galway Housing Taskforce will review the forum's findings and prepare recommendations to drive faster, more efficient delivery of homes.

Galway County Council Affordable Housing Survey

An Affordable Housing survey was conducted in September 2025 and 854 responses were received. The information from the survey will help determine the level of demand for Affordable Housing across County Galway. Two targeted follow up surveys focusing on respondents who expressed an interest in living in the Loughrea MD received 226 responses and 201 responses respectively. They demonstrated a clear interest for Affordable Housing in the suburb of Cosmona in Loughrea and St. Joseph's Road, Portumna. It is planned to run further targeted surveys to gauge the demand in other areas.



Public Consultation Social housing developments under Part 8 planning consent

There is a public consultation element with Part 8 planning consent under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

Notification of the development is given to the public on lodging a Part 8 application by a newspaper advertisement in a widely circulated local newspaper (Connacht Tribune) and a site notice located in a visible location at the site entrance. Then follows a public display period of 4 weeks plus 2 further weeks for submissions/observations from members of the public. Submissions and observations are acknowledged and considered by the planners when drafting the planning report and making their recommendation.

Three social housing developments were progressed through the Part 8 process in 2025, as follows:

No.	Location of social housing development	Description	Dates
1	Part VIII planning at Garbally Drive, Ballinasloe.	Construction of 2 no. dwellings units.	Part 8 lodged 17/01/2025 Submissions end 03/03/2025 Part 8 approved at Ballinasloe M.D. 12/03/2025
2	Part VIII planning at Vicar St., Tuam	Cold weather response and medium-term support unit	Part 8 lodged 28/03/2025 Submissions end 13/05/2025 Part 8 approved at Tuam M.D. 16/06/2025
3	Part VIII Planning for Cullairbaun Athenry	Construction of 12 no. dwelling units and care home facility	Part 8 lodged 11/04/2025 Submissions end 2/05/2025 Part 8 approved at Athenry M.D. 08/07/2025
4	Part VIII Planning for St. Bridget's Road, Portumna, Co. Galway	Proposal for Partial demolition of 11 no. detached dwelling houses and complete refurbishment and extensions to provide 11 No. 2 Bedroom single-storey detached dwellings at	Part 8 lodged 09/05/2025 Submissions end 10/06/2025 Part 8 approved at Loughrea M.D. 29/07/2025
5	Part VIII Planning for Residential Development at Raheen, Athenry.	Construction of 43 no. dwelling units	Part 8 lodged 02/05/2025 Submissions end 16/06/2025 Part 8 approved at Athenry M.D. 08/07/2025
6	Part VIII Planning St. Joseph's Road, Portumna, Co. Galway	Construction of a 38 no. unit housing development	Part 8 lodged 23/05/2025 Submissions end 08/07/2025 Part 8 approved at Loughrea M.D. 29/07/2025
7	Part VIII Planning, Development at Farrannamartin, Tuam	Proposed construction of a 62No. unit Residential	Part 8 lodged 11/04/2025 Submissions end 27/05/2025 <u>Amendments</u> Part 8 lodged 01/08/2025 Submissions end 15/09/2025 Part 8 approved at Tuam M.D. 20/10/2025

8	Part VIII Planning Proposed residential Development at Grove House, Gort	Conversion of the existing building to two homes, demolition of outbuildings, and construction of two new dwellings with all associated works.	Part 8 lodged 19-12-25 Submissions end 10-02-26 Part 8 to MD in March 2026
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Corporate Services

Civic Receptions & Honours

During 2025, the Elected Members took pride in recognising the outstanding achievements of individuals and teams who brought honour to their communities and to the county. Civic receptions provide an important opportunity to acknowledge excellence, celebrate local success, and highlight the dedication of clubs, volunteers, families and supporters who contribute so much to community life across Galway.

The Council hosted a series of civic receptions honouring:

- Kilkerrin Clonberne Ladies Football Senior All Ireland Club Champions 2024
- Sarsfields Camogie Senior All Ireland Camogie Champions 2024
- An Cheathrú Rua Football All Ireland Club JFC Champions 2025
- Athenry Rounders – U13, U15 & Minor Féile Champions
- Evan O'Brien World Irish Champion Dancer
- Michael Cronnelly World Amateur MMA Champion
- Turloughmore Under 15 Camogie All Ireland Féile Champions 2025
- Baile Chláir Under 15 Ladies Football All Ireland Féile Champions 2025
- Galway Under 23 Camogie All Ireland Champions 2025



These achievements brought great pride to the county and reflected the strong tradition of sporting and cultural excellence across our communities.

Scoil an Phiarsaigh 2025



The annual Scoil an Phiarsaigh took place on 24th and 25th September 2025 at Ionad Cuimhneacháin an Phiarsaigh in Ros Muc. The event brought together close to 300 participants including educators, students, cultural leaders, and community members to celebrate Padraic Pearse's legacy and his enduring vision for the Irish language and education. The Irish Office and Customer Services team within Corporate Services, collaborated with our Library Services team to bring this year's new event format to fruition. Both the Corporate Services team and the Library team are delighted that the new format has paid such dividend for all the stakeholders involved.

Conducted entirely through Irish, this two-day programme offered a rich blend of discussion, performance, and creative engagement. Day one focused on "The Promise and Premise of Pearse," with keynote reflections from Micheál Ó Máille on Pearse's educational philosophy in today's primary schools. Cultural highlights included traditional music by Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Óga Charna and Johnny Óg Connolly, storytelling by Mairín Mhic Lochlainn, with a circus workshop & a creative play workshop for younger attendees led by Stephen McGinley and Julie Anne de Brún, much to their delight. The day concluded with a guided tour of Pearse's Cottage, underscoring Ros Muc's historical and cultural significance.



Day two explored Pearse's radical thinking on Irish literature, art, and identity. Author Louis de Paor and poet Áine Ní Ghlinn led thought-provoking sessions on Pearse's continued relevance in modern Ireland. Transition-year students delivered passionate talks on the theme "A country without a language is a country without a soul," while Liana Glynn offered a student perspective on learning Irish outside the Gaeltacht. An expert panel discussed the viability of a bilingual Ireland, and fifth-class pupils from Gaelscoil Riada presented a creative film project, *Mise Éire / I Am Ireland*, exploring heritage and identity through a student-led lens. Scoil an Phiarsaigh remains a vital platform for cultural expression, youth engagement, and dialogue. It successfully blends heritage with creativity, reaffirming the Irish language as a living resource and a cornerstone of community and educational life.



The Battle of Aghrim Visitor Centre - Summer Series 2025

The Centres' Summer Series 2025 stands as a shining example of what grassroots volunteerism can achieve when driven by passion, heritage and history, and a deep commitment to community life.

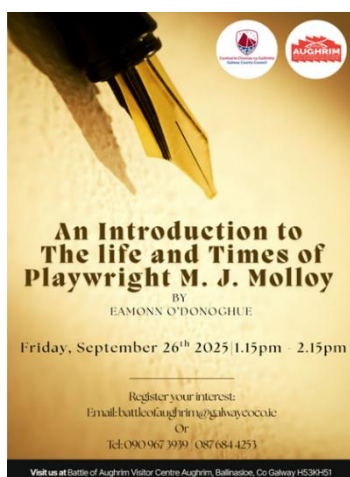
The Cath Eachroma Community Groups' involvement in the Battle of Aghrim Centre this past 10 years and most recent Aghrim Summer Series 2025 (held at the Centre) have not only

enriched the cultural fabric of the locality but have also inspired a renewed sense of pride and participation, among residents and visitors this past 12 months.

Throughout the summer of 2025, Galway County Council Corporate Services Operations Team together with this Community group organised and delivered a series of heritage-focused events that celebrated Irish creativity, history, and identity.



From the inaugural Summer Series 2025 event on June 20th, A Rich Harvest of Irish Musical Creativity & Composition, which drew a remarkable turnout showcasing local musical talent, to the deeply reflective *Walkabout and Talkabout* on the 1691 Battle of Aghrim (during 2025 National Heritage Week in August), Galway County Councils' efforts in 2025 in partnership with this Community Group have led to a 20% increase in the visitor numbers to the Centre.



The Community group's collaboration with local historians and cultural figures brought compelling stories to life, such as "The Raid on Castle Bellew" and "The Wine Geese and the Aghrim Connection", both of which offered fresh insights into Ireland's past and its global connections. These events were not only educational but also emotionally resonant, sparking dialogue and curiosity across generations.

The collaborative work with such key community stakeholders extended beyond event planning towards facilitated media engagement, including features on the August History Talks segment with Galway Bay FM and TG4 filming of a musical showcase at the Centre in July, which was aired on Sunday 15th March 2026, amplifying the reach of their initiatives and showcasing Aghrim's heritage to wider audiences.

The Leisure Centres – Tuam and Ballinasloe

Galway County Council own both the Tuam and Ballinasloe Leisure Centres. The daily management of same has been outsourced under a tendered license agreement. In late 2024, a fresh tender for the running of the Leisure Centres was completed with Coral Leisure Management Limited, re-appointed effective 2025.

Each respective Leisure Centre plays a fundamental role in their local communities in terms of healthy living, well-being, inclusivity and supporting a number of local charities each year.

Over the last 3 years (2023-2025) Active members in the Tuam Leisure Centre have increased from 1,370 to 1,791 and Active members in the Ballinasloe Leisure Centre have increased from 520 to 703. This is a great achievement in a very competitive landscape and testament to the Communities support for each facility.



Galway County Council look forward to working in continued partnership with Coral Leisure Management Limited on both Leisure Centres over the years ahead and particularly over the next 5 years as the Centres plan for reinvestment, renewal and reinforcing of their position, as the number 1 choice, for leisure centre-based activities.

The Dunlo Athletics Track – Enabling Communities book on-line

Corporate Services were delighted to introduce a new online booking system at Dunlo Track, Ballinasloe in March 2025 to optimise accessibility for the local Community at times convenient to them.

While public hours remain unchanged and do not require online booking, we are pleased to offer the local Community an additional 54 hours per week outside of the core public opening hours. These new additional hours are available for a fee and include weekends and bank holidays. The track can be booked by groups, clubs, and individuals.

Booking includes access to the toilet and changing facilities and lighting. The site is also secured outside public hours. Our new Galway County Council online booking system is very user friendly.



Dunlo Track, Ballinasloe

Galway Fire & Rescue Service

Fire Authorities across Ireland deliver a wide range of Community Fire Safety (CFS) programmes aimed at reducing fire-related deaths, injuries, and property damage in domestic settings. These initiatives combine public education, targeted outreach, and practical supports such as smoke alarm installation, with emphasis on vulnerable households.

National Fire Safety Week is the largest annual fire safety awareness event, promoting smoke alarm use, escape planning, and safe behaviours. The Community Smoke Alarm Scheme provides free alarms, including adapted alarms

for the Deaf and hard of Hearing. Public guidance on prevention, detection, evacuation, and safety checks is issued nationally.



Fire Safety Week for 2025 took place the week of 13-19 October and Firefighters throughout the City & County took part in various community-based engagements such as school visits, the provision of first responders during a Portumna Forest Park event, in addition to several other activities. School visits were utilised to deliver information briefings on the importance of fire safety in the home and the importance of looking out for older people in the community. Also, to encourage the students to plan for fire safety, by checking the operation of their home fire alarms and to have an escape plan for their home. There was a focused message to remind students to check on their vulnerable neighbours and particularly older people living alone to ensure their homes are fire safe. A reminder that fire safety is not just the job of our fire services, it is a shared responsibility.

Community Fire Safety efforts continually seek to liaise with other agencies in working collaboratively to deliver home fire safety programmes, in a simple but powerful way to support older people to live safely at home, for example, during the year, Clifden Fire Brigade delivered a fire safety talk to a local Active Retirement group.

Environment Department

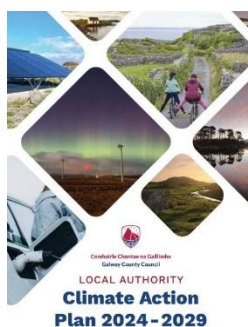
- The Environment Department continued to partner with dog rescue charity MADRA on their 'Talking Dog' Primary School initiative which teaches children about safe interactions with dogs and responsible pet ownership, with the initiative running in 6 schools throughout 2025. The Council also continues to work in partnership with MADRA to promote Millie's Fund whereby vouchers for free spaying of female dogs are issued to low-income owners with 85 vouchers issued in 2025.
- As part of the Anti-Dumping Initiative 2025, the Environment Department initiated a pilot Furniture Upholstery project where we advertised for expressions of interest to reupholster old furniture to give it a new lease of life and subsidized the cost of renewing multiple items of furniture.

Climate Action & Sustainability

The Climate Unit continued to lead and coordinate Galway County Council's wide-ranging climate action and sustainability work throughout 2025. Through the Climate Action Steering Group, the Energy Team and the Climate Action Team, the Unit supported a strong cross-organisation commitment to delivering the Climate Action Plan 2024–2029. This collaborative approach enabled the implementation of a broad programme of actions aimed at reducing emissions, improving energy efficiency and strengthening climate resilience. A summary of key activities is outlined below.

Decarbonisation Zone – Oileáin Árann

Galway County Council continued to support the three islands of Oileáin Árann which constitute the Decarbonisation Zone for County Galway. Ongoing projects include Clean Energy for EU Islands which provides technical expertise to help islands generate their own sustainable, low-cost energy and EU LIFE funded Local Energy Agencies in Peripheral Regions through which the GFI Local Energy Agency was established to support home retrofitting projects in Connemara and the Islands. Galway County Council also established a €60,000 Pilot Oileáin Árann Climate Action Fund to support local initiatives, including subsidised Home Energy Assessments for island residents.



Community Climate Action

Community Climate Action Fund: In 2025 communities continued to implement projects awarded funding under the 1st round of the Community Climate Action Fund. Galway County Council supported the 2nd highest number of projects in the Country. The €726,000 fund provides 100% funding to support community-led initiatives that build low-carbon, sustainable communities across the county. The 2nd round of the fund closed to applications in December, and these projects will commence implementation in 2026.



Photos: Examples of Projects Funded under Community Climate Action Fund in 2025

SEAI's Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) Program: Under this programme Galway County Council has supported 12 communities to develop Energy Master Plans. Many projects identified under the Plans have been implemented through the Community Climate Action Fund.

Community Engagement and Education: One of the priority actions identified in the Climate Action Plan is the provision of public training, information and support programmes. To this end, the Climate Action Unit ran events throughout the county including Climate Action Courses, Action Days, Workshops, Webinars and a Youth Climate Assembly with support from staff across Galway County Council and external organisations including SEAI, GRETB and Youth Work Ireland Galway.



Climate Action Day, County Buildings



Youth Climate Assembly, Athenry



Energy Efficiency Roadshow, Ballinasloe



Green Clubs Information Event, Ballindereen GAA Club

We also supported the roll out of the **60+ Climate Drive** in a number of locations across the county. This is a grassroots community-based initiative which was developed on a voluntary basis by retired UN Resident Coordinator Jacinta Barrins. Jacinta won the 2025 Cathaoirleach Award in the Environment and Climate Action Category and received national recognition by being shortlisted for the National Age Friendly Awards 2025 under the Community Innovation category.

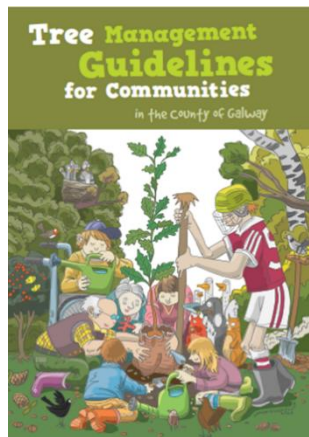
Internal Energy use

Energy Consumption for GCC is approximately 17GWh per annum with 38% for buildings, 38% for fleet and 23% for public lighting, equivalent to 4,679 tonnes greenhouse gas emissions. Expenditure on energy is approximately €3 million per annum. Work is ongoing to reduce energy use across the organisation and there is an overall downward trend in consumption.

An Energy Management System has been developed, with the aim of achieving ISO 50001 certification in 2026. “Significant Energy Users” have been identified as part of this process including Fleet, Public Lighting, Leisure Centres and other large buildings. Significant projects underway include the retrofitting of the public lighting system with low energy LED lighting. The % LED has increased from 35% in December 2021 to 95% in December 2025. Several building retrofit projects are presently in the design phase, with implementation planned for 2027 and 2028.

Biodiversity Protection

Protecting biodiversity is essential for maintaining ecosystems which helps mitigate climate change by preserving natural carbon sinks and supporting adaptation to climate impacts. An extensive biodiversity protection programme is ongoing, including:



- Publication of the Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2024 -2030
- Hare’s Corner Project, in partnership with Burren Beo, which has helped create over 500 habitats for biodiversity across County Galway, including the creation of ponds, mini woodlands, heritage orchards and plans for nature between 2024 and 2025.
- Biodiversity training for staff on topics including the protection of the lesser horseshoe bat, invasive species, biodiversity legislation and artificial lighting.
- Raising awareness of species and habitats through the development and publication of videos, booklets, posters and swatches.
- Over 40 biodiversity outreach and training events with community groups across the county celebrating National Biodiversity Week, National Heritage Week, World Wetlands Day and National Hedgerow Week.
- Projects totalling €143,883.93 were supported through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund and the County Biodiversity Plan Fund.



Housing Retrofits and Just Transition



The retrofit of Social Housing is an important component of the Just Transition to a low carbon economy. The National Retrofit Programme aims to support the retrofit of 36,500 local authority owned homes by 2030. By December 2025, GCC had retrofitted over 420 homes. This work included the removal of fossil fuel heating systems and the installation of heat pumps and solar panels, resulting in increased comfort and reduced energy bills.

Adaptation

Adaptation remained a key focus in 2025, including flood risk management, coastal protection and severe weather response. Progress was made across Galway's major flood relief projects, with the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme detailed design and environmental assessment work nearing completion, enabling the project to advance toward the planning phase in 2026. Environmental assessments are nearing completion for the Gort Lowlands and will be submitted for OPW approval in 2026. Flood schemes are also advancing in Clifden and Portumna. As detailed in Chapter 9, Galway County Council delivered a coordinated severe weather response to a number of severe weather events in 2025, including Storm Eowyn and led a national Storm exercise at the National Emergency Coordination Centre to support preparedness for future events.

Active travel and Public Transport

Supporting a modal shift in Ireland is crucial for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving the sustainability of our towns, with the government supporting significant investments in cycling, and walking infrastructure to encourage active travel. In 2025, Galway County Council advanced a wide programme of Active Travel initiatives across the county, delivering new and upgraded walking and cycling infrastructure, progressing multiple Safe Routes to School projects, and enhancing public transport accessibility through the installation of new bus shelters and upgraded crossings. Key achievements included substantial completion of the Beechlawn Footpath Scheme in Ballinasloe, construction of a new pedestrian crossing at Old Limerick Road in Oranmore, continued design and planning of Active Travel links in Oranmore and Athenry, and the commencement of works at St. Paul's, Oughterard under the SRTS programme.

Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga

Galway County Council has maintained its cooperation with Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga in addressing concerns raised by the public regarding Irish language services and legislation.

In the past year, we received 7 complaints from Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga in 2025. All issues were promptly addressed and corrected.

As a public body, Galway County Council is subject to annual monitoring under the Official Languages Act (Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla) 2003 & 2021, specifically regarding our advertising practices.

Under the Act, public bodies are required to ensure that at least 20% of their advertisements are in Irish—equivalent to one in five ads—whether in local and national newspapers or paid advertising platforms. Additionally, 20% of social media posts must be in Irish. Moreover, public bodies must allocate at least 5% of their annual advertising budget to an Irish-language media company, which must publish a minimum of 50% of its content through the medium of Irish.

In 2025, Galway County Council surpassed these requirements by publishing 42.84% of its print advertisements in Irish, along with 27.81% of its social media posts in the Irish language. Additionally, 6.41% of our annual advertising budget was spent with Irish-language media.

Honouring Local Achievement and Council Success

In 2025, Galway County Council continued to promote excellence, community pride and innovation across the county by both recognising local achievements and receiving national acknowledgment for its own work. The Council's awards programmes celebrated the commitment, creativity and leadership demonstrated by communities, volunteers and partner organisations, while external accolades highlighted the impact and quality of the Council's initiatives and services. These awards highlight the commitment of staff, the impact of collaborative projects, and the

organisation's focus on innovation, customer service and community outcomes. This section provides an overview of the awards presented by Galway County Council during the year, along with the honours received by the Council and the wider Galway community in 2025.

Scholarships awarded in 2025



Pádraig Mac Piarais Scholarship Scheme

Galway County Council awarded 16 scholarships in 2025 under the Pádraig Mac Piarais Scholarship Scheme. This was an increase on the previous year, as an additional Irish college, Coláiste Cholumba, joined the scheme. The Irish colleges, in partnership with Galway County Council, are Coláiste Chonnacht, Coláiste Lurgan, Coláiste Chamuis, Coláiste Chiaráin, Coláiste na nOileáin, Coláiste Sheosamh, Coláiste Spleodar and Coláiste Cholumba. We received 228

applications in total from across the county for the scholarships, a substantial increase on the 86 applications that were received in 2024.



LAMA Awards 2025

Galway County Council achieved dual success at the major national local-government awards event,

20th annual LAMA All Ireland Community and Council Awards for achievements during 2025.

Scoil an Phiarsaigh, delivered by Galway County Council, **won Best Irish Language Initiative** for its two-day programme celebrating Pádraig Pearse's connection with Ros Muc, and his enduring commitment to the Irish language, culture, and education.

CREDIT Hu O' Reilly Photography

In addition, **Ballinakill Community Development** received a **Special Commendation in the Community Scale Enhancements category**, acknowledging the significant work delivered locally on sports facilities, community spaces, heritage improvements, and public amenities.

Pride of Place Competition 2025

Clarinbridge was named **winner** of the '300 – 1,000 Population' Category at the 2025 IPB Pride of Place Awards, held on the 7th of November at the Strand Hotel in Limerick. Nominated by Galway County Council to represent the county in the all-island competition, the south Galway village was selected for its exemplary community development efforts.

The Pride of Place Awards, now in their 23rd year, are organised by Co-operation Ireland and sponsored by IPB Insurance. The programme recognises voluntary groups that demonstrate a strong commitment to improving their local areas through collaboration and civic engagement. Established in 1979, the Clarinbridge Tidy Towns group played a central role in enhancing the village's physical and social environment. It has been a part of projects

involving the maintenance of local landmarks such as The Green, Parish Hall, Kilcornan Estate, and Cowpark. The village also promotes heritage and environmental care through the development of walking trails and green spaces. Judges commended Clarinbridge's partnerships with organisations including the Clarinbridge Men's Shed and SCCUL Sanctuary, as well as its annual events such as Clarinbridge Market Day and Halloween on the Green.

The Marconi Men's Shed in Clifden also represented Galway County in this year's competition, competing in the 'Community Wellbeing' category. Although not a category winner, the group was recognised for its innovative approach to supporting male family carers and promoting health and wellbeing in the Connemara region.



Attending the IPB Pride of Place Awards 2025 were (l-r): Ms. Helen Melia, Senior Staff Officer, Galway County Council, Mr. Ronan Kavanagh, Clarinbridge Tidy Towns, Cllr. David Collins, Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council, Ms. Mary Daly, Clarinbridge Tidy Towns, Mr. Liam Conneally, Chief Executive, Galway County Council, Ms. Theresa Donohue, Administrative Officer, Galway County Council, and Mr. Michael Owens, Director of Services, Corporate Services, Rural Community & Tourism Development & Integration, Galway County Council.

L-R: Cllr. David Collins, Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council, Ms. Mary Daly & Mr. Ronan Kavanagh, Clarinbridge Tidy Towns



Cathaoirleach Awards 2025

Community groups and volunteers from across County Galway were celebrated at the Cathaoirleach's Awards held in the Raheen Woods Hotel on Friday 16th May 2025.

Organised by Galway County Council in partnership with Galway County Public Participation Network (PPN) and hosted by Cathaoirleach Councillor Martina Kinane, the awards acknowledge and celebrate voluntary activity by individuals and groups active across a range of areas in County Galway. MC for the evening was Cllr. Ollie Turner who entertained the packed house at the Awards Ceremony and family and friends who watched via the live stream on Galway County Council's Facebook.

The category winners in the Cathaoirleach Community Awards were Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds, Katie Duane, Jacinta Barrins, Michael J. Hurley, Sarah Ann Buday, South Galway Lakers Special Olympics Club, Tuam Tidy Towns, Clarinbridge Tidy Towns, Marconi Men's Shed and Forám Chois Fharraighe um Pleanáil Teanga. Each of the winners was presented with a specially commissioned award designed and hand-crafted by Craughwell-based Sean Mahony, along with a certificate and a cash prize of €500 to use for their work.

Two Special Recognition Awards were also presented by the Cathaoirleach; the Individual Award went to Bernie Rogers, and the Group Award to Moyne Villa FC.



Representatives of the winning groups in the Cathaoirleach Awards 2025 pictured with Cllr. Martina Kinane, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway and Liam Conneally, Chief Executive of Galway County Council at the Cathaoirleach's Ball in the Raheen Woods.

Galway hosts National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards

The 2025 National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards culminated in a highly successful evening jointly hosted by Galway City and County Council at The Galmont Hotel, Galway, on Thursday, 23rd of October 2025.

The Awards showcased innovative projects from across the country that have had a real impact on the lives of older people, with many offering models that can be replicated elsewhere. Galway's own Positive Ageing Week Local Heroes Exhibition and Climate Drive 60+ were nominated under the Age Friendly Active and Healthy Ageing Award category.



Galway County Council staff and Cathaoirleach at the Age Friendly Awards



The gala itself proved to be a spectacular celebration. Nominees, distinguished guests, and supporters enjoyed a glamorous evening recognising the remarkable work of individuals, organisations, and agencies nationwide

Galway County nominated projected – Climate Drive 60 +

Business Post Public Sector Digital Transformation Awards 2025

Galway Fire & Rescue Service on behalf of Galway County Council were recognised at the Business Post Public Sector Digital Transformation Awards 2025 at the Mansion House in Dublin and won the 'Best Local Government Authority Project Award'. The award, for the Severe Weather Event Management System (SWEMS), recognised exceptional

innovation and collaboration in delivering digital solutions that enhance local services and community safety, specifically the local authority in responding to severe weather events. The project's real-time mapping capabilities and public-facing connectivity have been instrumental during Storm Eowyn, providing emergency teams with a live, interactive map of severe weather events. This has led to a significant improvement in decision-making and response times during severe weather and wildfire events.



Attending the Business Post Public Sector Digital Transformation Awards 2025 at the Mansion House were (l-r): Ms. Michelle Hennelly, A/Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Ms. McKenzie Boland, SWEMS GIS Analyst, Ted O'Shea, Station Officer, An Cheathrú Rua.

Irish Council for Social Housing awards Galway County Council "Building Communities" category winner for Tobar Mhuire, Ahascragh



Galway County Council's regeneration project at Tobar Mhuire in Ahascragh was named the winner of the 'Building Communities' category at the 2025 Community Housing Awards. Organised by the Irish Council for Social Housing, the awards celebrate innovation and sustainability in public and community housing across Ireland.

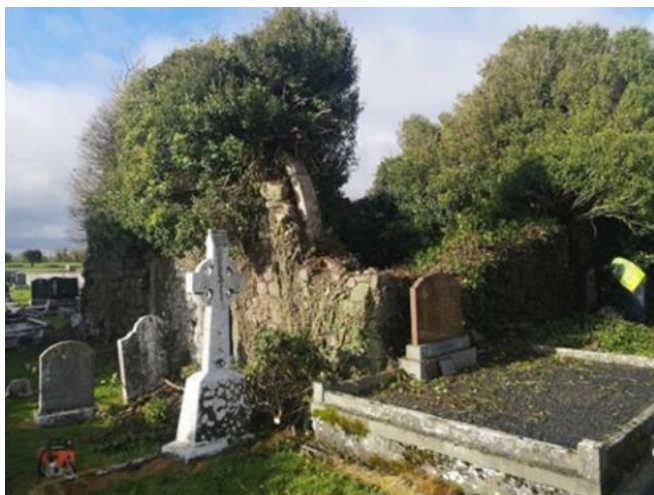
The Tobar Mhuire project, led by Galway County Council and funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, saw the demolition of 10 existing homes, the construction of 12 new units, and the refurbishment of six others, along with extensive site improvements.

The Tobar Mhuire regeneration project in Ahascragh also won the ICE Judges Silver Award for residential development under €5m.

Abbeygormican church conservation project

A landmark restoration project dedicated to preserving centuries of archaeological and architectural heritage at Abbeygormican in East Galway has earned national acclaim at the prestigious Irish Construction Excellence (ICE) Awards. The Abbeygormican Church Conservation Project received the Judges' Silver Award, honouring the meticulous restoration of the historic Augustinian friary and its unique blend of 12th, 15th, and 17th-century architecture, all set within an ancient ecclesiastical enclosure.

Conservation works were carried out in three phases in collaboration with Galway County Community Archaeology Project, Galway County Heritage Office, Galway County Council, the local community, and the National Monuments Service, and guided by a Conservation and Management Plan prepared by a multidisciplinary team. The award was jointly accepted by contractor Mathieu & Mitchell Ltd., the Abbeygormican Cemetery Group, and Galway County Council at a ceremony held in the Convention Centre, Dublin.



ABBEYGORMICAN, BEFORE WORKS WERE UNDERTAKEN



ABBEYGORMICAN, AFTER WORKS WERE UNDERTAKEN

L–R: Ms. Ann Marie Cusack, architectural conservation officer, Galway County Council; Ms. Claire Breen, Senior Archaeologist, National Monuments Service; Mr. Tom Mitchell, Mathieu & Mitchell Ltd.; Cllr Martina Kinane, Cathaoirleach of Galway County; Cllr Geraldine Donohue; Ms. Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, Galway County Council and Ms. Bernie Doherty, Galway Community Archaeologist.



Kilboght church & graveyard: Heritage & Conservation project of the year

The Irish Building Design Awards have become one of the most prestigious events in the Irish construction industry. They celebrate and honour the exceptional skills and expertise within Ireland's building and design sectors.

This year saw a record number of applications, making it a significant achievement to be shortlisted for the 2025 awards. Kilboght Church and Mausoleum was nominated in the Heritage and Conservation Project of the Year category.



Attending the Irish Building & Design Awards were: Mona Monaghan, Kilboght Graveyard Committee; Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, Galway County Council; Peggy Monaghan, Kilboght Graveyard Committee; Richard Fitzpatrick, Lean Construction Ireland and Bernie Doherty, Galway Community Archaeologist.

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL'S STORYMAPS PROJECT WINS e-GOVERNMENT AWARD



*Pictured with the 2025 Ireland eGovernment 'Open Data' Award, left to right, are:
Bridín Feeney, GIS Officer, Galway County Council; and Giles Newsome, CEO of iConnect101 and a member of this year's judging panel. Photo credit: Noel Hillis.*

StoryMaps – 2025 Award Winner

Galway County Council's innovative **StoryMaps** project was named a category winner at the **2025 Ireland eGovernment Awards**, receiving the *Open Data Award*. The project was shortlisted alongside national bodies such as the National Cancer Registry of Ireland, reflecting the high standard of entries.

StoryMaps digitises the heritage of communities across County Galway, transforming local history into interactive online experiences. To date, the Council's Heritage and GIS teams—working in partnership with community groups and academic collaborators—have created more than 40 town and village StoryMaps, showcasing the rich cultural and historical heritage of towns, villages and townlands across the county.

In addition, historical information for over 1,000 townlands has been digitised, providing a valuable resource for communities, schools, heritage groups, Tidy Towns committees, academia and the wider public.

By combining mapping technology with text, images and multimedia content, StoryMaps presents place-based stories in an engaging, accessible format that can be viewed on any internet-enabled device, from desktop computers to tablets and mobile phones.

Galway event wins National Heritage Week Award 2025



The winners of the National Heritage Week Awards 2025 were announced at a ceremony on 17th October at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham, Dublin.

The Awards, run by the National Heritage Council, celebrate the passion and commitment shown by individuals and communities across the country in protecting, sharing, and showcasing Ireland's rich heritage. It was a wonderful occasion that highlighted the deep sense of care and pride people have for our cultural, built, and natural heritage.

*Accepting the National Heritage Week Award were:
Josie Dillon; Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer; Caoimhe Ní Chualáin; Máirtín Davy O'Coisdealbha; Jacinta Flaherty; Síle Seoighe; Dr Martina Moloney, chairperson, the Heritage Council and Virginia Teehan, chief executive, the Heritage Council. Photo credit: Heritage Office, Galway County Council.*

This year's National Heritage Week was the biggest and best yet, with over 2,500 events registered and 400,000 people taking part in family-friendly activities that celebrate Ireland's built, cultural, and natural heritage. Co Galway hosted 192 events during National Heritage Week, highlighting the county's major role in this year's celebrations.

Galway County Council is proud to announce that the 'Toibreacha Beannaithe' Exhibition and accompanying short film 'Toibreacha agus Bád Cholmcille' have been awarded the prestigious Irish Language Award as part of National Heritage Week. This award celebrates events that were conducted through the Irish language and/or actively encouraged participation in the language.

Strategic Objectives and Performance

This section provides a high-level overview of each unit's major achievements during 2025. To support and provide a comprehensive update, the Annual Service Delivery Plan 2025 outcomes report is included. This report outlines the principal services provided by the Council to the public throughout the year. The Plan is based on the Strategic Goals and Supporting Strategies as outlined in the Corporate Plan 2025-2029.

For more detailed insights into the operations and accomplishments of each unit, please refer to the **Chief Executives Monthly Reports** to Plenary. These reports offer a comprehensive view of our operational effectiveness and are available on our website at <https://www.galway.ie/en/governance-administration/publications/chief-executive-monthly-reports>.

Directorate: Housing

Delivering Quality Homes

Galway County Council's housing stock has continued to strengthen, growing steadily to 3,087 homes by the end of 2025, with annual additions consistently outpacing disposals. While a small number of more complex, derelict units remain, these are being addressed through targeted capital solutions. In 2025, the Council advanced regeneration activity with the planned demolition of 19 older dwellings and their replacement by 25 new-build homes in Portumna and Dunlo, Ballinasloe reflecting a continued focus on modernising and expanding the housing portfolio to meet local needs.



Continued Progress in Void Management and Allocations, 2025

Galway County Council continued to strengthen its housing management performance in 2025, reducing vacancy to just over 2%, dropping from 6.12% in 2023 and maintaining a low number of vacant units despite a growing housing stock. The remaining vacancies are increasingly made up of derelict or capital-intensive units, while short-cycle voids are being turned around efficiently.

Relet performance improved significantly, with average turnaround times falling to 37 weeks, reflecting better workflow management and faster minor-repair processing. The allocations process remained highly effective, delivering 287 new tenancies, with all available properties successfully allocated despite a proportion requiring re-offers. While most refusals were isolated, a small number of applicants and harder-to-let units accounted for multiple refusals. Overall, the data shows strong void control, improved efficiency, and a consistent ability to convert available homes into active tenancies.



Improving Energy Efficiency Housing Stock



The retrofit programme transformed over 420 social homes through external insulation, new glazing, heat pumps and solar PV installations, reducing heating costs by up to 70%. Post-retrofit, only 1.5% of stock remains below a BER rating of C. The programme prevented over 20 tonnes of CO₂ emissions and achieved SEAI and national compliance standards with no safety incidents.

Vacant Homes: Revitalising Underused Properties and Expanding Housing Supply

Galway County Council launched a five-year Vacant Homes Action Plan 2024-2029 to address vacancy rates and increase housing supply. With a residential vacancy rate of 6.0% in June 2023 this initiative aims to revitalise underutilised properties.

The Croí Cónaithe Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant seen significant interest in 2025, with 671 applications received and 467 receiving initial approval, representing more than €27 million investment in rejuvenating communities. Galway County Council continued to implement the CPO Activation Programme, introduced under Circular 14/2023, which provides a structured framework for identifying vacant and derelict properties, engaging with owners, and promoting the supports available to return these properties to use. In 2025, 200 properties entered the Programme, reflecting sustained progress in tackling vacancy.



The Council has also undertaken significant preparatory work and will move towards utilising its statutory CPO powers in 2026 to advance priority cases where owner engagement has not progressed.

Housing Plan - Delivering Homes, Building Communities (2025–2030)

The new Government housing plan, Delivering Homes, Building Communities (2025–2030), published in November 2025, represents a significant expansion of responsibility, capacity, and delivery expectations for Local Authorities.

The plan places councils at the centre of meeting national housing targets, requiring increased output across social housing construction, acquisition, land management, and activation of existing vacant stock. Local authorities are expected to accelerate delivery through streamlined planning, proactive zoning, and the adoption of modern construction methods, supported by major State investment in infrastructure.

The plan also reinforces the role of councils in preventing homelessness, integrating community facilities, and ensuring that new homes form part of sustainable, well-serviced places. While delivery will involve strong private-sector participation, local authorities remain the primary coordinators of local housing need, infrastructure alignment, and community development, with strengthened mandates and tools to support faster and more diverse housing delivery.

Expanding Affordable Housing



The affordable housing programme advanced strongly. Forty-four affordable homes at Garraí na Gaoithe, Claregalway, received 174 applications; Phase 1 sales completed by June, with all Phase 2 offers accepted. Design teams were appointed for 44 new affordable homes at Raheen (28) and Páirc na hAbhainn (16). An Affordable Housing Survey received 856 responses, identifying key demand areas such as Oranmore, Athenry and Claregalway.

Official sod-turning mixed-tenure development at Lakeview, Claregalway, which will deliver 88 homes.

Progressing Capital Housing Projects

Significant capital delivery included major schemes in Claregalway, Tuam, Ardahan and Ballinasloe, with multiple Part 8 approvals secured countywide. Completed developments included schemes in Ballymoe, Ardahan, Barna, Athenry, Clifden, Headford, Kinvara and Ballinasloe. Tobar Mhuire in Ahascragh earned national recognition, winning both the ICSH Community Housing Award and an ICE Judges Silver Award.

8 no. unit terraced housing development at St Josephs Place Ballinasloe



Official openings and Ministerial visits

On 10 October, Minister James Browne TD visited County Galway to highlight key projects:

1. The visit included the sod-turning for the €23.6 million mixed-tenure development at Lakeview, Claregalway, which will deliver 88 homes.
2. Páirc na Cille in Tuam, a 29-unit social housing scheme featuring a sheltered care unit managed by Ability West.

3. Caislean Raithin, Ardrahan a €3.3 million development providing 10 new homes.
4. Minister John Cummins visited Claregalway site (Garraí na Gaoithe – 61-unit development, first turnkey affordable housing project in Galway under housing for all).

Contract Signing

- Construction of 88 Mixed Tenure Development at Cosmona, Loughrea.
- 88-unit mixed-tenure development at Baile Chláir (Claregalway)
- Appointment Design team for 44 new affordable homes announced (Raheen – 28 units; Páirc na hAbhainn – 16 units).
- Dunlo Hill, Ballinasloe: Regeneration scheme (16 units + community space in former Dooley's Pub).
- Contract signed for 7 infill units (Hillcrest, Loughrea & Parkmore, Tuam)



Driving Collaborative Delivery – Housing Delivery Forum

A multi-stakeholder Housing Delivery Forum took place in November 2025, which brought together key partners to identify constraints, share solutions, and support accelerated delivery, with findings to be reviewed by the Galway Housing Taskforce.

Directorate: Corporate Services, Rural, Community and Tourism Development and Integration

Corporate Services

Advancing Customer Service Excellence

In 2025, Corporate Services continued to drive organisation wide improvements in governance, customer service, digital capability, and internal coordination. The Customer Service Action Plan was developed in alignment with the Corporate Plan 2025–2029, reinforcing the Council's commitment to consistent, accessible, and best in class services. The Plan highlights Public Sector Duty obligations and reasonable accommodation for all customers and will be published on the Council website.

Enhancing Service Transparency

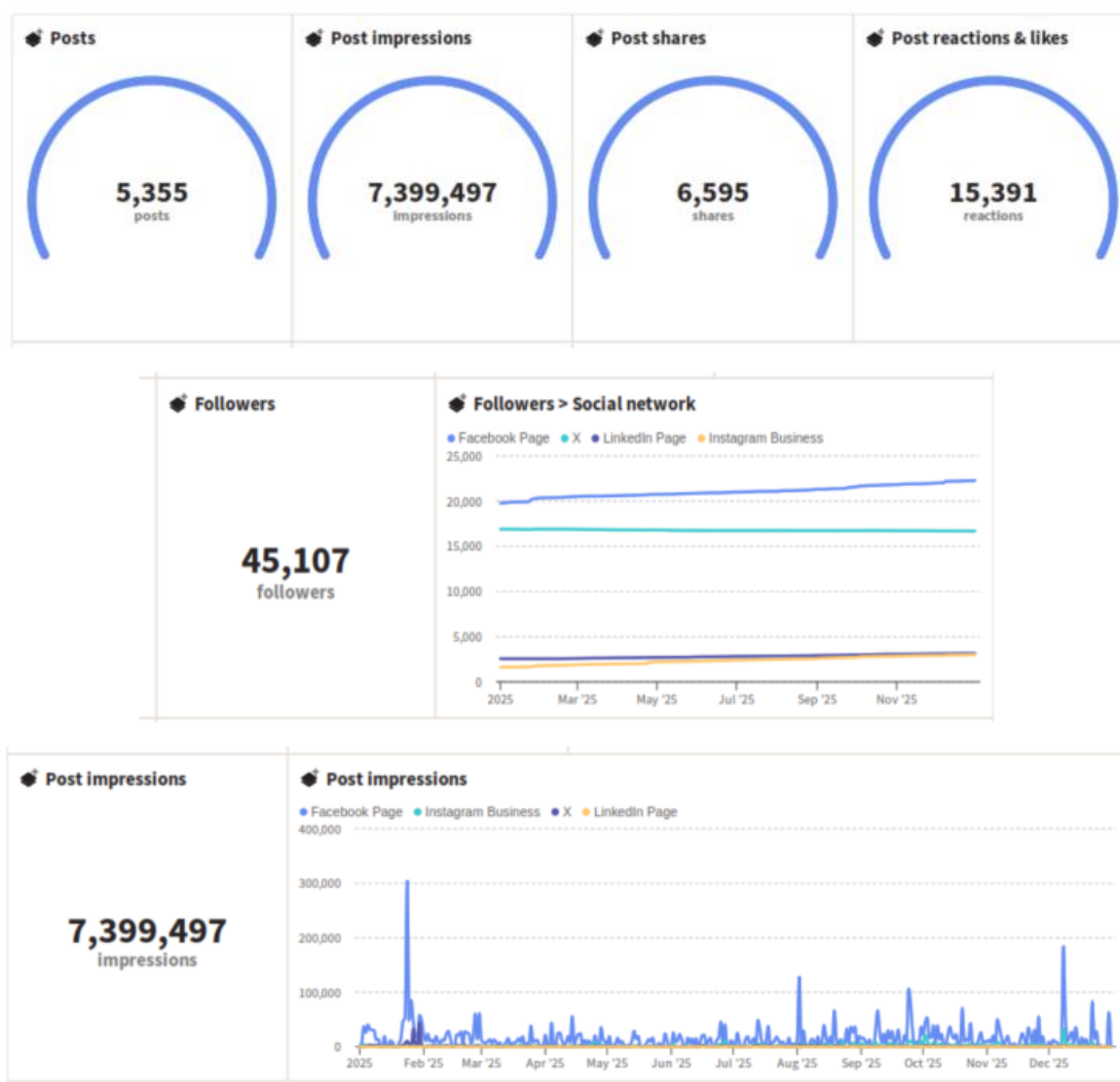
A significant development was the launch of the Customer Service Case Tracker System in September. Delivered with support from the IT Team, this system strengthens transparency, provides clear service standards, and supports Strategic Goal 1: Business Transformation through Enhanced Customer Service.

Strengthening Communications Strategy

A new Communications Framework commenced following a comprehensive audit and extensive stakeholder engagement, including staff, management, Elected Members, the PPN, LCDC and media outlets. This framework will guide a more coordinated and strategic approach to internal and external communications.

Social Media Stats

Our Customer Services Team in the Corporate Services Section, continued to diligently monitor and update the Council's Social Media content on a daily basis throughout the year in 2025. This was working towards enhancing our engagement with the Public.



Modernising Workplace Infrastructure

The Office Accommodation Project continues to progress as a strategic priority for Galway County Council, aimed at consolidating staff currently dispersed across multiple leased sites into a single, modern, energy-efficient headquarters at County Hall. The project responds to organisational growth, national decarbonisation targets, and the need for improved operational efficiency.

A full feasibility review—considering current and future workspace, technology, and security requirements—has been completed by external consultants in 2025, confirming that the existing fragmented accommodation model is costly, inefficient, and not fit for long-term service delivery.

Following detailed analysis, Elected Members have endorsed progressing with design development for an Option 3/3A, which includes retrofitting the existing County Hall and constructing an extension to accommodate staff from Ballybrit, Centrepont and Nuns Island, alongside projected headcount growth. In November 2025, funding of €2.4 million was approved for Budget 2026 to appoint a design team and advance the project to planning, with an independent cost manager due to be appointed in early 2026. Business continuity, service quality and staff well-being remain central to planning as the Council prepares for a complex, multi-year construction and transition period, with the build expected to commence in early 2028.

Staff engagement is a core component of the project. A dedicated Staff Working Group has been established to ensure two-way communication, support staff input into building design and help maintain service standards throughout all phases of transition. Town hall sessions for all staff will be held in 2026, and union engagement is ongoing. Future considerations—including customer service improvements, elected member facilities, canteen capacity, sustainability, and transport planning—are being actively explored as part of the overall redesign. The Council remains committed to transparency and regular updates as this transformational project moves forward. Outside of the Office Accommodation Project, Facilities management continued across a portfolio of 60 buildings.

Supporting Vibrant Community Services

Corporate Services supported a broad range of community facing and cultural responsibilities. Water Safety Services were delivered at 16 bathing areas, a portfolio of more than 80 playgrounds was managed, casual trading licences - 53 annual licences and 119 special event licences were processed, and an online booking system was introduced for the Dunlo Athletics Track. The Aughrim Heritage Centre reopened from May to September, delivering guided tours and a Summer Lecture Series that resulted in a 20% increase in visitor numbers.

Promoting Irish Language and Culture

Irish language and cultural initiatives featured prominently. Sixteen Pádraig Pearse Gaeltacht Scholarships were awarded; a vibrant Seachtain na Gaeilge theatre performance was hosted in the Council Chamber; and Scoil an Phiarsaigh in Ros Muc welcomed more than 300 attendees.

Empowering Democratic Functions

Corporate Services continued to support the democratic and governance functions of the organisation, administering the Presidential Election and maintaining a Register of Electors of 150,350 registered voters. Ongoing support was provided to the 39 Elected Members through the Plenary and CPG structures and training programmes.

The Cathaoirleach's Charity Ball, hosted by Cllr Martina Kinane on the 7th June 2025, raised €19,775 for local charities, Oranmore Maree Coastal Search Unit and Hand in Hand – Children's Cancer Charity.

Embedding Strong Governance

Strong governance remained a central focus for Galway County Council throughout 2025, underpinning effective decision-making, accountability and organisational performance.

Core governance requirements and standards were reinforced through induction programmes for all new staff, providing an overview of key obligations in areas such as risk management, data protection, access to information, customer service, Irish language requirements, ethical standards and corporate governance.

The **Corporate Governance Working Group**, comprising cross-organisational representation, continued to drive good governance practice across the organisation. During 2025, the Group oversaw quarterly reviews of the Council's Risk Management Framework and supported the ongoing implementation of key governance requirements across all directorates, including public sector duty, child safeguarding and business continuity planning.

The Council's Data Protection Officer, together with our network of **Data Champions**, continued to play an important role in strengthening compliance with data protection requirements. They provided guidance and practical support

to units and staff members across the organisation, helping to embed strong data governance practices and ensure consistent adherence to legislative requirements.

The **Customer Services Officers Group** met quarterly to support consistent, high-quality customer service across the organisation. The Group provided ongoing guidance on Irish language obligations and customer care standards ensuring the Council continues to meet statutory responsibilities and public expectations.

Governance capability was further strengthened through targeted training delivered during 2025. Members of the Corporate Governance Working Group, the Management Team and the Elected Members participated in training on the Code of Governance, reinforcing shared understanding of roles, responsibilities and standards across the organisation.

Freedom of Information/Access to Information on the Environment

Freedom of Information

The Freedom of Information Acts provide the public with a statutory right of access to official information, where this is compatible with the public interest and the protection of personal privacy. In 2025, Galway County Council received a total of 199 requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2014.

FOI Activity 2025	Number
Open Cases 01.01.2025	5
Requests received 2025	199
Granted	31
Part-granted	77
Refused	46
Transferred	2
Withdrawn	26
Withdrawn and handled outside of FOI	17
Open Cases 31.12.2025	5

In 2025, Galway County Council updated the Freedom of Information (FOI) Publication Scheme. The updated scheme sets out the classes of information that are routinely made available to the public and is designed to promote openness, transparency, and accountability by providing structured access to information about the organisation, its functions, finances, services, and decision-making processes. [Freedom of Information Publication Scheme | Galway County Council](#)

Access to Information on the Environment

The Access to Information on the Environment Regulations provide the public with a statutory right to obtain environmental information held by public authorities, supporting openness and transparency in environmental matters. In 2025, Galway County Council received a total of 42 requests under the European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007 to 2018.

AIE Activity 2025	Number
Open Cases 01.01.2025	1
Requests received 2025	42
Granted	13
Part-granted	12

Refused	16
Withdrawn	0
Open Cases 31.12.2025	2

Data Protection

In carrying out its statutory functions, Galway County Council processes substantial volumes of personal data in accordance with the Data Protection Acts and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). We fully respect the privacy rights of all individuals whose personal data we hold, and we remain committed to meeting our responsibilities under Data Protection Law as we continue to modernise and enhance our services.

As the Council expands its digital service offering and adopts new systems to improve efficiency, accessibility, and customer experience, we ensure that all advancements are underpinned by strong data protection principles. Our commitment is that any personal data provided to us is:

- Collected lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner
- Used only for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes
- Adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary
- Recorded and stored accurately, securely, and kept up to date where required
- Retained only for as long as necessary for the purposes for which it was collected
- Maintained in a form that permits identification of individuals only for as long as required
- Processed in a way that ensures appropriate security, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage

Throughout 2025, Galway County Council continued to strengthen its data governance practices in line with both regulatory requirements and the organisation's digital transformation agenda. A Data Protection Management System remains in place across the Council to support ongoing compliance, enhance accountability, and provide a structured framework for managing personal data as we develop and deliver more digital and technology-enabled services.

This approach ensures that innovation and service improvement go hand in hand with the safeguarding of personal data, maintaining public trust and ensuring that privacy remains central to all Council operations.

Data Protection Staff Training 2025

In 2025, Galway County Council continued to strengthen its organisation-wide approach to Data Protection and Information Governance training. Our training programme was streamlined to ensure that staff receive timely, consistent, and practical guidance that supports compliance and enhances day-to-day data handling.

All new staff are now required to complete two mandatory training courses as part of their induction. These cover the fundamentals of Data Protection, ensuring that every employee joins the organisation with a clear understanding of their responsibilities under GDPR and of the safeguards required to protect Council systems and personal data.

All staff are required to complete annual refresher training to maintain awareness of evolving risks, emerging technologies, and updated organisational policies. In addition, unit-specific training is provided where processing activities or systems warrant more tailored guidance. Throughout the year, a series of in person training sessions were delivered to support teams with more complex or high-risk aspects of data governance.

To further reinforce awareness and promote good practice across the organisation, staff receive monthly emails from the office of the Data Protection Officer. These focus on key areas of data governance, emerging risks, practical reminders, and guidance on common queries.

This blended approach of induction training, annual refreshers, tailored sessions, and ongoing communication helps ensure that data protection remains an integral part of everyday work across Galway County Council.

Data Access Requests 2025

A total of 33 Data Subject Access Requests were received by Galway County Council during 2025 under the Data Protection Act 2018 and the GDPR.

Decision	Number
Requests Received	33
Requests Granted	21
Requests Refused (Invalid, No Data Held)	12

4 Third Party Access Requests (e.g. from An Garda Síochána) were received and responded to.

Galway County Council's Data Protection Officer (DPO) performs an independent oversight role in line with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation. While the role is hosted within the Corporate Services team for administrative purposes, the DPO operates independently in monitoring compliance, advising the organisation, and acting as a point of contact for the public and for the Data Protection Commission.

The DPO can be contacted by email at dpo@galwaycoco.ie or by phone at **(091) 509319**.

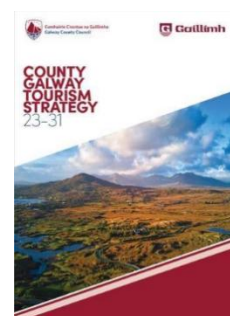
Rural, Community and Tourism Development and Integration

Tourism

Tourism remains a key driver of rural and community development across County Galway, supporting employment, enterprise, place-making and the sustainability of rural and coastal communities. During the reporting period, the Tourism Team progressed a range of strategic initiatives and projects aligned with the Galway County Tourism Strategy, with a strong focus on balanced regional development, sustainable tourism and partnership-led delivery

Implementation of the Galway County Tourism Strategy

Ongoing work continued to implement the key objectives of the Galway County Tourism Strategy, including destination development, visitor dispersal, season extension and community benefit. Actions were progressed in collaboration with Fáilte Ireland, regional tourism organisations, community groups and enterprise stakeholders to strengthen County Galway's tourism offering while protecting environmental, cultural and heritage assets.



Destination Experience Development Plans (DEDPs)

Significant progress was made in advancing destination-led planning across the county:

- **East Galway DEDP:** In collaboration with Fáilte Ireland's Hidden Heartland's Team The establishment of the East Galway Destination Experience Development Plan represents a major step in supporting tourism development in the Just Transition region. The plan provides a strategic framework for project identification, investment prioritisation and partnership working, with a strong emphasis on heritage, landscape, activity tourism and local enterprise.
- **Connemara and Islands DEDPs:** Continued support was provided for the implementation of the Connemara and Islands Destination Experience Development Plans, ensuring alignment between local projects, community aspirations and national tourism policy. This work supports sustainable tourism growth in environmentally and culturally sensitive areas.

- **Lough Derg DEDP:** The Tourism Team actively promoted the development of the Lough Derg DEDP and supported associated funding and activation activity, recognising the area's potential for water-based, cultural and slow tourism experiences.

EU, Interreg and Just Transition Fund (JTF) Projects

The Tourism Team continued to engage with EU funding programmes to support strategic tourism development:

- **Interreg Slowdown Project:** Engagement continued with the Interreg Slowdown project, supporting knowledge sharing and best practice in sustainable, low-impact tourism development.
- **Just Transition Fund (JTF):** A range of tourism-related projects were progressed under the JTF programme, with a focus on economic diversification, product development and capacity building in East Galway. The appointment of a JTF Activator has supported project development, stakeholder engagement, tourism networking and the identification of new collaborative opportunities within the region. The Just Transition Fund represents an important catalyst for tourism development within the Ballinasloe Municipal District and the wider East Galway area. Through the work of the JTF Activator, in collaboration with the Tourism Officer, local stakeholders and Fáilte Ireland, the programme is supporting project development, strengthening tourism networks and building capacity within the local tourism sector.
- **Just Transition Fund – Approved Projects:** Six projects in East Galway have secured funding under the Just Transition Fund, with a total allocation of €1,191,600. This level of funding is comparable with counties such as Tipperary and Kildare, which were also included within the JTF region.



Project	Location	Description	Funding
Shannon Bank Park – Wild Swimming Pool	Shannon Bank	Development of an outdoor swimming pool supporting recreational and outdoor tourism.	€616,000
Cookery School – Planning & Design	Williamstown	Planning and design proposals for a cookery school supporting food tourism and skills development.	€57,600
BACD Ballinasloe – Digital Transformation	Ballinasloe	Development of a digital platform and website to support local businesses and SMEs in East Galway.	€30,000
Galway's Living Bog	Mountbellew	Development of a visitor centre which promotes heritage and nature tourism experience highlighting bog heritage and biodiversity.	€28,000
The Old Mill Visitor Centre	Ahascragh	Development of a visitor centre focused on the historic Old Mill and local heritage.	€40,000
Brackloon Castle	Clonfert	New Build for accommodation and a	€420,000

		museum adjacent to Brackloon Castle that provides a visitor experience.	
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Tourism Network Development

The second phase of the JTF Activator role focuses on tourism network development across East Galway. The objectives include building stronger connections between tourism businesses and community organisations, encouraging collaboration and cross-promotion between tourism operators, strengthening relationships between local businesses, communities and public agencies, and developing a more coordinated tourism offering for the region.

The JTF Activator continues to provide direct support to project promoters and tourism stakeholders. This includes assisting applicants to progress through development stages, identifying additional funding opportunities where required and ensuring projects remain on track to submit funding claims by August 2026.



Strategic Tourism Projects

Progress continued on a number of flagship tourism projects of county and national significance:

- **Dunguaire Castle Project:** Work continued on progressing the Dunguaire Castle project, recognising its importance as a cultural and heritage asset and its potential contribution to the wider visitor economy in South Galway.
- **Battle of Aughrim Project:** The Battle of Aughrim project advanced with the appointment of specialist consultants, funded through Fáilte Ireland EU Just Transition Funding. This project aims to develop a high-quality, interpretive heritage experience that supports tourism development, education and regional identity in East Galway.



- **Connemara Greenway Marketing Project:** Funding was granted under the Outdoor Recreation and Infrastructure Scheme for a Library of Marketing assets promoting the Connemara Greenway. The Tourism Unit and Fáilte Ireland co-funded the project, which produced 24 promotional videos and 100 images. This content is now available on Irelands Content Pool, which is an online library of free promotional images, videos and marketing assets designed to support Tourism promotion.

- **Summer Ready**

The Tourism Team deliver an Annual Summer Ready publication as part of its' project remit. This Report provides insights into the efforts made by Galway County Council to ensure that our County's beaches, waterways, walking trails and amenities are safe and well maintained. It also provides information on tourist attractions, heritage and cultural experiences around the county to be enjoyed by tourists and residents alike throughout the Summer months.



Partnerships and Sector Support

The Tourism Team continued to strengthen strategic partnerships to support destination promotion and market development:

- **Joyce Country & Western Lakes Geopark:** Ongoing collaboration and funding support were provided to the Joyce Country & Western Lakes Geopark to advance tourism development, marketing and visitor experience initiatives aligned with UNESCO Global Geopark principles.
- **Galway Convention Bureau:** The Tourism Team worked closely with the Galway Convention Bureau and became a co-funder, supporting the growth of conference and business tourism and strengthening Galway's position as a competitive destination in this sector.



Collectively, these actions demonstrate a continued commitment to delivering integrated, sustainable and place-based tourism development across County Galway. Through strategic planning, targeted investment and strong partnerships, tourism initiatives are supporting economic resilience, community wellbeing and the long-term attractiveness of the county as a visitor destination:

- **Economic Growth and Job Creation:** By attracting more visitors and encouraging longer stays, we aim to stimulate local economic growth and create new employment opportunities within the tourism sector and related industries.
- **Enhanced Quality of Life for Residents:** The strategy is designed to improve the quality of life for residents by promoting sustainable tourism practices that benefit the local community and environment.
- **Positioning Galway County as a Leading Sustainable Tourism Destination:** Our goal is to establish Galway County as a premier destination for sustainable tourism, known for its unique attractions, cultural heritage, and commitment to environmental stewardship.

Championing Community Development

2025 was a milestone year for community, rural, cultural, and recreational development. Clarinbridge secured first place in the 300–1,000+ population category at the IPB Pride of Place Awards, demonstrating excellence in community development, sustainability, and partnership working. The Marconi Men's Shed in Clifden was also recognised for its innovative work supporting male carers in the Connemara area.



Expanding Sports and Recreation Participation

Mass Participation & Community Activation

- **National Bike Week & Play Days:** Engaged 6,722 attendees across 40 activities, directly addressing the *National Physical Activity Plan's* goal of increasing recreational cycling and walking.





David Gillick at Marathon Kids at Dunlo Athletic Track, Ballinasloe.

- **Marathon Kids (Dunlo Track):** High-visibility youth running initiative featuring Olympian David Gillick; designed to combat the "drop-off" in activity identified in the *CSPPA (Children's Sport Participation and Physical Activity) Study*.
- **Fitstick Trails:** Developed as a sustainable "social prescribing" resource, providing accessible, low-impact exercise pathways in rural communities to integrate physical activity into the natural environment.

Targeted Inclusion & Diversity Programmes

- **Women in Sport & HER Moves:** Targeted interventions for teenage girls to bridge the gender participation gap, specifically addressing the Sport Ireland Women in Sport Policy.
- **Inclusive Triathlon (Clarinbridge):** A flagship event removing physical barriers to competitive sport, fulfilling the mandate for Universal Design in Sport to ensure equitable access for all abilities.
- **Men on the Move:** An evidence-based programme focused on inactive men, providing a critical health-intervention pathway to combat social isolation and cardiovascular risk.
- **Active Islands Strategic Outreach:** Dedicated coordination to ensure geographic equity for offshore communities, with 2025 highlights including:
 - **Older Adult Exercise Classes:** Hybrid delivery (In-person & Zoom) in partnership with Siel Bleu and Healthy Galway on Inis Meáin and Inis Oírr.
 - **Island Couch to 5k:** An 8-week structured programme across Inishbofin, Inis Mór, Inis Meáin, and Inis Oírr, utilizing local assets like the Inis Meáin Parkrun.
 - **Club Iomramh Inis Meáin:** Establishment of a new rowing club, resulting in 56 registrations and a sustained summer rowing programme.



ESF+ Social Innovation: High-Impact Interventions

- **Club OSAAT (One Step At A Time):** A specialized recovery pathway for people in addiction treatment, using sport as a tool for neurorehabilitation and community reintegration.
- **Youth at Risk:** Targeted physical activity sessions (Laser tag, Paintballing, Go Karting) for vulnerable youth to provide pro-social alternatives to anti-social behaviour.

Strategic Infrastructure & Funding Oversight

- The Participation Nation Fund was successfully leveraged by targeting National Sports Policy priority groups - specifically those in high-deprivation and minority communities, effectively lowering socio-economic barriers to mainstream club membership throughout Galway.
- In 2025, the deployment of nine solar-powered Active Cities 'BoxUp' units across Galway successfully removed the "cost of equipment" barrier by providing free, app-based access to sports and leisure gear for up to three hours.
This network launch was anchored by a flagship installation at Tuam Palace Grounds in the County, complemented by a comprehensive City-wide rollout across eight strategic locations, including Doughiska, Ballybane (Castlepark Pitch), O'Sullivan Park, Renmore, South Park, McGraths Field, Salthill Park, and Westside Park.
- **Digital Reach:** Launch of the new GSP website, streamlining grant applications and improving transparency for the 1,000+ volunteers trained this year.

Enhancing Outdoor Recreation

Our objective for the 2025 funding cycle was to maximise investment in rural recreation projects across County Galway reflecting our ongoing commitment to expanding high quality rural recreation opportunities and enhancing the wellbeing of both residents and visitors.

Two projects were approved for funding by the Department under the Outdoor Recreation & Infrastructure Scheme : the extension of the walkways at Renville, submitted by Galway County Council on behalf of the Oranmore Maree Renville Committee; and surface repair works on the Hymany Way, on behalf of the Aughrim Development Company.

Throughout 2025, Galway County Council continued to support local communities in the development of outdoor recreation projects and significant progress was achieved on ongoing outdoor recreation projects. A total of nine projects were brought to completion. These works have made a substantive contribution to the enhancement of the county's recreational infrastructure, resulting in new amenities now fully available for public use.

A new public car park in Maam was completed; additional enhancements were also delivered at key outdoor amenities, including improvements to the trail network at Castlegrove Woods, Lúibín Leitir Mór and Lúibín Gharumna; and upgrades to facilities at Inverin and Kilmurvey beaches were also delivered.

ORIS grant funding was approved for an extension to Rinville Park Walkways and improvements along the Hymany Way trail and works will commence in 2026.



Public Car Park at Maam



Castlegrove Woods Trail



New beach lifeguard hut and signage at Indreabhán.

Leading Coordinated Emergency Response

Storm Éowyn triggered a countywide coordinated response led by the Senior Management Team and supported by all units. A total of 54 Emergency Response Hubs were operational at the peak, reducing to 36 as power was restored. The Community Response Forum coordinated daily with agencies including ESB, An Garda Síochána, HSE, An Post, DSP, Local Development Companies and voluntary partners to support vulnerable individuals with access to essential services, welfare checks, and emergency facilities.



Arts Office, Creative Ireland and Public Art Programme

Arts Office delivered an extensive programme in 2025 which included key projects:

Artists Supports	Funded 14 Artist Bursaries; Artist Residencies in Aras Eanna, Interface Inagh Valley and Studio Mór, Script Development Workshop, Music Development Workshops for bands. Supported Short Documentary Bursary 2025.
Youth Arts	Supported 4 Artists in Schools, Year 2 of Tiny Mutiny Showcase (Young Artists mentoring Programme), Branar

		tour of Clann Lir to 11 schools, Ballad of a Bandit by Miquel Barcelo toured 18 national schools, Tulca art project with Athenry, Gort and Carna Schools.
Community		Funded 69 Arts Grants, funded 7 projects in Tuam Community Growth fund, directly supported new arts festival Something in the Water.
Arts in Context		Arts Office commissioned an in-depth report and plan focusing on arts participation and disability provision in the county. Supported two Galway County artists to participate in Age & Opportunity's Artist Care Exchange (ACE) training programme.
	Culture Night <i>Lumina Clifden Culture Night Late</i> <i>photo credit: Marc Jennings</i>	Programmed over 50 events for Culture Night programme includes music, theatre, visual arts, poetry, zine-making, photography, drumming, crafts and storytelling for all ages.
Creative Ireland		Delivered over 70 events for Cruinniú na nÓg 2025; Supported 7 Culture Team projects, 9 flagship projects and 12 Open Call projects. Secured additional funding for Music in Nursing Home Tour.
Public Art		Installed 5 Artworks by Stephen Burke on the Old Bridge in Craughwell. Launched commission Stone Walls and The Grass is Green Per Cent for Art Commission, Claregalway.

Community Support Scheme (CSS)

The CSS allocations for 2025 saw an investment of €321,750, including €18,000 for Regional Festivals & Participative Events from Fáilte Ireland and extended supports to communities right across the county. This funding complements and supplements the other significant work programmes that the Council undertakes at local level, as well as investment through various other Departmental funding schemes. Categories of support included economic development, community and amenity development, tourism, arts, heritage and Irish language.

Age Friendly

2025 saw the adoption of the 2026-2031 Age Friendly Strategy for Galway City and County. There was significant consultation over the course of 2025 to bring the strategy to a completion point. The Galway County Older Persons Council (OPC) contributed through a number of consultative sessions. A number of contributions were made by OPC members to the strategy consultation such as Housing Grants being part of the strategy as not many people are aware of what grants are there to apply for. Moreover there was a view expressed that these grants are not solely available online as not all older people have access to online grants or are able to apply for them online. It was confirmed that there is an action in the Draft Strategy in relation to inclusivity and digital training.

Positive Ageing Week 2025 was a chance to shine a light on the positivity of older age. The aim of the initiative is to highlight all the great things older people bring to our lives and communities. Positive Ageing Week is celebrated locally in Galway through the local heroes Exhibition'. This exhibition highlights the inspiring stories of exceptional older individuals from Galway City and County who have graciously shared their personal experiences of ageing, showcasing their resilience and contributions to our community.



The Cathaoirleach of Galway County, David Collins and the Deputy Mayor of Galway City, Councillor Alan Cheevers launching Positive Ageing Week 2025.

Galway County Public Participation Network (PPN)

The Galway County PPN is a platform designed to enhance community engagement and participation in local governance, allowing residents and community groups to voice their concerns and influence decision-making. The PPN is the mechanism through which the Local Authority links and engages with the broader community sector and is the representative voice of the community and voluntary, social inclusion and environmental sectors.



The main role of the PPN is to form a network bringing together all community and voluntary groups, social inclusion groups, and environmental interest groups. Information is shared and people can work together on policy matters. There are over 1,600 members in Galway County PPN.

PPN Meetings, Training & Events

PPN Meetings:

Galway County PPN delivered two Plenary meetings in 2025. One in person in September in Athenry and the second in November online.

September Plenary – in person:

The Galway County Public Participation Network (PPN) held its Plenary Meeting at Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry bringing together member groups from across the county to network, share updates, and engage in meaningful dialogue on community development.



Marie Heneghan, Secretariat Committee member addressing the Plenary Meeting in the Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry in Sept 2025

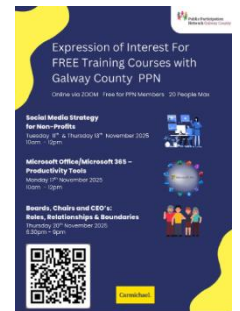
- Over 100 attendees visited 25 exhibitor tables, hosted primarily by Galway County Council and a range of local and national service providers. These tables offered information on funding programmes, community supports, and public services. The networking session created a vibrant space for members to connect, share ideas, and explore collaboration opportunities. A short survey was given to all in attendance for future PPN priorities.

November Plenary - online: Galway County PPN held their winter plenary meeting online on the 12th November.

There were approx 65 attendees. There were 6 speakers from Galway County Council, Galway Rural Development, Mark Lee from Campion Insurance and Martin Ward. A member of the PPN secretariat.



PPN Training: There were 7 training workshops delivered for all PPN members held throughout 2025. These included; Grant Applications, Understanding and Preparing Budgets, Sources of Funding, x2 Social Media Strategy for Non Profits workshops, Microsoft Office 365 Production Tools, Chairs and CEO's Roles, Relationships & Boundaries.



PPN Events: Our team attended many events / conferences throughout 2025; North Western PPN Conference in Portlaoise, Clarinbridge Health and Wellbeing Community Event, PPN National Conference at Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim, Oughterard Social Enterprise networking event, Portumna Health and Wellbeing Community Event, to name a few. A PPN Secretariat meeting is held roughly every 6 weeks to discuss the ongoing workplan and any relevant topics that requires discussion.



Newsletters: In 2025 the PPN published 33 Weekly Digests and 12 Monthly Newsletters.

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme:



Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is a targeted, holistic programme for individuals who are most disadvantaged and less likely to use mainstream services. SICAP is Ireland's primary social inclusion programme and is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development & the Gaeltacht through the European Social Fund and managed at local level by the Local Community Development Committee with support from Galway County Council.

Under the programme, the Programme Implementers provides support directly to individuals based on their identified needs, with a view to promoting personal development and progressing to longer-term outcomes such as employment and education. The programme also focuses on collective community needs and the LCDC has identified 'People living in communities impacted by Disadvantage' as a priority target group, and the Programme Implementers will use a flexible community development approach to design and deliver the most appropriate types of interventions, projects, and initiatives to tackle poverty, high unemployment rates, and other issues associated with the most disadvantaged small areas and communities in the County. SICAP aims to reduce poverty and promote social inclusion and equality through local engagement and interagency collaboration with local, regional, and national services.

Since 2024 and under the new SICAP 5-year period 2024-2028, the number of Lots in Galway County is 3 as follows:

- Galway East: Municipal Districts of Athenry-Oranmore, Ballinasloe, Loughrea & Tuam
- Galway West: Municipal District of Conamara excluding Galway Islands
- Galway Islands: Galway Islands (Inis Mór, Inis Meáin, Inis Oírr, Inishbofin)

The contracts are a combined budget for SICAP in County Galway of almost €1.8m per year across the lifetime of the programme and was implemented across 3 Lots; Galway East and Galway Islands by Galway Rural Development CLG, and Galway West by Forum Connemara CLG in 2024. A new contract was signed for delivery of the Social Inclusion &

Community Activation Programme (SICAP) for the Galway Islands in December 2024. Contracts for the delivery of the programme were signed by the Programme Implementor, Comhar na nOileán, along with Galway County LCDC (Local Community Development Committee) and Galway County Council and came into effective on 1st January 2025.



Attending the signing of SICAP Galway Islands Contract on 16th December 2024 at Galway County Council Chamber were (l-r) Cllr Michael Connolly, Marian Uí Chonghaile, Financial Officer, Comhar na nOileán CTR, Liam Conneally, Chief Executive, Galway County Council, Máire Uí Mhaoláin CEO, Comhar na nOileán CTR and Kieran Coyne, Chief Officer LCDC, Galway County Council.

The Local Enhancement Programme – LEP 2025

Galway County Council, on behalf of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), invited applications for funding from not-for-profit community or voluntary groups within the Galway County administrative area under the Local Enhancement Programme 2025. The Local Enhancement Programme is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht and administered by the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) in each local authority area and Galway County LCDC received an allocation of € 213,600.

The purpose of this Community Support Fund was to support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, with: Capital General Allocation of €183,086 and a Current (running costs) Funding Allocation of €30,514.

- Capital Funding (€183,086) was assigned to support groups to carry out necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities, and to purchase equipment for community use.
- Current Funding (€30,515) was assigned to support small grassroots groups such as Men's/Women's Sheds with their non-pay running costs, e.g. insurance, electricity, heating, etc.

The LCDC set a maximum grant of €5,000 and priority was given to projects which would enhance disadvantaged areas or assist disadvantaged groups. The types of groups which received funding under this stream were Community Centres and other services targeting disadvantaged groups, and funding was allocated towards upgrade of community facilities, accessibility and safety improvements to community amenities, and community safety initiatives.

Galway County LCDC recognises that these capital grants are essential for the many small grassroots community groups and organisations active throughout the County, particularly those who serve disadvantaged communities in rural and urban areas, or address disadvantage in other ways. The LEP fund also aims to support local strategic priorities through linkages with the Local Economic Community Plans (LECPs). Aware that social isolation & loneliness is prevalent across the County, the LCDC has focused on supporting the development of social and community facilities and services which provide safe, warm meeting spaces, and promote active inclusion for all (Objective SCO 2.1 of LECP).

The number of applications received for current funding was 146 applications and 189 applications were received for capital funding. There were 111 successful applications under the General Fund Allocation receiving €183,086 and 51 successful applicants under the Current Fund Allocation receiving €30,514.

In the General Fund €183,086 – there were two categories - grants under €1,000 and grants over €1,000. In accordance with Departmental recommendations, approximately 30% of the funds were allocated towards small grants under €1,000. This is to ensure that small grassroots groups with limited funding can access the equipment they need to support their community. 60 grants under €1,000 were given out, totalling €44,770. Priority was given to support smaller community groups with limited resources which are active at grassroots level to purchase equipment for community use or carry out small scale capital repairs/projects Examples: equipment for Men's

Sheds, Older People's Groups, Youth Groups, Community Groups in Disadvantaged Areas. 51 grants totaling €138,316 were given out over €1,000.

Successful applications demonstrated the priorities agreed by the LCDC and met the following criteria;

- to provide equipment for general community use
- to provide to improve access for persons with a disability / older people
- to enhance participation in community activities for disadvantaged and marginalised groups and areas
- to improve energy efficiency of these community facilities to reduce ongoing costs through energy efficiency works or repairs/improvements

 <p><i>Ballymacward Hall– Painting</i></p>	 <p><i>Leitrim Ballydugan Community Centre & Field – replaced windows</i></p>
 <p><i>Coiste Pobail Ros a Mhil - Supply & fit kitchen units</i></p>	 <p><i>Abbeyknockmoy Parish Society CLG</i></p>
 <p><i>Improvements to Ballinasloe Town Hall Theatre – new doors into the foyer</i></p>	 <p><i>Oranmore Community First Responders – defibrillator installed outside Oranmore Garda Station</i></p>

Empowering Communities Programme 2025



The **Empowering Communities Programme (ECP)** is a national €2m pilot programme which targets 14 small areas with the highest socio-economic deprivation (as measured by the Pobal HP Deprivation Index). The programme uses community development principles to address social exclusion and deprivation. Through engagement with the target communities, developing relationships with community stakeholders and groups, collaborating with statutory agencies and other structures along with the use of a bottom-up approach communities are empowered to craft tailored and sustainable responses to identified challenges. In particular, the ECP works closely with other government-funded initiatives such as Community Safety Partnerships, Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme, Youth Justice, Community Garda, Galway County Council and Healthy Ireland, etc.

The area covered by the Ballinasloe, County Galway ECP is the Urban Small Area comprising of six estates: Saint Grellan's Terrace, Saint Anne's Park, Saint Theresa's Park (the initial three estates), as well as Curragh Park, Hymany Park and Dunlo Court (now also being targeted). The programme is administered by Galway Rural Development CLG (GRD).

In 2025 the project was staffed by a project team leader and one part-time Community Engagement Worker. The budget allocation is based on the level of population in each small area and Ballinasloe Urban receives an annual allocation of €140,000. In July 2025, a revised Letter of Undertaking setting out the funding arrangements between the Department, Galway County Council/LCDC and Galway Rural Development Company covering the period 09 August 2025 to 31 December 2025 was issued. The Department took the decision to have LOUs for the Empowering Communities Programme run on a calendar year basis. An additional funding of €55,616 was made available to reflect the revised LOU to cover the period 09 August 2025 to 31 December 2025. Furthermore, in July 2025, additional funding was made available as a one-off measure to support specific project proposals that could support the current ECPP areas. It was a competitive process with a maximum allocation of €30,000 to the successful ECPPs. A brief was prepared outlining the project proposal and €5,735 was granted.

Some of the projects undertaken during the year 2025 include:

- Delivering training and support to both the residents in the Empowering Communities area so that they are empowered to engage with and hold meetings with statutory stakeholders such as Galway County Council, Garda, Local elected representatives, Tusla & Social services in a structured and meaningful way in which they can get their opinions and needs heard without conflict occurring and relationships breaking down which was happening previously.
- Advocating on behalf of the community in the target areas to help raise awareness of the ongoing issues they are encountering. With a specific focus on anti-social behaviour and estate management issues.
- Courses such as Jewelry Making /AED training/Flower arranging and crafting courses/DIY
- Back to school supports for families in need in collaboration with Ballinasloe Family Resource Centre
- Environmental awareness training in conjunction with the SICAP Climate Action Officer.
- Supported events such as summer activity outings for young people, community clean ups, events focused for senior citizens, residents on their annual pilgrimage to Knock, 50th Anniversary mass celebrations and halloween youth engagement & activities.



Window box preparation for residents of St. Annes, St. Teresas & St. Grellans



Flower arranging course for residents of St. Annes, St. Teresas, St. Grellans, Hymany & Curragh Park



Advanced DIY course for residents of St. Annes, St. Teresas & St. Grellans, Hymany & Curragh Park



Community event on St. Grellans green in collaboration with Galway Sports Partnership & Involve Youth Service

The project has connected and engaged with every household in the target estates on numerous occasions in 2025 through door-to-door engagement, surveys and provision of information. Additionally, there is increased awareness

of the ECP by stake holders, supports and organisations throughout the municipal district of Ballinasloe as the project has targeted increasing awareness of the programme in Ballinasloe and promoting services and supports available in the Ballinasloe area to the residents of the target estates.

The positive impact and benefit to the target area have been significant. Feedback from residents, Galway County Council, the Ballinasloe FRC and both the St Theresa's, St Anne's and St Grellan's combined estates and Hymany & Curragh Park Residents Associations highlighted the positive impact the project has made.

Healthy Galway



Healthy County Galway continues to advance the aims of the national Healthy Ireland Framework throughout 2025 by delivering a range of health and wellbeing initiatives across the county. The programme remains focused on improving health, reducing inequalities, and strengthening supports for community initiatives.

A central priority is to increase weekly social and leisure participation among adults aged 50+, in line with the 2022–2025 programme objective. Delivery of the programme is supported through collaboration between statutory agencies, community organisations, and the voluntary sector, ensuring a coordinated and evidence informed approach. Galway Council receives an annual Healthy Ireland allocation of €75,000 and this funding is overseen by the Galway County Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the Healthy Galway Subcommittee, which guides programme governance, spending, and implementation of funded actions.

Throughout 2025, notable developments took place across the programme's key priority areas. The **Dementia Café Network** continued to grow its footprint in Connemara, with cafés in Roundstone, Letterfrack, Oughterard, Carraroe, and Clifden offering regular opportunities for meaningful social connection, access to information, and peer support for people living with dementia and their carers. These cafés provided structured activities, facilitated conversations, and signposting to local supports, helping to reduce isolation and normalise community-based dementia engagement. Beginning in 2025, the programme was further strengthened through the introduction of funded activity packs, facilitator-led sessions, and music and arts engagement. These additions enhanced social interaction within the cafés and supported increased participation from carers, creating a more inclusive and engaging environment for all involved.



The **Women's Health Program** was initiated in 2025 with the rollout of a comprehensive schedule of community expert based talks, as part of a hybrid framework which was delivered across multiple venues, and aimed to improve awareness through education, menopause supports, mental health services, and healthy lifestyle practices. The programme aspired not only to inform but also to empower women by providing accessible health education and reducing stigma surrounding menopause, sexual health, and mental wellbeing.

These initiatives enabled women, particularly those in rural and island communities, to access reliable, culturally sensitive information locally, reducing barriers to participation and supporting key Healthy Ireland priorities. Engagement was strong with presence across all sessions, supported by strong partnerships with Forum Connemara, Comhair na nOileain, HSE, Solas FRCs and Galway Sports Partnership.

The **Taking Stock Farmers Health Programme** was also developed in 2025 in partnership with Healthy Ireland HSE and HI coordinators for Roscommon and Mayo. Site health checks and cardiovascular screening at marts and rural venues, providing farmers with accessible site health checks and cardiovascular screening at marts and rural venues, providing farmers with accessible early intervention opportunities site health checks and cardiovascular screening at marts and rural venues, providing farmers with accessible early intervention opportunities to adopt new lifestyle habits and behaviours management supports. It also acknowledged the unique pressures facing rural men, including

long working hours, isolation, and limited access to management supports. It also acknowledged the unique pressures facing rural men, including long working hours, isolation, and limited access to services. The initiative began with a series of radio broadcasts that provided farmers with practical, accessible information on health and wellbeing. This was supported by newspaper articles and locally distributed flyers to reinforce the messages. The programme focused on key themes such as cardiovascular health, mental health, and stress management supports. Healthy County Galway also invested in improving local environments that support healthier living. Schools and clubs benefitted from the Playground Stencils Programme, enabling them to create active play spaces at minimal cost. In partnership with GSP and HSE suicide awareness the remaining Health and Wellbeing Boards from the 2024 program were distributed to community locations to enhance access to trusted mental health information and signposting.

Community Gardens also continued to be supported to help local groups develop shared garden spaces that encourage social inclusion, support biodiversity, and promote positive mental and physical wellbeing. Additional targeted programmes enriched the overall landscape of activity in 2025. The Mending Hearts arts initiative, delivered under the Creative Ireland/Healthy Ireland collaborative fund, brought creative rehabilitation in the form of art workshops to hospital and community settings and an exhibit to showcase this work in Ballinasloe library for those recovering from heart disease or stroke.

Health and Wellbeing events continued to be implemented in 2025 including **Men's Health Week**, and other multi-agency collaborations in support of ongoing community engagement, health promotion, and awareness-raising across Galway County.



Although the rollout of Social Digital Hubs was delayed in 2025, implementation will proceed in 2026 which will be led out by local libraries in partnership with Age Friendly Galway and Healthy County Galway. These hubs will provide digital skills training for adults aged 50+, supporting the Healthy Galway objective of increasing social participation and improving digital literacy among older people. -led projects under the Healthy Galway programme, enabling groups across the county to strengthen social engagement, develop new skills, and support positive physical and mental health outcomes.



A key communication and engagement tool in 2025 was the *Healthy County Galway Newsletter*, which provided regular updates on health promotion activities, programme developments, and community initiatives supported under the Healthy County Galway programme and among partnering agencies. The newsletter was distributed across community organisations, libraries, HSE partners, voluntary groups, and local stakeholders, ensuring consistent access to clear and accessible information on emerging health initiatives, event schedules, and local opportunities for participation. The newsletter features update programmes led out by Healthy County Galway in addition to Galway Sports Partnership activities, community programs as well as information on funding allocations and collaborative work with statutory and voluntary partners.

Rural Schemes

In 2025, the Rural Team's work centred on tackling vacancy and dereliction, progressing street enhancement and village renewal projects, and delivering upgrades to key community facilities and amenities, all with the aim of fostering resilient and sustainable rural communities. 2025 also saw the establishment of the Capital Delivery Team to support roll-out of capital schemes alongside the rural, recreational development and administrative teams.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS)

In 2025, over 729k was invested under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme across six projects.

In the Gort Architectural Conservation Area (ACA), seventy-two town centre properties received just under €200,000 in grant aid through the Gort Streetscape Painting and Shopfront Repair Scheme, funded under TVRS. Galway County Council worked closely with the Gort Town Team to deliver this initiative, which is an action of the Gort Town Centre

First Plan. The positive impact of the scheme on local residents and businesses was widely recognised, with the Council's pre-Christmas video showcasing the town's renewed vibrancy becoming the most-viewed post on our social media channels.



Images: Galway County Council. Sample of Painting Schemes Completions Market Square.

The 100-year-old Dunmore Town Hall underwent a significant €250,000 renovation, including the replacement of its roof, upgrades to the internal hall and youth spaces, and the installation of an accessible entrance pathway further to consultation with older residents. Similarly, Maree Community Centre secured its position as a vital community asset through the completion of a much-needed €250,000 roof replacement. Both projects were funded under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, with each community contributing a minimum of 5–10% in local match funding. Community groups successfully navigated complex support from Galway County Council.



L to R Ronan Mannion, Capital Delivery Team, Galway County Council, Marie Howley Chair Dunmore Community Council, Eimear Dolan, Town and Village Co-ordinator, Rural Team Galway County Council, Peter Nicklin, Treasurer Dunmore Community Council. November 2025



In 2025, the 2024 Town Centre First – Project Development Measure came to fruition resulting in community consultations, technical and environmental reports which led to planning permissions for three community amenities and facilities as follows;

- Planning Permission was secured for a new park & Playground in Eyrecourt on Community lands;
- Planning Permission was secured for renovation of An Fhairce-Clonbur Ionad Pobail in this UNESCO Geo-Park designated community;
- Planning Permission was secured for new build Community Centre in Ahascragh, on the site of derelict Hall, a property which persisted on the County Council Derelict Sites Register for decades. The building is now demolished, and a new era awaits!

A Further €1.67M Allocation Achieved in 2025 for Village Renewal

Galway County Council secured the largest TVRS allocation in the country in December 2025, totalling €1.67 million across seven projects. The Council will be working with community and voluntary, business, local development and state partners on implementation in 2026-2027.

Key Funded Projects

- Corofin – Community Park Enhancements
Investment to advance improvements to local recreational amenities.
- Athenry – Renovation of Canton Hall
Funding to develop detailed plans for renovation of the semi-vacant Canton Hall, an action in the Athenry Town Team – Plan.
- Leitir Móir – Páirc Spraoi Upgrades
Funding of up to €300,000 for play and recreational facility improvements.

- Clonbur (An Fhairce) – Ionad Pobal Renovation
€300,000 secured to modernise this key community facility in the UNESCO Geo-Park area
- Portumna – Town Hall Redevelopment
€500,000 awarded for the refurbishment of Portumna Town Hall, contributing to an emerging campus of community and public facilities alongside the recently renovated Courthouse.

Streetscape Enhancement Funding

Killimor and Ahascragh – Over €400,000 Secured to deliver two Streetscape Enhancement Schemes aimed at improving the visual and economic vibrancy of both villages.

CLÁR (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais)

CLÁR is a targeted capital investment programme for small-scale capital projects for designated rural areas that have faced long-term population decline, socio-economic disadvantage and geographic isolation.

Measure 1 support for Community Amenities and Facilities is administered by Galway County Council, while Measure 2 Supports for Transport for Cancer Care and other Services and Measure 3 Our Living Islands is administered by the Department of Community Rural Development & the Gaeltacht.

CLÁR Investment Delivered in 2025

In October 2024, the Department sanctioned a total of €724,755 under Measure 1 CLÁR 2025 in funding to support 15 projects in Co. Galway. These projects were significantly progressed in 2025, with the exception of one project, which was damaged by Storm Eyown which will cost more to address than the CLÁR allocation could support. Projects completed in 2025 under the 2024 programme, include Kilconly Recreation Facility, upgrades to Esker Community Centre and Dunmore River Walk, Williamstown Walkway, Moylough Playground Upgrades. The deadline for completion of remaining projects is May 2026.

- **Kilconly Community Recreation Group** successfully expanded its local recreational amenities through the addition of a new tennis court and basketball court, representing a total investment of €57,885. (50k grant) This development further enhances the existing cluster of community facilities in Kilconly. The strategic colocation of amenities—now including tennis courts, basketball courts, soccer and GAA pitches, a playground, and an adult outdoor exercise area—demonstrates the effectiveness of co-ordinated planning in maximising the impact of CLÁR-supported projects.
- **The Dunmore Riverwalk** has enhanced the town centre environment, providing a well-lit recreational amenity that complements the nearby rugby and soccer club grounds. Delivered jointly by Galway County Council's Tuam Regional Office and Dunmore Tidy Towns, the project represents an investment of approximately €50,000. The Riverwalk is now a well-used and appreciated community asset.
- **Esker Community Centre**, a historic building dating back to 1857, has been revitalised through an investment of €53,974.92. (48k grant) The works have ensured the building is now warm, dry, and secure, giving it a renewed lease of life as a modern community facility. The upgraded centre now accommodates a wide range of activities, including chair yoga, men's and general pilates classes, group water scheme meetings, and drama and historical presentations.
- The CLÁR-funded development of the **Williamstown Community Park Walkway and Sensory Garden** has significantly enhanced the existing recreational amenities, complementing the adjacent GAA pitch and playground. The new walkway is fully accessible, designed to accommodate wheelchair users and prams, and is now well utilised by the community. The total project investment amounted to €60,928.54.



L to R: Kilconly Recreation Group James Greaney, Majella Moylan Clár Galway County Council, Sean Dunleavy, and Gabriel McHugh, November 2025.

Further CLÁR Investment Secured in 2025

The Department increased the maximum level of grant aid available under the CLÁR Programme, raising the standard project cap from €50,000 to €65,000 and allowing up to two projects to receive funding of €100,000. The required match-funding rate remained at 10%.

A total of 53 expressions of interest were submitted in 2025, from which 16 projects were shortlisted. Following assessment, 10 projects were approved by the Department of Community, Rural Development and the Gaeltacht under the CLÁR 2025 Measure 1 Scheme, with a combined funding allocation of €634,922 for new playgrounds, amenity walkways and much more to be rolled out over 2026-2027.

Integration

We completed our first full year of Integration Activities in the County in 2025. We supported over 400 international Protection Applicants across 8 accommodation centres; over 1,000 Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection in 33 accommodation centres and in the community, and Persons with Status. We delivered information clinics addressing education and training needs, requests for information on legal support and how to access the labour market.

The Community Integration Forum met monthly to look at integration challenges and opportunities across a network of service providers.

We rolled out successful integration events across the County, including some of the following:

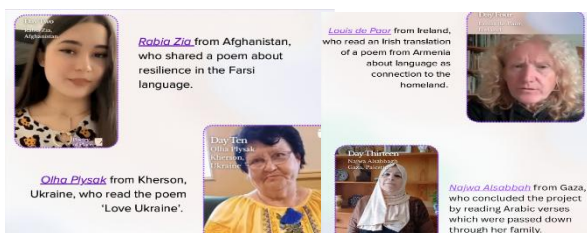


St. Patrick's Day Parade in An Cheathrú Rua:

Families from the IPA centre in An Cheathrú Rua worked with the Integration Team to create artwork for the parade which they joined.

Africa Day 2025 in Tuam:

Our first large County event held in the Palace Grounds was a huge success, with many people joining in their traditional dress.



World Refugee Week:

We ran a week of poetry readings on dedicated instagram page, 'Poetry of Place', to celebrate World Refugee Week. A variety of languages were included, with poems from all over the world. The readers all had connections to Galway. Here are some profiles of people who read a poem:

Local Community Safety Partnership

A new statutory body focused on improving community safety in County Galway held its first meeting at Áras an Chontae today, marking the formal end of the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) model.

The Galway County Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) has been set up under the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024 as part of a national shift towards wider and more inclusive planning. Its members include up to 30 people from Galway County Council, An Garda Síochána, the HSE, Tusla and local organisations representing youth, social inclusion, education, business and community groups.

Over the next three years the Partnership will draw up a safety plan for the county, coordinate new initiatives, engage with residents and feed into the work of the National Office for Community Safety. The National Office will offer training and support and will oversee the Community Safety Fund, which uses proceeds of crime to back local projects.

During the first meeting, Cllr Andrew Reddington was elected Chair for a three-year term, and Aodán McDonogh was chosen as Vice Chair. Cllr Reddington commented, "Each area of County Galway has its own specific safety and community issues that no single organisation can solve alone. Real progress depends on various agencies working together, from policing to local government and health services, as well as community groups. We aim to unite these perspectives so local people can help guide how safety improves in County Galway." Vice Chairperson Aodán McDonogh emphasised that the Partnership strongly prioritises collaboration and places local voices at the heart of decision-making.

Membership from the community and voluntary sector was confirmed through a nomination process led by the Chief Executive of Galway County Council. This was reviewed by the National Office and approved by Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration Jim O'Callaghan TD. Welcoming members to the first meeting of the LCSP, Chief Executive Liam Conneally said the Partnership replaces the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) model and represents a new approach to local community safety.

"The LCSP brings all the key agencies together to look at the safety issues affecting our communities and to agree practical actions to address them," he said. "It gives local people a stronger voice in identifying priorities and helps ensure that services work in a more joined-up way. Galway County Council looks forward to working with other agencies in developing and overseeing a new Community Safety Plan for the county, focused on crime prevention, collaboration and improving quality of life for everyone who lives here."

The Partnership will meet at least six times a year. One of the meetings will be open to the public, while another will be for elected representatives from the Oireachtas and Galway County Council.

It will also collaborate with neighbouring partnerships and existing local structures, including the Local Community Development Committee, Galway County Public Participation Network, and youth groups such as Comhairle na nÓg and the Children and Young People's Services Committee. The LCSP will not address individual criminal investigations, State security matters, or confidential Garda operations.



Members of the newly established Galway County Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) pictured at their inaugural meeting in Áras an Chontae.

The second meeting of the newly established Galway County Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) took place at Áras an Chontae, as work continues on a new approach to community safety across the county.

Members were briefed on the draft Galway County Council Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2025-2030, which sets out a more proactive approach to preventing and managing anti-social behaviour in Council properties and estates. The strategy is expected to be presented at a plenary meeting of Galway County Council in the coming months.

The meeting included an outline of the structure and roles of the LCSP subgroups, which cover youth engagement, education and drug prevention and substance misuse support.

A working group has also been formed to prepare Galway County's statutory Local Community Safety Plan, a three-year strategy that will address safety concerns beyond policing, including anti-social behaviour, environmental issues and community wellbeing. As part of the plan's development, the public is being encouraged to complete the

National Office of Community Safety questionnaire, available on the Galway County Council website at galway.ie. Responses will inform both the national Community Safety Plan and Galway County's own plan.

LCSP Chair Cllr Andrew Reddington thanked members and agencies for their continued involvement. LCSP Coordinator Marie Nicholson said the creation of the subgroups was a significant step.

Over the next three years the Partnership will draw up a safety plan for the county, coordinate new initiatives, engage with residents and contribute to the work of the National Office for Community Safety. The National Office will provide training and support and will oversee the Community Safety Fund, which uses proceeds of crime to support local projects.

Directorate: Physical Infrastructure, Fire & Emergency Services, Climate Change

Strengthening Transport and Water Infrastructure

Significant progress continued on other transport and infrastructure priorities, including the Connemara Greenway (supported by €3.5 million in national active travel funding), major road schemes, rural water enhancements totalling €6.8 million across 70 projects, and public consultation on the updated Galway City Ring Road proposals.

Rural Water

The Rural Water Section continues to work with group water schemes to address water quality issues and ensure clean drinking water, that meets the standard of the European Union Drinking Water Regulations. Rural Water is undertaking significant works in a number of schemes through the Multi Annual Rural Water Programme and in 2025 successfully brought five group water schemes at Knockdoe GWS, Anbally & Corrandrum GWS, Cahermorris Glenrevagh GWS, Kiniska GWS, Errisbeg GWS to the standard required to successfully allow the schemes to be taken in charge by Uisce Eireann.

Kinvara Community Transport Study (CTS)

This is the first CTS to be developed nationally and aligns with the broader Galway County Transport and Planning Study (GCTPS) and the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. This Community Transport Study (CTS) is a non-statutory document which seeks to identify the main transportation issues in Kinvara and to provide suggestions for active travel measures which could overcome some of the transportation challenges for the community. This study provides an indicative list of suggestions that can be taken forward for further assessment, planning and delivery.



Athenry Northern Relief Road



The Athenry Northern Relief Road – Western Section, when complete will comprise of approximately 940m of 10.5m wide carriageway, a roundabout, paths, cycleway, surface water drainage, ponds, street lighting, traffic calming islands, hedging, signage, line marking and associated accommodation works. The works take place on a green field site, while connecting to the existing road network at Ballygarraun South, at the existing roundabout (at Presentation College Athenry) and at the junction of the L3103 and Athenry Northern Relief Road – Centre

Section at Ballygarraun South. Tower Civil were awarded the contract in Q2 of 2025 with works commencing on-site in Q3 of 2025. The project is currently programmed to be completed by Q3 of 2026.

Storm Eowyn

One of the most powerful storms in Irish history, Storm Éowyn, struck on 24 January 2025, causing significant destruction across Ireland. It brought record-breaking wind gusts of 184 km/h, 10.4m wave heights, left hundreds of thousands of people without power, water, telecommunications and transport services to varying degrees for days on end. These impacts were most acute in Galway. The total cost arising from storm Eowyn to Galway County Council was €2.1m, of which €1.7m was associated with the roads clean up. Eight Crisis Management Team meetings were held to manage the incident and coordinate the clean-up. Damage occurred across all of the county, with all MD crews mobilised as part of the clean-up.



Inis Oírr Pier Redevelopment Project

The contract to undertake the works involved in the Inis Orr Pier Redevelopment Project was awarded in August 2025, representing a major milestone in the lifecycle of a much anticipated and long-awaited development. This followed approval of the Final Business Case by the approving and funding authority, the Department of Rural and Community Development and The Gaeltacht – total amount approved €35.75M.

The proposed works comprise the construction of a protective breakwater along with a 90m long extension. This will provide much improved protection to vessels in the harbour than is currently afforded while also resulting in a total length of 135m of additional berthage. Work on the project commenced in the latter part of 2025 focussing on the detailed design and the building and testing of the physical model. Works on the ground will take place in the summer seasons (April to October) 2026 and 2027, with completion projected before the end of 2027.



Major Emergency Management (MEM)

The Major Emergency Development Committee (MEDC) which was established by the Council as part of New National Framework for Major Emergency Management (MEM) continued its work in 2025. The GCC Major Emergency Plan outlines the procedures and structures in place for managing major emergencies within the county. It details the roles and responsibilities of the key personnel, activation protocols, coordination mechanisms and integration of various agencies during emergency situations.



The Major Emergency Development Committee (MEDC) held several meetings in 2025 focusing on advancing Galway County's preparedness and response capabilities. Key developments included continued work on backup power arrangements at the Local Coordination Centre (LCC).

Galway County Council was proactive and coordinated responses to a number of severe weather events, including Storm Eowyn. Utilising the Severe Weather Event Management System (SWEMS), Galway County Council effectively recorded incidents such as blocked roads, flooding and communicated to the public and other response agencies such as the Gardai and HSE Ambulance Service.

Galway County Council led Local Coordination in the aftermath of Storm Eowyn, working with the other Principal Response Agencies, the ESB and Uisce Eireann to manage an effective and coordinated response to the aftermath of the storm, in extremely challenging conditions.

The SWEMS system functionality was further expanded and integrated with live feeds from other agencies including ESB Networks and Uisce Eireann. A detailed debrief on Storm Eowyn further highlighted the importance of Power and Communication resilience, as well as data capture during severe weather events. A national Storm exercise, led by Galway County Council, was conducted at the National Emergency Coordination Centre in May 2025.

Training remained a priority, with Regional Major Emergency Management training conducted with staff and outside stakeholders. Multiple exercises were also conducted in collaboration with all Principal Response Agencies, such as the Circle K External Emergency Plan (reviewed and exercised in 2025), as well as airport-based Island Response simulations. Progress was made on emergency planning for high-risk facilities. Progress was also made in the area of back-up Power for critical Emergency Services infrastructure within the County. The MEDC committee also began reviewing back up communications options for Tetra and the Global System for Mobile communications Networks, with the installation of Satellite back up comms for the offshore islands. Galway's leadership in digital emergency systems and collaborative approaches was acknowledged regionally and nationally, with increased alignment between City and County emergency planning and operations evolving continuously. Additionally, the Electronic Information Management System developed by Galway County Council was adopted nationally and is being rolled out to all other Local Authorities in Ireland.

Health & Safety Management

In 2025, the Health and Safety Department of Galway County Council continued to support and strengthen a positive culture of safety, compliance and wellbeing across all service areas. Throughout the year, the department progressed a broad programme of initiatives including site inspections, safety audits, staff engagement and targeted health and safety training which was tailored to operational needs and risk areas.

A key focus during the year was the continued implementation and improvement of the Council's Safety Management System, with further development of procedures and activity risk assessments. The Corporate Safety Statement and Health and Safety Policy were also reviewed and updated to reflect current legislation, organisational changes and operational practices.

The Council continued its ongoing alignment with ISO45001, the international standard for Occupational Health and Safety Management systems. This reflected Galway County Council's commitment to continual improvement, legal compliance, and the promotion of safe systems of work throughout all departments and service areas.

Collaborative engagement with departments including Roads, Housing and Environment and Fire Service continued to support high-risk operational areas, with particular emphasis on risk control, contractor management, monitoring and continuous improvement.

Staff awareness remained an important focus throughout the year, supported by initiatives and communications covering areas such as pre-work checks, traffic management planning, workplace safety and safe working practices in proximity to underground services.

Reporting trends in 2025 reflected a small increase in reportable incidents compared to the previous year, influenced by a significant isolated event. This reinforces the council's continued focus on strengthening risk management, incident prevention and reporting practices across all service areas, while also reinforcing the need to encourage proactive reporting of hazards and near misses.



**SAFETY
STATEMENT**

HEALTH & SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Galway County Council
May 2024

Directorate: Human Resources, City and County Libraries and Environment

Human Resources

Workforce Management/Recruitment

The Human Resources Department is responsible for managing the Council's workforce by facilitating the assignment of staff throughout the organisation. The primary objective is to enable the most effective and efficient service delivery with the available staff resources. The Human Resources Department runs recruitment competitions to fill vacant positions and new posts and to ensure that the organisation has the right people with the right skills to meet service delivery needs. Human resources staff work closely with managers across the Council to identify staffing resource needs and staff training and development needs.

The Human Resources Department promotes equality and diversity in the workplace and ensures that the Council's recruitment processes are fair, transparent, and compliant with relevant legislation. The Human Resources Department is responsible for developing and implementing a workforce plan to meet the Council's current and future service delivery needs. The Human Resources Department plays a critical role in ensuring that Galway County Council has the right people in the right roles to deliver high-quality services to the community.

Galway County Council's Staff Headcount at the end of Quarter 4, 2025 is as follows:

Category	Headcount
Core Staff	868
Retained Fire Fighters	121
Non DHLGH	67

The Human Resources Department ran 51 recruitment competitions up to the end of Quarter 4, 2025. Galway County Council continues to experience high staff turnover due to the strong employee market and high demand for skilled workers. During 2025, 237 new or vacant posts were filled by the Human Resources department *includes 55 Beach Lifeguards. 71 posts were vacated and 24 staff members retired.

Galway County Council continues to facilitate Community Employment Scheme Placements and work experience placements from Third Level Institutions.

Pensions

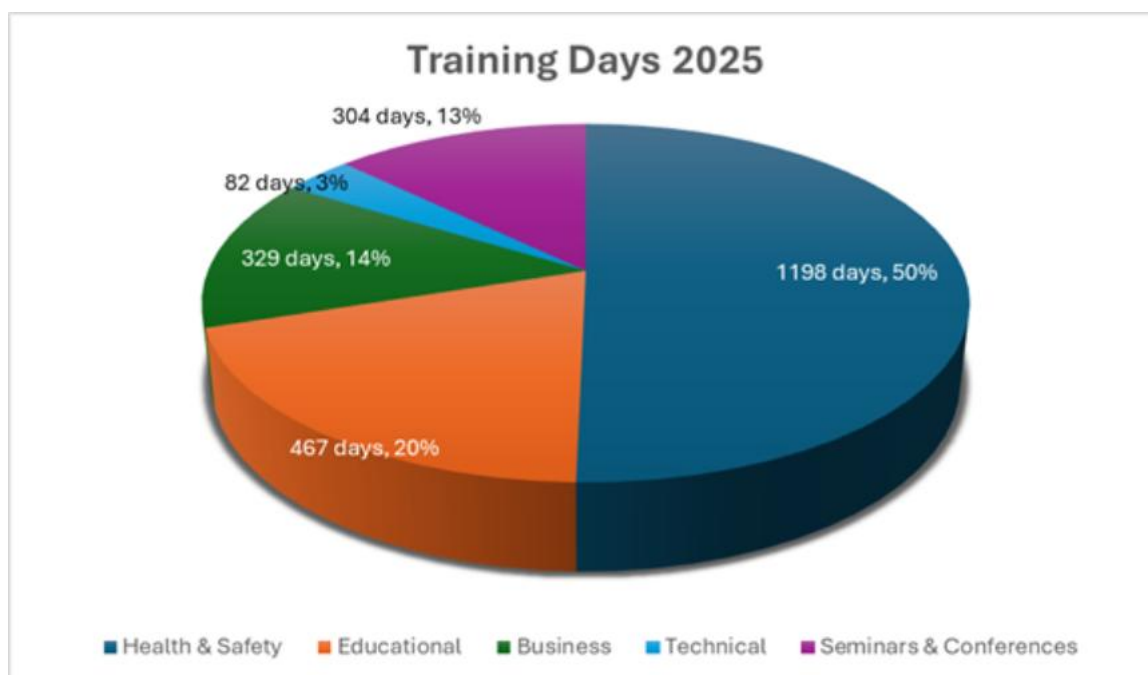
In 2025, 24 employees retired from the service of Galway County Council. Galway County Council Management and staff would like to take the opportunity to thank all of the retirees for their dedicated service to Galway County Council.

Staff Training & Development

The main focus of the Human Resources training department is the delivery of Statutory and Health & Safety Training. National Training Grants in the areas of Environmental and Non-National Roads support the Council in the provision of this training.

The Council continued to support staff in further education, professional development, IPA Local Government Programmes, and attendance at relevant seminars and conferences.

The total number of Training Days in 2025 was 2380 as set out hereunder:



Staff Welfare

Galway County Council provides a range of work/life balance and family-friendly schemes for staff in recognising the importance of work-life balance for staff well-being.

Schemes that are provided include: Shorter Working Year Scheme, Maternity Leave, Parental Leave Scheme, Paternity Leave, New Parent Leave, Work Sharing, Carer's Leave, Medical Care Purposes, Force Majeure Leave and Bereavement Leave. The HR department also administers the Travel Pass scheme and the Cycle to Work Scheme.

The Human Resources Department continues to implement the standardised provisions of the Public Service Management (Sick Leave) Regulations 2014 and facilitates the provision of an independent Employee Assistance Service (EAS). The EAS is a free, confidential, and independent counselling service and provides support in relation to family issues, work-related issues, addiction, bereavement, and financial matters.

City & County Libraries

Galway Public Libraries delivered a strong and wide-ranging programme of literacy, cultural engagement, digital inclusion and community development throughout 2025. Across the network, branches continued to demonstrate their vital role as welcoming community hubs, offering early years' literacy support, wellbeing programming, heritage engagement, and opportunities for social connection. The service further deepened its collaboration with local, national and international partners, expanded the scale and diversity of its programmes, and received national recognition for innovation and sustainability work.

Overall usage during 2025 was exceptionally robust, reflecting both the continued strength of in-person services and the significant growth of digital engagement. The network recorded 531,613 visits and supported a membership of 42,122 active users, illustrating the breadth of community reliance on the service.

Lending and digital borrowing reached record levels, with 405,509 physical items issued, alongside 486,588 ePress issues, 99,947 eAudio loans, and 45,502 eBook loans.

Learning activity also increased substantially, with patrons completing 10,171 course lessons and videos and participating in 2,975 language-learning sessions. Together, these figures demonstrate a thriving, future-focused library service, meeting the needs of diverse users while continuing to expand its reach and impact across Galway County.

Several major strategic projects defined the year. The Start Now early literacy partnership with University Hospital Galway established a new model of early intervention in family literacy. Under this initiative, every expectant mother received a baby's first book, early literacy guidance, and a newborn library card, embedding the library in the earliest stages of a child's learning journey. This project positions Galway as a national leader in family literacy and early childhood language development.

Alongside this, Galway became home to Ireland's first public Tax Education Clinic, delivered in partnership with the University of Galway's Tax Clinic. This new initiative provided free, confidential tax education to vulnerable groups—including lone parents, survivors of domestic violence, and newly employed adults—ensuring equitable access to essential financial information through the supportive environment of the public library.





The programme, called 'Enabling Tax Literacy and Empowerment', offers one-to-one consultations with trained tax advisers and supervised student volunteers. Speaking at the launch Eileen Ruane, Director of Services noted that this project marks 'a significant step forward in inclusive financial literacy programming' adding that embedding tax education in 'trusted community spaces help to tackle financial abuse and economic exclusion while strengthening libraries' role as hubs for lifelong learning'. The project is in line with several national strategies on adult literacy, financial education and the Government's Zero Tolerance plan on domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.

The year also saw significant creative and heritage-focused work through the Mapping 1925: A Cultural Tapestry project, a major Decade of Centenaries initiative. Delivered in Tuam and Westside Libraries, the project brought community members together across generations to create two large-scale textile hangings that captured local history, memory, and identity. Through stitching and weaving, participants explored Ireland's cultural heritage, celebrated the legacy of artists, writers, designers and performers and fostered dialogue through shared artistry. *'Mapping 1925 reminds us that art is not only about beauty – it is about connection. It connects us to our past, to each other, and to the future we are shaping together,'* said Cathaoirleach Cllr. David Collins.



Complementing the artwork, singer-songwriter Roisin Mannion composed 'A Stitch in Time' a melodic interpretation inspired by the design process and collaboration behind the tapestry. Designed as legacy pieces, Mapping 1925 installations will enhance the libraries for generation to come – a vibrant reminder of how heritage inspires innovation.

School collaboration also remained a priority, including ongoing partnerships such as the Scoil an Pháraisigh work, which supported curriculum delivery, enhanced literacy development, strengthened reading engagement, and encouraged creative participation. Galway Libraries also received national recognition through the LAMA Award for Sustainability, awarded for the *Fish & Chips – Sustainably!* workshops and environmental education programming—highlighting the library service's leadership in STEAM-based sustainability education.

International partnership was another highlight of the year. Galway hosted an Erasmus+ delegation from Estonia interested in youth engagement, digital strategy, and community programming in libraries. The visit included tours of Westside, Ballybane, Oranmore, and Gort Libraries as well as workshops with Laureate na nÓg, reflecting the innovative programming taking place across the county. This exchange strengthened Galway's European profile and lays the groundwork for staff study visits to Estonia in 2026.

Delivery of national initiatives continued at scale across the service. Under the Right to Read national initiative, libraries provided extensive class visits, book clubs, storytimes, and family events, culminating in a highly successful

Summer Stars programme involving more than 3,100 children and over 54,000 children's books issued during the summer months. Early years support remained strong with the distribution of more than 600 Little Library Bags to new school entrants.

The Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme provided a wide range of wellbeing supports—including mental health talks, chair yoga, community health checks, breathwork sessions, and infant wellbeing programmes—ensuring health literacy and preventive wellbeing services reached communities countywide. Through Creative Ireland, branches delivered art workshops, exhibitions, cultural performances, and seasonal festivals, while Europe Direct Ballinasloe provided civic education through fake news workshops, student outreach, and public-speaking competitions.

Environment

Beaches



Applications for 8 Blue Flag Beaches were submitted to An Taisce, including a new application for Céibh an Spidéil which was made possible due to improved water quality since the commissioning of the new public wastewater treatment plant by Uisce Éireann. Accessibility works were also carried out at Céibh an Spidéil including installing a disabled parking spot and accessible pathways to the beach area. An Trá Inis Oirr was included in a list of just 10 nationally to secure both a Blue Flag Award and Green Coast Award in 2025. A water sampling plan was drawn up for the bathing season for 28 bathing areas, with pre-season sampling commencing in May.

Burial Grounds

To cater for those who do not wish to be buried in traditional burial plots, the Council provided 10 Urn Plots in Leitir Mór Burial Ground and 58 Urn Plots in Creagh Burial Ground.

The project at Creagh included a pilot scheme using pre-installed double-sided headstones which require inscriptions only.



Dog Shelter

Upgrade works to the Council's leased dog shelter facility were completed in early 2025 under the Dog Control Support Initiative funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. These upgrades centred around providing 7 additional kennels which will increase capacity to deal with

the continued high number of dogs coming through the service. Two of these being safety kennels capable of accommodating larger dogs such as XL Bully's, with sliding hatches between two halves of the kennels to allow the shelter keeper safe entry to the enclosure for cleaning and servicing.

Environmental Enforcement

In 2025, the Council carried out a broad range of environmental enforcement activity including:

- 73 GAP (Good Agricultural Practice) inspections compared to 47 in 2024.
- Targeted inspection campaigns at water catchments selected with LAWPRO, IFI and OPW



- 195 inspections of Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems (DWWTS)
- A comprehensive programme of planned and unplanned inspections regarding air, noise and water pollution, and waste regulations led to advisory notices, service of legal notices and prosecutions
- Over 300 household inspections were carried out under the Waste Presentation Byelaws and 4 multi-agency vehicle checkpoints took place to monitor illegal waste collectors which led to enforcement action. Under the Anti-Dumping Initiative, large-scale clean-ups of illegal dumping blackspots were carried out.

Directorate: Planning & Economic Development

Economic Development and Planning

Revitalising Towns and Villages

Regeneration and infrastructure projects progressed strongly, including the successful redevelopment and launch of Portumna Courthouse into an energy-efficient, multifunctional community space that preserves heritage while supporting local enterprise and cultural use.



Construction commenced on Loughrea Town Hall to redevelop the building into a culture, tourism, creative and enterprise hub with completion programmed for Q3 2026.

Advancing Oranmore URDF

The Oranmore Train Station URDF project achieved several milestones: planning approval for a second platform and dynamic passing loop; completion of local centre and Eco-Park designs. In addition, the installation of a pedestrian and cycle underpass was completed in a single weekend in October. This will provide access to the second platform and northern section of the Garraun Urban Framework Plan. Major rail works contracts are expected to commence in 2026 once the Final Business Case has been approved. Parallel investment in a new car park structure is also advancing.



Progressing Forward Planning

Forward Planning achieved key milestones with the adoption of the Gort Local Area Plan in July 2025. This was the fifth and final Local Area Plan to be completed. Variation 1 of the Galway County Development Plan was published in November 2025 and adopted by the Elected Members in February 2026. In addition, 2025 saw the finalisation of the Joint Retail Strategy with Galway City Council and Socio-Economic Profile for the Metropolitan Area was also completed. The preparation of the Caheroyne Urban Framework Plan also advanced in 2025.



Building Strategic Partnerships

Partnerships with University of Galway and Presentation Secondary School Athenry continued to support innovation in planning, regeneration, collaboration and placemaking.

Local Enterprise Office

Supporting Local Enterprise

The Local Enterprise Office delivered extensive supports to entrepreneurs and SMEs, including €1.5 million invested in local enterprise through grants, with €525,000 directly allocated via financial assistance schemes. Over 1,389 participants took part in training programmes covering financial management, business planning, website development, and strategic management.



Driving Sustainable and Digital Business Growth

Programmes supporting sustainability and digitalisation included 101 Green for Business participants, 45 Energy Efficiency Grants, and 50 Digital for Business programmes. The Local Food and Craft Gift Fair expanded to six days, attracting 9,000 visitors and supporting more than 50 producers.



Enabling Business Expansion

Business expansion supports continued, including for Axiom Control Systems Ltd, whose grant aided investment in advanced manufacturing capability.

Heritage Office

Heritage Conservation & Protection

Conservation remained central in 2025, with major works at Temple Jarlath, Issertkelly and Kilcooley Churches, and Athenry Town Walls, guided by national standards and multi-agency collaboration and funding from the Community Monuments Fund and the Heritage Council. Projects stabilised medieval structures, enhanced safety, and preserved vulnerable heritage fabric. This work demonstrates long-term commitment, specialist expertise, and strong community involvement in protecting built heritage.



Athenry Walled Town Day. Photo credit: Hany Marzouk

Group from Jeju island, Koran with Mary Condon, Martina Creaven, Emma Laffey and Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer. Photo credit: Antoinette Lydon



Temple Jarlath, Tuam conservation works. Photo credit: Marie Mannion



Community Engagement & Participation

Local heritage groups, schools, volunteers, and communities played a vital role across projects—from oral history collection to graveyard mapping and Holy Wells research. Events such as National Heritage Week, Féile na gCloch, Aleen Cust Symposium, 'Forged in Fire', Galway County Community Archaeologist Project and iCAN gatherings strengthened public involvement. Community energy as a driving force behind preserving Galway's stories, traditions, and places.

Education, Training & Youth Programmes



Gaelscoil de hÍde, Oranmore and Cathaoirleach Cllr Martina Kinnane at the launch of the bilingual Garda workbook.

Photo credit: Seán Lydon

The year saw significant educational initiatives, including the Garda Children's Bilingual Workbook and a free 4-week Smartphone Filmmaking Course for heritage groups. Schools engaged in archaeology workshops, heritage storytelling, Irish Community Archive Network (ICAN) training and curriculum-linked resources. These programmes foster heritage awareness among young people and equip communities with skills for digital and creative heritage work.

Funding, Grants & Strategic Investment

Funding was secured from The Heritage Council for heritage plan projects, alongside major national schemes such as the Heritage Council's Community Heritage Grant Scheme, Traditional Farm Buildings Scheme, and Commemorations funding and Community Monuments Fund. Funding supported conservation works, digitisation, accessibility, holy wells audit, and community-led initiatives. Strategic investment enables wide-reaching heritage impact across the county.

Digital Innovation & Documentation

Extensive digitisation work took place including StoryMaps, digital graveyard records, films, podcasts, and online exhibitions expanded public access to Galway's heritage. The StoryMaps project won the 2025 Ireland eGovernment Open Data Award, reflecting leadership in digital heritage. Technology is used to safeguard memory, support research, and connect communities locally and internationally.

Directorate: Finance, Motor Tax, ICT, and Digital Transformation

Finance, Motor Tax

In 2025, the Finance Department oversaw €188 million in expenditure, supporting various Council directorates. The Annual Financial Statement indicated a near-balanced position. The Council processed 57,330 motor tax transactions, collecting over €9.2 million, with 85.08% completed online. Development contributions totaled €2.1m million, with an additional €8.595m claimed since the commencement of the temporary waiver scheme. The Council processed 27,578 invoices with minimal late payment interest. More details are available in the [financial overview section](#) of this report.

ICT & Digital Transformation

2025 the Information Systems Section provided ongoing support for the public, staff members in accessing Digital Services. With the diligence of staff and ongoing investments the Council had no cyber breaches in the year.

During 2025, the following projects and initiatives were progressed:

- Provision of Business Intelligence dashboards to track key financial expenditure categories.
- Launch of the new galway.ie website using specific purpose Local Government open-source software.
- Connection of Clifden, An Cheathra Rua, Gort and Athenry Offices and adjoining Libraries to Government 10G national backbone network.
- Galway Airport Hanger and Building Network Connectivity to support Fire Service Training
- Advanced backup facilities in place for Microsoft Services data
- Completion and Appointment of vendor for full network equipment replacement via the OGP (Office of Government Procurement)

- Provision of connectivity for Library staff and public users all three Aran Islands locations.
- Engagement with LGMA (Local Government Management Agency) with adaption and prioritisation of actions to support Ireland's Local Government Digital and ICT Strategy 2030.
- Provision of New Laptops to all Councillors with full security measures to enhance protection.
- Windows 11 deployment designed to update all Council Laptop and PC
- Appointment of dedicated Cyber Security Lead staff position.
- LGMA graduate recruitment program provided an ICT position in software development.

Annual Service Delivery Plan 2025 Outcomes

Cross Directorate Actions set out in Corporate Plan							
All Units							
Strategic Goal	Supporting Action	Service Plan Action	Timeline	NOAC Performance Indicator	UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's)	Local KPI Target	End of Year Action Status
Business Transformation through Enhanced Customer Service	Continued implementation of the Customer Charter and code of Conduct and Customer Services Action plan having regard to the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty (PSD)	Implementation of the Customer Action Plan having regard to the Public Sector Duty	Ongoing	N/A	3, 5, 10, 11, 16	In accordance with the Customer Action Plan timelines	Completed
Business Transformation through Enhanced Customer Service	Redevelopment of the Council's Website to be completed and the expanded use of social media and other communication channels as a source of public information having regard to the Public Sector Duty	Redevelopment of website having regard to PSD	Q2 2025	C3	8, 9, 11	Increase the number of services we provide online	Completed
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	The Council's Website will be continuously updated by each directorate. We will see that the usage of the website will reduce with the enhanced usage of AI.	Increase the number of services provided on the GCC website.	Q2 2025	C3	8, 9, 11	The website is used as the core social media outlet for the Council, by the communications officer.	Completed
Business Transformation through Enhanced Customer Service	Redevelopment of the Council's Website to be completed and the expanded use of social media and other communication channels as a source of public information having regard to the Public Sector Duty	Increase number of local authority Social Media followers whilst being mindful of the issue of digital inequality	Q2 2025	N/A	8, 9, 11	10 -15% on previous year	Completed

Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Corporate Plan Implementation & Reporting	Prepare an Annual Service Delivery Plan having regard to the Public Sector Duty to Plenary for adoption and submit to the DHLGH	Annually	N/A	3, 4, 8, 10, 11, 13, 16	Q1	Completed
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Corporate Plan Implementation & Reporting	Prepare an Annual Duty Action Plan for implementation of the PSD	Annually	N/A	3, 4, 8, 10, 11, 13, 16	Q1	Completed
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Corporate Plan Implementation & Reporting	Prepare the Municipal District Schedule of works to MDs	Annually	N/A	3, 4, 8, 10, 11, 13, 16	Q1	Completed
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Corporate Plan Implementation & Reporting	Prepare Monthly Management Report to Plenary	Monthly	N/A	3, 4, 8, 10, 11, 13, 16	11 per year	Completed
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Corporate Plan Implementation & Reporting	Prepare Quarterly report to CPG & Plenary on implementation of Corporate Plan and on the Implementation of the Public Sector Duty	Quarterly	N/A	3, 4, 8, 10, 11, 13, 16	4 per year	Completed
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Corporate Plan Implementation & Reporting	Prepare Annual Report to Plenary and the Annual Progress report on the Implementation of the PSD	Annually	N/A	3, 4, 8, 10, 11, 13, 16	April	Completed
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Manage ePMDS for Performance Management for all staff - Provide robust Business management, structures and systems	Agree Business Plan's	Annually (January)	N/A	4, 8, 10, 16	Progress reviews at mid-year and year-end	In Progress

Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Manage ePMDS for Performance Management for all staff - Provide robust Business management, structures and systems	Agree Team Development Plans (TDP's)	Annually (By February)	N/A	4, 8, 10, 16	Quarterly Progress Review	In Progress
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Manage ePMDS for Performance Management for all staff - Provide robust Business management, structures and systems	Agree Personal Development Plans (PDP's)	Annually (By February)	N/A	4, 8, 10, 16	Progress reviews at mid-year and year-end	In Progress
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Strengthened Financial Reporting	Budget meetings with MD's	Annually	M1, M2, M3, M4	8, 9	September	Completed
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Strengthened Financial Reporting	Monthly Review of Unit Budget	Monthly	M1, M2, M3, M4	8, 9	12 per year	Completed
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Strengthened Financial Reporting	Budget preparation for next fiscal year	Annually	M1, M2, M3, M4	8, 9	Commence Q3 July to Dec	Completed
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Strengthened Financial Reporting	Statement of Financial Control & Annual AFS	Annually	M1, M2, M3, M4	8, 9	April	Completed

Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Continue to embed the Corporate Governance and compliance Program across the organisation in the areas of Business Continuity, Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, Child Protection and Welfare, Data Protection, Internal Audit and FOI/AIE/Ombudsman	Provide robust structures and systems across the Local Government Code of Governance in respect of: 1. Risk Management 2. Business Continuity Management 3. Child Protection & Welfare 4. Annual Duty Action Plan for the Public Sector Duty	Quarterly Review & Annual Report Update	N/A	5, 10, 11, 16	4 per year	In Progress
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Continue to embed the Corporate Governance and compliance Program across the organisation in the areas of Business Continuity, Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, Child Protection and Welfare, Data Protection, Internal Audit and FOI/AIE/Ombudsman	Ethical Framework Members Donation Statements	Annually	N/A	5, 10, 11, 16	By last day of January annually	Completed
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Continue to embed the Corporate Governance and compliance Program across the organisation in the areas of Business Continuity, Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, Child Protection and Welfare, Data Protection, Internal Audit and FOI/AIE/Ombudsman	Ethical Framework Members & Employees Annual Declaration	Annually	N/A	5, 10, 11, 16	By last day February annually	Completed
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Continue to embed the Corporate Governance and compliance Program across the organisation in the areas of Business Continuity, Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, Child Protection and Welfare, Data Protection, Internal Audit and FOI/AIE/Ombudsman	Ethical Framework Advise non-council committee members of their obligations under the Ethics Framework	Ongoing	N/A	5, 10, 11, 16	By last day of March annually	Completed

Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Continue to embed the Corporate Governance and compliance Program across the organisation in the areas of Business Continuity, Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, Child Protection and Welfare, Data Protection, Internal Audit and FOI/AIE/Ombudsman	Compliance with National & Internal Procurement Regulations	Ongoing	N/A	12	Quarterly Reviews 4 per year	In Progress
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Continue to embed the Corporate Governance and compliance Program across the organisation in the areas of Business Continuity, Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, Child Protection and Welfare, Data Protection, Internal Audit and FOI/AIE/Ombudsman	Participate with internal & external audits including LGA and Department audits	Ongoing	N/A	5, 10, 11, 16	Annually, as required	Completed
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Continue to embed the Corporate Governance and compliance Program across the organisation in the areas of Business Continuity, Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, Child Protection and Welfare, Data Protection, Internal Audit and FOI/AIE/Ombudsman	FOI Act AIE Regulations Ombudsman GDPR/Data Protection Official Languages Act Minimum 20% of Advertising Budget in Irish publications	Ongoing	N/A	5, 10, 11, 16	In accordance with statutory obligations	In Progress
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Continue to embed the Corporate Governance and compliance Program across the organisation in the areas of Business Continuity, Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, Child Protection and Welfare, Data Protection, Internal Audit and FOI/AIE/Ombudsman	Protected Disclosures Act and Disability Access	Ongoing	N/A	5, 10, 11, 16	In accordance with statutory obligations	Completed

Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Engage with NOAC to: Improve Service Delivery Enhance Accountability Encourage Best Practices Support Decision Making	Submit performance indicator data to NOAC portal	Annually	All	4, 6, 7, 11, 13, 15	April	Completed
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Engage with NOAC to: Improve Service Delivery Enhance Accountability Encourage Best Practices Support Decision Making	Review NOAC annual report that detail the performance of local authorities against the indicators	Annually	All	4, 6, 7, 11, 13, 15	Report published September and review by end of October	Completed
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Engage with NOAC to: Improve Service Delivery Enhance Accountability Encourage Best Practices Support Decision-making	Attend NOAC workshops and training sessions delivered to help understand and implement best practices	Annually	All	4, 6, 7, 11, 13, 15	As required	Completed
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Engage with NOAC to: Improve Service Delivery Enhance Accountability Encourage Best Practices Support Decision Making	NOAC Performance Reports shall be available to the council Members and subject to their noting particularly having regard to references to the Council and relevant best practices which could be applied by the Council	Annually	All	4, 6, 7, 11, 13, 15	December	Completed
Democracy & Council Leadership	Implementation of the adopted Strategic Policy Committees (SPC) Scheme 2024-2029	Support & facilitate the committees & membership in accordance with the adopted SPC standing orders.	Ongoing	N/A	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17	In accordance with statutory requirements	Completed
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Continue to ensure strong Health & Safety systems are in place and promote a positive Health & Safety Culture in the organisation	Annual review of Occupational H & S Policy	Annually	N/A	3, 8, 11, 16	Q1 2025	Completed
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Continue to ensure strong Health & Safety systems are in place and promote a positive Health & Safety Culture in the organisation	Ensure Compliance with GCC Safety Statement (Management System) with Quarterly review by the Mgt Team	Annually	N/A	3, 8, 11, 16	Quarterly	Completed

Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Continue to ensure strong Health & Safety systems are in place and promote a positive Health & Safety Culture in the organisation	Implement, Review and Update Safety Management Programmes for the following sections: Roads & Transportation, Housing, Fire Service, Corporate Services & Libraries, Environment, Rural & Water	On Going (Q2/Q4)	N/A	3, 8, 11, 16	2 per year	Completed
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Continue to ensure strong Health & Safety systems are in place and promote a positive Health & Safety Culture in the organisation	Ensure ongoing compliance with BS ISO 45001 standards across the organization, including the completion of two NSAI audits per year.	Q2 & Q4	N/A	3, 8, 11, 16	2 per year	Completed
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Continue to ensure strong Health & Safety systems are in place and promote a positive Health & Safety Culture in the organisation	Ensure all sections meet H&S inspection & meeting targets as outlined in quarterly mgmt. report	Quarterly	N/A	3, 8, 11, 16	4 per year	Completed
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Continue to ensure strong Health & Safety systems are in place and promote a positive Health & Safety Culture in the organisation	Engage & meet with Directorates quarterly to ensure compliance and continuous improvement in safety standards	Monthly / Quarterly	N/A	3, 8, 11, 16	12 monthly mtgs 4 quarterly mtgs	Completed
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Continue to ensure strong Health & Safety systems are in place and promote a positive Health & Safety Culture in the organisation	Review Safety Management Programmes & updates Safety Management Programmes	2027	N/A	3, 8, 11, 16	3 years	Completed
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Ensure the provision of efficient and effective legal and advisory services to the Management Team and all Directorates within the Council	Training provide ongoing introductory legal training (inc. code enforcement, witness and court preparation training to Planning & Environment Enforcement Officers as required)	Q2 & Q3 2025	N/A	11, 16, 17	Annually - June/July 2025	Completed

Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Ensure the provision of efficient and effective legal and advisory services to the Management Team and all Directorates within the Council	Provide essential legal support to the entire Council, assisting with housing targets, tenancy management, loans and various housing schemes. Manage leases and licences for Council assets, offer corporate governance advice, support infrastructure projects and aid in land acquisitions and environmental initiatives.	Q2 2025	N/A	11, 16, 17	Quarterly - Review by way of meetings with DoS and senior executive staff re housing acquisition tracker lists	Completed
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Ensure the provision of efficient and effective legal and advisory services to the Management Team and all Directorates within the Council	Collaborate with Corporate Services to establish and maintain the Property Interest Register Unit for accurate asset management	Q2 2025	N/A	11, 16, 17	Review due in Q2 re staffing of unit & IS Case Management	In Progress
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Ensure the provision of efficient and effective legal and advisory services to the Management Team and all Directorates within the Council	Provide essential legal support and litigation across all Council Directorates.	Q3 2025	N/A	11, 16, 17	Update provided to DoS in relevant areas -court listings	Completed
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Staff Self development and Training	Implement Cross Directorate CE & DOS led staff talks on work programs	Annually	N/A	16	Annually	In Progress

HR, City and County Libraries and Environment							
Human Resources							
Strategic Goal	Supporting Action	Service Plan Action	Timeline	NOAC Performance Indicator	UN Sustainable Development Goal's (SDG's)	Local KPI Target	End of Year Action Status
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Staff Self development and Training	Implement Cross Directorate CE & DOS led staff talks on work programs	Annually	N/A	16	Annually	In Progress
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Continue to take steps to ensure an inclusive workplace where adaptations are made to address the specific needs of staff from the identified groups of the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty.	HR Policy Implementation: Employee Relations- Promote and support a culture of dignity, respect and equality. Implementation of ePMDS	Q4 2025	N/A	3, 5, 10	Q4 2025	In Progress
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Roll out of Annual Training Plan in support of Staff development and training	Delivery of Annual Training Plan in line with Health & Safety and Organisational training and development needs.	Q4 2025	N/A	4	Q4 2025	Completed
Business Transformation through Enhanced Customer Service	Develop an action plan for the phased implementation of the Strategic Workforce Plan including increasing staff numbers across the Council Directorates, having regard to issues of diversity and inclusion, the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty	Support Organisational transition to Uisce Éireann from workforce planning perspective	Q4 2025	C1	3, 5, 10	Q4 2025	In Progress

Business Transformation through Enhanced Customer Service	Develop an action plan for the phased implementation of the Strategic Workforce Plan including increasing staff numbers across the Council Directorates, having regard to issues of diversity and inclusion, the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty	Roll out Year 1 of SWFP including: Staff resources for MDs, Project Management Office, Digital Innovation Team, Customer Services & Communications Team.	Q4 2025	C1	3, 5, 10	Q4 2025	In Progress
City and County Libraries							
Strategic Goal	Supporting Action	Service Plan Action	Timeline	NOAC Performance Indicator	UN Sustainable Development Goal's (SDG's) -	Local KPI Target	End of Year Action Status
Business Transformation through Enhanced Customer Service	The library service will enhance accessibility and availability of services and programming.	It will address the needs of identified groups under the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty through extensive community mapping and community demographic profiling. Programme development is informed by the data collection process and communities are supported through national programmes with particular focus on: Age Friendly, Healthy Ireland at Your Library, Sensory Service programming, mobility aids and adaptive technology.	Ongoing	L1	3, 4, 10, 11, 16	Annually	Completed
Business Transformation through Enhanced Customer Service	Conduct a strategic review of the library service and in conjunction with the findings compile the Galway Public Library Strategic plan 2025-2029, having regard to the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty	Multifaceted approach utilizing the following methodologies: • Extensive public engagement utilizing the UX Design principles ensuring that public needs are central to the strategic plan. Questionnaires, focus groups, non-user	Ongoing	L1	3, 4, 10, 11, 16	Publication of plan Q3 2025	In Progress

		engagement, feedback initiatives. • Staff survey and focus group participation with a focus on the strategic themes of GCC. • Senior Management focus group participation. • Engagement with Elected Members. • Stakeholder focus group engagement. • Branch and Service review utilizing the UX Design principles with a particular focus on accessibility and inclusion.					
Business Transformation through Enhanced Customer Service	Develop and improve access, use and visibility of our public library service as an essential community tool with reference to the new National Library Strategy 2023-2027 having regard to the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty	To ensure where possible that all branch libraries organise/host a range of activities including exhibitions, readings, bookclubs, lectures and cultural events for their community.	Ongoing	L1	3, 4, 10, 11, 16	Number of events held.	Completed
Business Transformation through Enhanced Customer Service	Develop and improve access, use and visibility of our public library service as an essential community tool with reference to the new National Library Strategy 2023-2027 having regard to the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty	To ensure the provision of library services in all areas of the County through the extensive mobile library network and to support Island populations with branch support and relevant resources. Ensure that all communities are aware of their local library service and what each library as to offer.	Ongoing	L1	3, 4, 10, 11, 16	Number of library visitors as a % of the local population. Number of books issued per annum. Number of active memberships. Numbers of members on the mobile library. Number of outreach events where staff are in attendance.	In Progress

						TARGET 0.25% increase quarterly in all the above	
Business Transformation through Enhanced Customer Service	Develop and improve access, use and visibility of our public library service as an essential community tool with reference to the new National Library Strategy 2023-2027 having regard to the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty	The library service will participate in national promotional campaigns including, but not limited to: Spring Into Storytime, Bealtaine, Summer Stars: reading programme, Cruinniu nOg, Heritage Week, Children's Book Festival, Family Time at Your Library Ensure that library services are showcased using mixed media channels including social media, local press and radio, community partnerships and mailing lists.	Ongoing	L1, C3	3, 4, 10, 11, 16	Number of events held, Number of outreach events where staff are in attendance. TARGET 0.25% increase quarterly in all the above	Completed
Business Transformation through Enhanced Customer Service	To develop and promote a library service to enable lifelong learning, information provision and literacy development	Encourage library usage by children and Young Adults by building on previous successful programmes and campaigns in collaboration with Youth Services and Youth Engagement Officers.	Ongoing	N/A	3, 4, 10, 11, 16	Number who participated in the Summer Stars National Reading Campaign.	Completed
Business Transformation through Enhanced Customer Service	To develop and promote a library service to enable lifelong learning, information provision and literacy development	To actively support schools and teachers with relevant material, class sets and school library materials and to continue outreach programming across our library service encouraging class visits to libraries throughout the year	January to May 2025. September to December 2025	N/A	3, 4, 10, 11, 16	Number of events organised for children and Young Adults throughout the year. Number of Organised Events for Children's Book Festival. *TARGET 0.25%	Completed

						increase quarterly in all the above	
Business Transformation through Enhanced Customer Service	To develop and establish an Early Years Strategy utilizing a multifaceted approach to collaboration	Working with the HSE and the Maternity Department of University Hospital Galway to develop a strategic alliance to promote and deliver public library services that support and enhance the literacy development of early years children from birth to 4 years.	Q2 2025	N/A	3, 4, 10, 11, 16	Work ongoing for 2025	Completed
Business Transformation through Enhanced Customer Service	Plan and provide for the provision of new infrastructure to enable the improved access for patrons across all platforms	Optimizing the use of desktop PC's and WIFI services Ensure that our library resources are available online 24/7 and that communities are aware of the extensive collections. Analysis of community need to determine increase in online services and the provision of virtual learning supports	Quarterly	N/A	3, 4, 10, 11, 16	Quarterly review of online service usage Use of ICT equipment including Age Friendly technology such as Tovertafel interactive tables. Annual review of sensory equipment and associated resources.	Completed
Business Transformation through Enhanced Customer Service	Ensuring that library opening hours are maximised through the use of MOL (My Open Library) technologies	Supporting and assisting the ongoing utilization of MOL technology in the Ballinasloe Library and Clifden Library. Plan and develop the implementation of MOL technology in another County location.	Ongoing Q2 2025	N/A	3, 4, 10, 11, 16	Data review of MOL usage in Ballinasloe Library Works ongoing to implement MOL infrastructure.	Completed

Business Transformation through Enhanced Customer Service	Ensuring that library opening hours are maximised through the use of MOL (My Open Library) technologies	Preliminary engagement and consideration for the development of one other County location for the implementation of MOL technology.	Q3 2025	N/A	3, 4, 10, 11, 16	Works ongoing to implement MOL infrastructure.	In Progress
Business Transformation through Enhanced Customer Service	Ensuring that the library service is a focal point for the provision of information on our local history and culture by acquitting, preserving and managing local records and Archives. To ensure that the library services preserve and develops its rich Irish language collection. Develop and improve access, use and visibility of our Book Collections having regard to the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty	To acquire, catalogue and collate Local History material to ensure its accessibility for all citizens.	Quarterly review	N/A	3, 4, 10, 11, 16	Review of Collections Development process Q3 2025	Completed
Business Transformation through Enhanced Customer Service	Ensuring that the library service is a focal point for the provision of information on our local history and culture by acquitting, preserving and managing local records and Archives. To ensure that the library services preserve and develops its rich Irish language collection. Develop and improve access, use and visibility of our Book Collections having regard to the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty	To acquire, catalogue and collate Irish Language material and to provide programming and staff support to those who wish to avail of services in the Irish language.	Quarterly review	N/A	3, 4, 10, 11, 16	Conduct a diversity and inclusion audit on current collections to capture community demographics. *Completion by end of Q4 2025	In Progress

Sustainable Galway	Deliver initiatives that create awareness of climate change and help reduce climate impact. Participate and promote national environmental campaigns. Provide the public with information on climate change and the environment.	Continue to develop series of workshops, programmes and outreach initiatives for children and Young People to create awareness of climate impact.	Quarterly review	N/A	3, 4, 10, 11, 16	Utilizing a thematic approach to programme development with review of implementation in Q3 2025	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Deliver initiatives that create awareness of climate change and help reduce climate impact. Participate and promote national environmental campaigns. Provide the public with information on climate change and the environment.	Proactively work with organisations and groups to showcase national environmental campaigns	Quarterly review	N/A	3, 4, 10, 11, 16	Utilizing a thematic approach to programme development with review of implementation in Q3 2025	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Deliver initiatives that create awareness of climate change and help reduce climate impact. Participate and promote national environmental campaigns. Provide the public with information on climate change and the environment.	Create opportunities for public engagement on climate change and the environment through enhanced book collections, online resources and in-house programming	Quarterly review	N/A	3, 4, 10, 11, 16	Utilizing a thematic approach to programme development with review of implementation in Q3 2025	Completed
Environment							
Strategic Goal	Supporting Action	Service Plan Action	Timeline	NOAC Performance Indicator	UN Sustainable Development Goal's (SDG's)	Local KPI Target	End of Year Action Status
Sustainable Galway	Develop and implement the RMCEI (Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections) plan for to detail inspections required across all areas of protection incorporating revised requirements for agricultural inspections.	Implementation of all actions outlined in the RMCEI Plan	Q4 2025	E2, E3, P1	7, 13, 14, 15	Ensuring a high-quality environment and take early action to protect it	Completed

Sustainable Galway	Protect public health by continuing to monitor bathing water quality at our beaches and implementing non-compliance protocols (26 bathing water areas).	Protect public health by continuing to monitor bathing water quality at our beaches and implementing non-compliance protocols. Implement monitoring programme.	June to Sept	N/A	3, 7, 13, 14, 15	Periodically review and update monitoring and compliance protocols to incorporate the latest scientific findings and best practice	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Implementation of inspections in relation to litter black spots in accordance with our Waste Presentation byelaws.	Increase the number of inspections across the county and review and improve inspection methodology where necessary	Q3	E3, P1	7, 13, 14, 15	Use data from previous inspections, community reports to identify areas with high litter levels	Completed
Sustainable Galway	To continue to provide and expand recycling services for the public including at civic amenity and bottle banks facilities.	Ensure contracts are in place to sustain the civic amenity and bottle bank facilities / services which will have significant environmental benefits.	Ongoing	E2, P1	7, 13, 14, 15	Sufficient services and facilities in place	Completed
Sustainable Galway	To continue to provide and expand recycling services for the public including at civic amenity and bottle banks facilities.	Go to tender for new civic amenity site in Gort	Q1	E2, P1	7, 13, 14, 15	Sufficient services and facilities in place	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Continue to support and work with AthChursail in the efficient management of waste streams for the islands.	Provide management and financial support to ensure continuity of service.	Quarterly meetings	E1	6, 9	4 per year	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Acquire new sites for burial grounds in the identified areas and progress works on extensions to existing burial grounds, with measures to address specific needs of identified	Advertise expression of Interest for new burial sites.	Ongoing	N/A	9, 11	Measure the inclusiveness of burial grounds	Completed

	groups under the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty.						
Sustainable Galway	Acquire new sites for burial grounds in the identified areas and progress works on extensions to existing burial grounds, with measures to address specific needs of identified groups under the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty.	Progress works on extensions to existing burials grounds.	Ongoing	N/A	9, 11	Measure the inclusiveness of burial grounds	Completed
Sustainable Galway	To educate and raise awareness of environmental, sustainable, climate and biodiversity issues.	Review of Litter Management Plan 2025 having regard to the Public Sector Duty	Q4 2025	E4, P1	13	Measure the increase in awareness through surveys, feedback forms and statistics from programmes	In Progress
Sustainable Galway	To educate and raise awareness of environmental, sustainable, climate and biodiversity issues.	To educate and raise awareness of environmental, sustainable, climate and biodiversity issues.	Q4 2025	E4, P1	13	Measure the participation & inclusivity of schools	Completed
Sustainable Galway	To educate and raise awareness of environmental, sustainable, climate and biodiversity issues.	Anti-Litter Poster Competition for all Schools	Q2	E4, P1	13	Measure the participation & inclusivity of schools	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Progress amenity development projects at closed Kilconnell and Pollboy closed landfill sites having regard to universal design principles.	Progress developments through the planning process. Procure consultants to progress to preliminary design stage	Q3	N/A	3, 9	Consultants appointed Q3 (Poolboy)	In Progress
Sustainable Galway	Progress amenity development projects at closed Kilconnell and Pollboy closed landfill sites having regard to universal design principles.	Progress developments through the planning process. Procure consultants to progress to detailed design stage	Q3	N/A	3, 9	Planning process complete and consultants appointed (Kilconnell) Q2 2025	Completed

Sustainable Galway	Promote responsible dog ownership having regard to the provisions of the Control of dogs Act, Microchipping of Dogs Regulations and Dog Breeding Establishment legislation.	Oversee the operation and management of the Council's dog shelter.	Q4 2025	N/A	9, 11, 16	Monitor collated data. Collaborate with local rescue organisations for educational programmes	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Promote responsible dog ownership having regard to the provisions of the Control of dogs Act, Microchipping of Dogs Regulations and Dog Breeding Establishment legislation.	Increase level of dog licencing and microchipping compliance of dogs in the county	Q4 2025	N/A	9, 11, 16	Monitor collated data. Collaborate with local rescue organisations for educational programmes	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Promote responsible dog ownership having regard to the provisions of the Control of dogs Act, Microchipping of Dogs Regulations and Dog Breeding Establishment legislation.	Implement the DBE Act through inspections and risk analysis of registered DBE premises. All complaints of DBE's to be followed up.	Q4 2025	N/A	9, 11, 16	Monitor collated data. Collaborate with local rescue organisations for educational programmes	Not Commenced* <i>The monitoring and inspection of Dog Breeding Establishments transferred to the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine from January 2025.</i>
Sustainable Galway	Promote responsible dog ownership having regard to the provisions of the Control of dogs Act, Microchipping of Dogs Regulations and Dog Breeding Establishment legislation.	Continue to promote and support initiatives which assist in ensuring responsible dog ownership across the county.	Q4 2025	N/A	9, 11, 16	Monitor collated data. Collaborate with local rescue organisations for educational programmes	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Promote responsible dog ownership having regard to the provisions of the Control of dogs Act,	Consult with multiple rescue agencies in seeking places for large volumes of stray and unwanted dogs entering the care.	Q4 2025	N/A	9, 11, 16	Monitor collated data. Collaborate with local rescue	Completed

	Microchipping of Dogs Regulations and Dog Breeding Establishment legislation.					organisations for educational programmes	
Corporate Services and Rural, Community & Tourism Development & Integration							
Corporate							
Strategic Goal	Supporting Action	Service Plan Action	Timeline	NOAC Performance Indicator	UN Sustainable Development Goal's (SDG's)	Local KPI Target	End of Year Action Status
Business Transformation through Enhanced Customer Service	Continued implementation of the Customer Charter and code of Conduct and Customer Services Action plan having regard to the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty (PSD)	Commence review of the Customer Action Plan in line with the Quality Customer Services Strategy and having regard to the Public Sector Duty including to address the diversity of council customers and their specific needs.	Q2 2025	N/A	3, 5, 10, 11, 16	Commence Q2 2025	In Progress
Business Transformation through Enhanced Customer Service	Adopt an internal and external Communications Plan, including a collaboration strategy between the Council, the Public Participation Network, and key stakeholders. This plan will consider the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty.	Commence Project Plan having regard to the Public Sector Duty to inform priority actions of putting in place a Corporate Services Communications Office and a strengthened Customer Services Team reconfigured and aligned to the Corporate Plan	Q3 2025	C3	4, 10, 11, 16, 17	Q3 2025	In Progress
Business Transformation through Enhanced Customer Service	Complete a review of existing and future office accommodation needs to determine the optimal future Galway County Council office space requirements, having regard to universal design and accessibility	Consultants engaged to deliver an accommodation appraisal review report in relation to offices and libraries across County	Q2 2025	N/A	7, 9, 13	Report to be finalised June 2025	In Progress

Business Transformation through Enhanced Customer Service	Continue the development of the use of social media as a source of public services information and an efficient communication channel for our customers, whilst being mindful of the issue of digital inequality.	Planning & delivery of Your Council Day	Q3 2025	C3	11, 16, 17	July 2025	Completed
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Corporate Plan Implementation & Reporting	Annual update to Audit Committee on implementation of Corporate Plan & progress on public sector duty	Q2 2025	N/A	11, 16, 17	One per annum	Completed
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Corporate Plan Implementation & Reporting	Engage with those who made submissions to Corporate Plan process & seek feedback	Q4 2025	N/A	16	October 2025	In Progress
Sustainable Galway	Maintenance, Upgrades and Management of Leisure Centres at Tuam & Ballinasloe	EXEED Programme to decarbonise Tuam and Ballinasloe Leisure Centres	Q3 2025	N/A	3, 7, 11, 12, 13	Q3 2025	In Progress
Sustainable Galway	Maintenance, Upgrades and Management of Leisure Centres at Tuam	Install 100kva PV panel array to Ballinasloe Leisure Centre	Q2 2025	N/A	3, 7, 11, 12, 13	Q2 2025	In Progress
Sustainable Galway	Develop and promote Outdoor Recreation and Healthy Lifestyles	Maintenance & Management of Renville Park	2025	N/A	3, 7, 11, 12, 13	Caretaker will be in place for 12 months of the year, 780 hours per year	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Develop and promote Outdoor Recreation and Healthy Lifestyles.	Manage and maintain Playgrounds owned by Galway County Council having regard to the Public Sector Duty including inspection of GCC playgrounds & repair/replacement as necessary.	Ongoing	N/A	3, 4, 10, 11, 16	Each of the 19 GCC Playgrounds are inspected weekly.	Completed

Sustainable Galway	Develop and promote Outdoor Recreation and Healthy Lifestyles.	Manage and maintain Playgrounds owned by Galway County Council having regard to the Public Sector Duty. DCEIY grant application for refurbishment & development of playgrounds & play areas through Capital Grant scheme	Annually - Q1	N/A	3, 4, 10, 11, 16	Submit grant application in February to Dept.	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Develop and promote Outdoor Recreation and Healthy Lifestyles	Coordinate and manage the inspection schedule of Community owned Playgrounds that GCC provide Insurance. Inspection of Community run playgrounds where GCC extends insurance.	Ongoing	N/A	3, 4, 10, 11, 16	Each of the 64 community playgrounds are inspected fortnightly.	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Develop and promote Outdoor Recreation and Healthy Lifestyles.	Arrange Playground routine inspector training for community groups.	Every 3 years	N/A	3, 4, 10, 11, 17	Training delivered to 42	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Promote, develop and sustain the diverse heritage, arts and culture of County Galway	Management of the Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre and recruitment of seasonal tour guide	Q2 2025	N/A	4	Increased opening day April to September 2025	Completed
Sustainable Galway	To ensure safety for users of aquatic environments	Inspection of safety equipment on rivers, lakes & beaches, replace as necessary	Monthly	N/A	3, 14	12 inspections per year	Completed
Sustainable Galway	To ensure safety for users of aquatic environments	Inspection of public rescue equipment at Lifeguarded designated bathing areas (DBA's) during the bathing season	Daily June to Sept	N/A	3, 14	77 inspections	Completed
Sustainable Galway	To ensure safety for users of aquatic environments	Provision of Lifeguard services where and when required	June to Sept	N/A	3, 14	16 DBAs with a minimum of 77 days of lifeguard provision.	Completed

Democracy & Council Leadership	To manage and maintain the Register of Electors with a view to ensuring it is complete and accurate and to participate in and deliver the Local Government Elector Registration System for Galway County	Presidential Election Electoral Event	Q3 2025	N/A	5, 10, 16, 17	Before November 2025	Completed
Democracy & Council Leadership	To manage and maintain the Register of Electors with a view to ensuring it is complete and accurate and to participate in and deliver the Local Government Elector Registration System (LGERS) for Galway County Council	Project tasks include ensuring data completeness and accuracy in advance of migration to national system.	Q3 2025	N/A	5, 10, 16, 17	100 % completion of tasks within the timeframe as set out by the Project Lead	Completed
Democracy & Council Leadership	To manage and maintain the Register of Electors with a view to ensuring it is complete and accurate and to participate in and deliver the Local Government Elector Registration System for Galway County	Annual Report to Electoral Commission	Annually	N/A	5, 10, 16, 17	Q4	Completed
Democracy & Council Leadership	Provide assistance to the elected members through cohesive efforts between Members, Management and Staff, in relation to their Reserved Functions.	Develop Annual Training Plan for members compliance with regulations in accordance with Section 142 of Local Government Act and associated regulations having regard to public sector duty	Q1	N/A	4, 8, 10, 16	March 2025	In Progress
Democracy & Council Leadership	Provide assistance to the elected members through cohesive efforts between Members, Management and Staff, in relation to their Reserved Functions.	Consistent compliance with statutory regulations for Plenary Council Meetings and Corporate Policy Group Committee (CPG) having regard to public sector duty	Monthly	N/A	16	11 CPG Meetings 11 Plenary Meetings, 1 Annual Meeting, 1 Budget Meeting and Special Meetings as required.	Completed

Rural, Community Development and Integration

Strategic Goal	Supporting Action	Service Plan Action	Timeline	NOAC Performance Indicator	UN Sustainable Development Goal's (SDG's)	Local KPI Target	End of Year Action Status
Sustainable Galway	Promote, develop and sustain the diverse heritage, arts and culture of Co. Galway through collaboration and participation and through implementation of the objectives of the Arts Plan.	Supporting Artists to create and develop Sustainable careers through key programmes to include Artists Support Scheme	Q1 2025	N/A	7, 13, 14, 15	12 - 15 awards	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Promote, develop and sustain the diverse heritage, arts and culture of Co. Galway through collaboration and participation and through implementation of the objectives of the Arts Plan.	Supporting Artists to create and develop Sustainable careers through key programmes to include National and International Residencies & CPD Programmes	Q2 2025	N/A	7, 13, 14, 15	5 residencies	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Promote, develop and sustain the diverse heritage, arts and culture of Co. Galway through collaboration and participation and through implementation of the objectives of the Arts Plan.	Developing Strategic Partnerships for targeted artist supports (EDI/Minority/Artform specific)	Q4 2025	N/A	7, 13, 14, 15	3 Programmes of CPD	In Progress
Sustainable Galway	Promote, develop and sustain the diverse heritage, arts and culture of Co. Galway through collaboration and participation and through implementation of the objectives of the Arts Plan.	Develop and Finalise Annual Arts Council/Galway County Council Partnership Funding Application	Q 4 2025 Q2 2025 Q1 2026	N/A	7, 13, 14, 15	Annual application Bi-annual drawdown	Completed

Sustainable Galway	Promote, develop and sustain the diverse heritage, arts and culture of Co. Galway through collaboration and participation and through implementation of the objectives of the Arts Plan.	Arts and Young People: Directly programme and deliver a wide range of arts programmes for specific (0-15 years) and (aged 15+) • Artist in Schools. • Youth led initiatives in collaboration with Professional Arts Organisations.	Ongoing	N/A	7, 13, 14, 15	No of Schools programme (7) No of Direct Programmes	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Promote, develop and sustain the diverse heritage, arts and culture of Co. Galway through collaboration and participation and through implementation of the objectives of the Arts Plan.	Support Galway County Music Generation Programme and participate on LMEP (Local music education partnership)	Ongoing	N/A	7, 13, 14, 15	Deliver on SLA	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Promote, develop and sustain the diverse heritage, arts and culture of Co. Galway through collaboration and participation and through implementation of the objectives of the Arts Plan.	Arts Participation: Build Capacity in the Arts Sector for Communities and Participations	Q4 2025	N/A	7, 13, 14, 15	No of Programmes and groups reached	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Promote, develop and sustain the diverse heritage, arts and culture of Co. Galway through collaboration and participation and through implementation of the objectives of the Arts Plan.	Arts in Older Years: Develop arts programme for older audiences in different settings.	Q4 2025	N/A	7, 13, 14, 15	No of programmes and groups	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Promote, develop and sustain the diverse heritage, arts and culture of Co. Galway through collaboration and participation and through implementation of the objectives of the Arts Plan.	Arts in Disability: Research, develop and design a scalable arts and disability pilot programme that fosters creativity within the collaborators, and the growth of Artists embedded in the area and within this practice.	Q1 2025-Q3 2026	N/A	7, 13, 14, 15	No of New partnerships created	In Progress
Sustainable Galway	Promote, develop and sustain the diverse heritage, arts and culture of	Arts Programme - Reaching broader communities: • Deliver	Ongoing	N/A	7, 13, 14, 15	No of Participants % of Accessible	Completed

	Co. Galway through collaboration and participation and through implementation of the objectives of the Arts Plan.	Culture Night Programme including Culture Night Late • Support and develop Galway County Art Festivals • Support Creative Places Tuam programme 2025-2026 • Support Arts programmes working with diverse and marginalised communities				Events No of Community partnerships % Diversity of Participants	
Sustainable Galway	Promote, develop and sustain the diverse heritage, arts and culture of Co. Galway through collaboration and participation and through implementation of the objectives of the Arts Plan.	Arts Plan 2025-2030 • Review current Arts Plan having regard to the Public Sector Duty • Engage in evaluation and consultation for new Arts Plan.	Q3 2025	N/A	7, 13, 14, 15	Completed by Q2 2026	In Progress
Sustainable Galway	Promote, develop and sustain the diverse heritage, arts and culture of Co. Galway through collaboration and participation and through implementation of the objectives of the Arts Plan.	Direct and Support professional arts organisations: • Arts Centres and Visual Arts Studios (Aras Éanna/Interface) • UNESCO City of Film Designation (Ardán) & Screenwest	Ongoing	N/A	7, 13, 14, 15	Deliver SLA	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Promote, develop and sustain the diverse heritage, arts and culture of Co. Galway through collaboration and participation and through implementation of the objectives of the Arts Plan.	Arts Grant Funding 2025 Design, Deliver and administer Community Support Scheme – Arts Grants & Festival Grants.	Q1	N/A	7, 13, 14, 15	No of Groups / Organisation supported	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Promote, develop and sustain the diverse heritage, arts and culture of Co. Galway through collaboration and participation and through implementation of the objectives of the Arts Plan.	Public Art Programme 2025 Deliver and Advise on Public Art Programme (Per cent for Art) in consultation with Public Art Management Group.	Q4 2025	N/A	7, 13, 14, 15	No of artists commissioned No of projects commenced	Completed

Sustainable Galway	Promote, develop and sustain the diverse heritage, arts and culture of Co. Galway through collaboration and participation and through implementation of the objectives of the Arts Plan.	Revise Galway County Council's Public Art Policy 2020-2024 in line with new national guidelines and public policy.	Q4 2025	N/A	7, 13, 14, 15	No of Meetings of PAMG	Not Commenced <i>*Awaiting national guidelines to be published.</i>
Sustainable Galway	Promote, develop and sustain the diverse heritage, arts and culture of Co. Galway through collaboration and participation and through implementation of the objectives of the Arts Plan.	Creative Ireland Programme: Design, plan and deliver annual Creative Ireland programme to include: Culture Team Projects, Cruinniú na nÓg, Creative Ireland Open Call, ongoing additional national funding call outs.	Q4 2025	N/A	7, 13, 14, 15	Deliver on SLA	Completed
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Prepare and deliver settlement and integration programmes for new communities. Develop Migrant Integration Strategy	Ensure equitable, inclusive and engaged communities (Goal 2 Galway County Local Economic and Community Plan 2024 – 2030) Enable target groups to live independently in the community Maintain an integration coordination model for the County	Ongoing	Y1, Y2	1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 16	No. of clinics / information sessions delivered No. of community events delivered No. of stakeholder events delivered	Completed
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Prepare and deliver settlement and integration programmes for new communities. Develop Migrant Integration Strategy	Develop and implement Migrant Integration Strategy	2025 - 2031	N/A	1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 16	Monthly meeting of Community Integration Forum	Not Commenced <i>*Work on the strategy will commence in Q2 2026. The Community Integration Forum met on a</i>

							<i>monthly basis during 2025.</i>
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Prepare and deliver settlement and integration programmes for new communities. Develop Migrant Integration Strategy	Administer the Local Authority Ukraine Response Programme.	Ongoing	N/A	4, 10	All OAH / Ukraine Response enquiries responded to within 1 week of receipt.	Completed
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Manage the introduction of the Community Safety Partnership as replacement forum for the JPC in line with legislation and guidance	Co-ordinate and support the development of the Galway County Local Community Safety Partnership Support, encourage and promote community safety Address safety and security issues and concerns for communities Participate in effective crime prevention partnerships with communities and state agencies	Ongoing	N/A	3, 11, 16, 17	Set Up CSP in line with National Guidelines	In Progress
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Manage the introduction of the Community Safety Partnership as replacement forum for the JPC in line with legislation and guidance	Commence development of a Local Community Safety Plan for County Galway	Ongoing	N/A	3, 11, 16, 17	Set Up CSP in line with National Guidelines	Not Commenced <i>*The LCSP was established in December 2025. The development of the strategy will commence in Q1 2026.</i>

Sustainable Galway	Support and manage the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) in its programmes and manage and monitor Programme Implementors for the delivery of the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2024-2028, addressing specific needs of identified groups.	Monitor and manage the SICAP Programme • Healthy Ireland Fund • Empowering Communities • Social Inclusion Events • Community Support Fund	Ongoing	N/A	1, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12	6 LCDC meetings a year Ensure Drawdown of SICAP Funding Monitor and report LECP Strategic Community Objectives (SCOs)	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Support and manage the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) in its programmes and manage and monitor Programme Implementors for the delivery of the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2024-2028, addressing specific needs of identified groups.	Deliver the sustainable community objectives as set out in the Galway County Local Economic Community Plan 2024-2030 with particular reference to the following Goals: Goal 1 - Active, healthy and safe communities Goal 2 - Equal, inclusive and engaged	Ongoing	N/A	1, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12	No. of Grants approved under LEP Quarterly Healthy Galway County Subcommittee Meetings	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Progress a programme of quality funding bids to maximise capital investment from Town and Village Renewal Programme and CLÁR, ORIS, CRF & DRCD and national, EU Funding Schemes for rural development. (ORIS – Outdoor Recreation – CRF Community Recognition Funding)	Advertise and administer Expression of Interest (EOI) processes – using Council and PPN communications, webinars, in line with DRCD Deadlines Provision of Webinars, Advice Events, Site Visits to Potential Applicants	Q 1	N/A	9, 11	No of Expressions of interest received by MD.	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Administer and Monitor Delivery of Approved Projects in line with DRCD Contracts and Audit Requirements.	Advance funding bids renovation of Courthouses (Headford & Woodford) in partnership with Corporate and Community and Voluntary Sectors	Q2	N/A	9, 11	Q4	In Progress

Sustainable Galway	Progress a programme of quality funding bids to maximise capital investment from Town and Village Renewal Programme and CLÁR, ORIS, CRF & DRCD and national, EU Funding Schemes for rural development. (ORIS – Outdoor Recreation – CRF Community Recognition Funding)	Advance 15 bids for CLAR Funding for Outdoor Amenity & Community Facilities up to value of 750k. Advance 4 – 6 bids for Town and Village Renewal Programme up to value of 750k Administer current approved projects under CLAR, TVRS (31 Live Projects) to value of 1.1m Quarterly Monitoring and Data Mapping of Investments	Q3	N/A	9, 11	No. of applications submitted to DRCD No of Grants approved by DRCD No of Projects delivered & % of funding Recouped at year end per programme	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Examine the development of a strategy to create ‘Anchor’ Community Hubs and maintain engagement with Community Response Forum	Review Community Hub response and examine the development of a strategy to create Anchor Hubs to become operational during Severe Weather Events. Continued engagement with Community Response Forum.	Q2 Q4	N/A	11, 17	Strategy developed Q3 2 meetings per annum (and as required)	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Support community development, promoting an inclusive, creative and sustainable environment.	Deliver Cathaoirleach Awards, Pride of Place and other initiatives such as a Grants Booklet to showcase best practice in community projects.	Ongoing	Y1	10, 11, 17	Cathaoirleach Awards and Grants Booklet delivered in partnership with PPN. No. of Steering Group Meetings.	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Support community development, promoting an inclusive, creative and sustainable environment.	Facilitate the continued delivery of Comhairle na nÓg as a consultative voice for youth.	Ongoing	Y1	10, 11, 17	No. of consultations.	Completed
Sustainable Galway	To educate and raise public awareness of environmental, sustainable, climate and biodiversity issues.	Continue to support the vital work of Tidy Towns Groups and build their capacity to improve performance in the National	Ongoing	E3, E4	13	No. of CSS grants. Network Meeting facilitated. National Tidy Towns Results	Completed

		Tidy Towns Competition and linkages in their communities.					
Sustainable Galway	Support the work of the Galway Public Participation Network and facilitate the involvement of its members in the policymaking process, having particular regard to the identified groups of the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty.	Develop an Annual Workplan and Budget which prioritises the aims of the PPN, i.e., promoting representation; capacity-building of members; acting as an information hub between communities and the local authority.	Ongoing	Y2	10, 11, 17	MOU/SLA in place. 2 Plenary Meetings. No. of Reps vacancies filled. Annual Report to DRCD submitted.	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Review and develop a new Age Friendly Strategy having regard to the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty.	Develop an Age Friendly Strategy to guide inter-departmental and interagency progress towards an age friendly county.	Ongoing	N/A	3, 4, 10, 11, 16	Strategy adopted. No. of OPC Meetings + AGM, Alliance Meetings & Interdepartmental Team. Host National Age Friendly Awards.	Completed
Sustainable Galway	The development and implementation of a Disability Strategy, having regard to the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty.	The development and implementation of a Disability Strategy, having regard to the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, which aligns fully with the National Strategy. Ensure a whole of organisation approach to the development of the Disability Strategy.	Q3 2025	N/A	1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 16	Develop Strategy and set up Team	Not Commenced <i>Anticipated to commence in 2027</i>

Sustainable Galway	Continue to implement the Galway Tourism Strategy. Launch Destination Brand for Galway and implement this destination marketing plan.	Advance the implementation of the County Galway Tourism Strategy. Foster and manage key strategic tourism development partnerships between Galway County Council and organizations such as Fáilte Ireland, OPW, NPWS, and Waterways Ireland.	Ongoing	J4	3, 9, 11	Establish tourism networks in East Galway Initiate destination experience plan with key strategic partners	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Continue to implement the Galway Tourism Strategy. Launch Destination Brand for Galway and implement this destination marketing plan.	Develop and execute targeted tourism development plans based on the zones identified in the County Galway Tourism Strategy.	Ongoing	J4	3, 9, 11	Progress key tourism projects aligned with zoned development priorities with Fáilte Ireland, OPW, NPWS, and Waterways Ireland.	In Progress
Sustainable Galway	Establishment of a Designated Activity Company (DAC) with a specific focus on economic and tourism development across the County and ensuring regard for the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty	Establish a Designated Activity Company (DAC) with a specific focus on economic and tourism development across County Galway	Q3	J4	3, 9, 11	DAC Established	In Progress
Sustainable Galway	Support community development, promoting an inclusive, creative and sustainable environment.	Provide and support community based physical activity programmes.	Ongoing	N/A	3, 4, 5	GSP Operational Plan – prepared Q4 Mid and End Year Review. No of Programmes Delivered. No of Participants as per target demographic	Completed

Sustainable Galway	Support community development, promoting an inclusive, creative and sustainable environment.	Prepare and deliver the Local Sports Plan and through this Galway Sports Partnership Strategy	Q3 2025	N/A	3, 4, 9, 11	Local Sports Plan Consultations Q3 of 2025 Plan developed and approved by end of 2025 GSP Strategy developed and approved end of 2025	In Progress
Sustainable Galway	Support community development, promoting an inclusive, creative and sustainable environment.	Prepare and deliver the Outdoor Recreation Strategy	Q4 2025	N/A	3, 4, 9, 11	Outdoor Recreation Consultations Q3 of 2025 Plan developed and approved by end of 2025	In Progress

Finance, Motor Tax, ICT & Digital Transformation

Finance & Motor Taxation

Strategic Goal	Supporting Action	Service Plan Action	Timeline	NOAC Performance Indicator	UN Sustainable Development Goal's (SDG's)	Local KPI Target	End of Year Action Status
Business Transformation through Enhanced Customer Service	Provide excellent, accessible, and responsive customer service to underpin customer satisfaction and deliver on the objectives of our Customer Charter.	We will provide clear, accurate and up-to-date information about our services at all our office locations and on our website. Also, we will continually work to make our forms easy to understand. We will review and update the content on our website and intranet.	2025	M1, M2, M3, M4	9	Q2 Q4	Completed

Sustainable Galway	Prioritise income sources for this Council and enhance the database and effective collection and enforcement systems across all revenue streams.	We will continue to review our income sources from the department through grants and subsidies. Allocation of the LPT to each MD with the objective to maximise match funding.	Quarterly	M1, M2, M3, M4	8, 9	4 per year Q1 2025	Completed
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Monitor and strive to continuously improve Financial Management, to include best in class cash flow maintenance, liquidity management, resource utilisation, reduce business risks.	We have tight internal controls on our Financial Management Systems. We continuously monitor our cashflows to ensure we invest at the appropriate levels to earn maximum interest levels to ensure good cash flows. We have our rate collectors actively engaging with customers to ensure that we are maximizing collection rates. We will monitor our collection percentages for commercial rates, rents and loans issued and compare to the prior periods and ultimately year on year review.	Ongoing	M1, M2, M3, M4	8, 9	Q1 Maximise investments for good cash flow; Monitor collection percentages throughout the year; Increase collectability rates by a further percentage	Completed
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Compliance with Statutory Regulations. Continue to support strong audit, financial, risk, data and corporate governance and reporting systems to build public confidence, maximise efficiency and ensure compliance with our obligations.	We have a number of statutory obligations; we ensure that we are abiding by these corporate governance and statutory requirements. We have strong internal controls to support efficiency and ensure compliance with our obligations. We are presently updating the documentation on our processes and procedures in the finance department.	Ongoing	M1, M2, M3, M4	8, 9	Q3	Completed

Sustainable Galway	Support capital project management across all directorates agreeing procedures and supporting the project planning assessment, procurement, and funding mechanism.	We have strong internal controls to support efficiency and ensure compliance with our obligations on the capital account and the draw down of funding relating to capital projects. Review of the Public Spending Code.	Ongoing	M1, M2, M3, M4	8, 9	Q2	Completed
Democracy & Council Leadership	Compliance with Statutory Regulations. Continue to support strong audit, financial, risk, data and corporate governance and reporting systems to build public confidence, maximise efficiency and ensure compliance with our obligations	We continue to have strong checks and controls in our taxation offices. While we promote the online services, we strive to meet the needs of all our customers, hence we continue to have three motor tax offices, supporting the city and council. We will review and compare the number of online services for Motor Tax, with the view to maximise the number of online applications.	Quarterly	M1, M2, M3, M4	8, 9	4 reviews per annum 1 year on year review We are striving for a further 5% increase in the number of online applications	Completed
Information & Communication Technology							
Strategic Goal	Supporting Action	Service Plan Action	Timeline	NOAC Performance Indicator	UN Sustainable Development Goal's (SDG's)	Local KPI Target	End of Year Action Status
Business Transformation through Enhanced Customer Service	Support and deliver a significant amount of Council services digitally and improve access to members of the public and local businesses, having regard to the implementation of the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty for all elements	We are working to increase the number of services online to our customers. We will also review the feasibility of the implementation of an online BOT to support customers and ultimately reduce the number of calls into our customer services	Ongoing	C3	8, 9, 11	At the end of Q4 2025 we will compare to those of the prior period with the target of increasing online services by 10%. By the end of Q4.	In Progress

Sustainable Galway	Redevelopment of the Council's Website to be completed and the expanded use of social media and other communication channels as a source of public information.	We presently have a team updating the website and we are working with a third party to support on ensuring a positive and fulfilled end user experience. Further we are also working on updating the intranet as part of this project	Ongoing	C3	8, 9, 11	We will have an updated website by the end of Q3, which is supported by the server of GCC. To be completed by the end of Q4.	Completed
Democracy & Council Leadership	Support the roll out of the National Local Government Sector Digital Strategy	We are working with the LGMA to roll out our Local Prioritisation Plans for LG Digital & ICT Strategy. As part of this, we set up a digitalisation team, whose early objectives include setting up an innovation team and innovation projects.	Ongoing	C3	8, 9, 11	By Q4. Q1	In Progress

Planning and Economic Development

Local Enterprise Office

Strategic Goal	Supporting Action	Service Plan Action	Timeline	NOAC Performance Indicator	UN Sustainable Development Goal's (SDG's)	Local KPI Target	End of Year Action Status
Business Transformation through Enhanced Customer Service	Be the lead agency for Economic Development and be recognised as the first point of contact for Economic Development for County Galway.	Develop programmes & work to the Enterprise Ireland (EI) Service Level Agreement (SLA) and Metrics	Ongoing	J1, J2, J3	8,9	SLA & NOAC PI	Completed
Business Transformation through Enhanced Customer Service	Provide LEO clinics at Municipal District offices.	To engage at MD level on LEO issues and have a visible presence in LEO offices	Q1 2025	N/A	8,9	Supports offered	Completed

Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Local Enterprise Office (LEO) to continue to support and enable enterprise driven development including provision of support for implementation of the Public Service Duty on Equality and Human Rights.	Deliver training, management projects and work to the EI SLA	Ongoing	N/A	7, 8, 9	SLA delivery	Completed
Democracy & Council Leadership	Establishment of a Designated Activity Company (DAC) with a specific focus on economic and tourism development across the County and ensuring regard for the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty.	To provide input and sit on committees of the new DAC	Q2 2025	N/A	8, 9	DAC established	In Progress
Planning							
Strategic Goal	Supporting Action	Service Plan Action	Timeline	NOAC Performance Indicator	UN Sustainable Development Goal's (SDG's)	Local KPI Target	End of Year Action Status
Business Transformation through Enhanced Customer Service	Delivery of statutory plans including Local Area Plans (LAPs) – Gort (remaining LAP to be completed), having regard to the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty.	Municipal District Approval	Q3	N/A	7, 8, 9, 11	LAP Adopted	Completed
Democracy & Council Leadership	Provide planning services clinics at Municipal District Level	Pre-planning meeting per Municipal district held monthly Planning workshop held with Agents	Ongoing	N/A	7, 8, 9, 11	No. and location by MD of preplanning meetings held 1 per annum	Completed
Democracy & Council Leadership	Prepare and publish a new Development Contribution Scheme	Present Draft Scheme to Plenary	Q2	N/A	8, 9, 11	Scheme Adopted	In Progress
Sustainable Galway	Prepare a Masterplan for the former Galway Airport site at An Carn Mór (Carnmore) and pursue future development options for the site.	Masterplan underway with Partners	Q4	N/A	7, 8, 9,	1.Masterplan Adopted 2. Develop future Options 3. Seek Site Valuation	In Progress

Sustainable Galway	In partnership with Irish Rail and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) to deliver the Oranmore train station and Urban Regeneration Development Project, having regard to universal design principles.	URDF supported New Train Station and Car Park at Oranmore under construction Design work on Car park underway	Q4	N/A	7, 8, 9, 11	Q4	In Progress
Sustainable Galway	Planning Department input to Sceirde Rocks Offshore Wind Farm and other large scale energy projects.	Sceird Rocks Offshore Windfarm Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) reports to MD and Council	Q1	N/A	7, 14	CE Reports to ABP within prescribed period	Completed
Business Transformation through Enhanced Customer Service	Ensure public participation with respect to all statutory Plans and associated emerging Projects.	Consultations held regularly	Ongoing	N/A	11	Events / Workshops	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Delivery of Heritage, Conservation and Biodiversity initiatives across the County having regard to the Public Sector Duty	Grants delivery	Ongoing	N/A	11, 13	No of Events, No of Grants	Completed
Business Transformation through Enhanced Customer Service	Promotion of National Heritage Week and National Biodiversity week	Events and Exhibitions supported	Q3	N/A	11, 13	No of Events	Completed
Democracy & Council Leadership	To implement the new Planning & Development Act 2024 including the required review of the County Development Plan and associated LAPS etc.	Legislation to policy underway	Ongoing	N/A	6, 7, 8, 9, 11	Implementation	In Progress
Sustainable Galway	To support and develop the Strategic Economic Corridor identified in the County Development Plan 2022-28 from Oranmore to Athenry.	Plan in place for delivery	Ongoing	N/A	6, 7, 8, 9, 11	Economic Strategy Developed with Galway City	In Progress

						Council & Statutory Agency Support.	
Sustainable Galway	Ensure that there are adequate residential zoned lands in relevant Towns, Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) area etc. to support economic development and housing need	Ongoing review of lands Statutory CDP Review ongoing with OPR/Dept and Council	Ongoing	N/A	6, 7, 8, 9, 11	County Development Plan Review	In Progress
Sustainable Galway	Ensure the ongoing Management of Planning permissions in accordance with statutory requirement	Report developed by MD on Development Management stats	Ongoing	P2	6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16	No. of Planning Permissions granted No. of Preplanning meetings held	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Ensure compliance with planning permission grant	Compliance documentation received reviewed and agreed by Building Compliance officers Planning Enforcement followed up on	Ongoing	P3	6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16	Statutory Timeframes No of Warning letters issued No of Enforcement letters issued	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Ensure compliance with Building Control Regulation (BC)	Building Control documentation received reviewed and validated by Building Control Officer	Ongoing	P1	9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17	No. of Building Control completed No. of Certs issued	Completed
Urban & Rural Regeneration							
Strategic Goal	Supporting Action	Service Plan Action	Timeline	NOAC Performance Indicator	UN Sustainable Development Goal's (SDG's)	Local KPI Target	End of Year Action Status
Sustainable Galway	Secure additional BIA capital funding and continue to support the development of BIA as a national food innovation and agri-technology hub and Agricultural Technology (AgTech) opportunities.	DCRD Engagement BIA Board and Subgroup Engagement	Q1	N/A	9, 17	BIA Capital Project funded and completed	Completed

Democracy & Council Leadership	Establishment of a Designated Activity Company (DAC) with a specific focus on economic and tourism development across the County and ensuring regard for the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty.	Establishment of a Designated Activity Company (DAC) with a specific focus on economic and tourism development across the County and ensuring regard for the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty.	Q2	N/A	8, 9, 11	DAC established Work plan completed	Not Commenced
Business Transformation through Enhanced Customer Service	Establish a project management office (PMO) to ensure effective delivery of strategic infrastructure and capital projects. Ensure appropriate structures are in place to enable the Council to deliver essential projects for the County's development.	Recruit Staff Develop Work Plan	Q2 & Q4	N/A	11, 13	PMO set up Work Plan devised for actioning in 2026	In Progress
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Ensure public participation with respect to all statutory Plans and associated emerging Projects.	Community Consultations Town Team developments Part 8 projects	Ongoing	N/A	11	Plans devised	Completed
Sustainable Galway	The Regeneration Team to continue working with the Irish Rail, CIE and the Northwest Regional Assembly (NWRA) to deliver on the regeneration of the Tuam Station Quarter in preparation for the reinstatement of the Rail network.	Planning Permission delivery EU Funding application Manage relationship with: Irish Rail, Action Tuam	Q3	N/A	11	Part8 lodged Q2 Part8 Grant Q2 THRIVE funding applied for Q3 Funding awarded Q4	Completed
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Continue to deliver Town Centre First plans in collaboration with established Town Teams identifying funding priorities from a bottom-up level with high levels of community engagement and ownership in line with National Policy	Ongoing community engagement Plans devised Part 8 approvals	Ongoing	N/A	11	Athenry Town Centre Plan under development Headford & Oranmore started	Completed

Sustainable Galway	Facilitate the continued development of Town Teams and wider under Town Centre First programme having regard to the Council's commitment to universal design principles.	Engage with Communities Liaise with Town Teams Develop Town Plans	Ongoing	N/A	11	Town Plans devised Athenry Oranmore Headford An Cheathru Rua (Udaras)	In Progress
Sustainable Galway	Implement and progress projects funded through RRDF, URDF, ERDF, besides other funding streams, in line with Galway County Development Plan objectives, National Policy, and support for Tourism, Economic, Sustainability, Biodiversity, and Climate Action.	Ongoing project management Reporting to MD structures Assign to PMO as needed	Ongoing	N/A	8, 9, 11	Projects delivered Portumna Courthouse finished Loughrea Townhall under construction	Completed
Sustainable Galway	To support and develop the Strategic Economic Corridor (SEC) identified in the County Development Plan 2022-28 from Oranmore to Athenry.	Work on Athenry Town Team Oranmore opportunities to be explored	Ongoing	N/A	11	SEC delivery	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Ongoing RRDF and URDF project delivery: Portumna, Gort, Loughrea Long Point, Athenry, Clifden Public Realm Enhancements, Somers House redevelopment, Portumna Courthouse, Loughrea and Tuam Town Halls, adhering to universal design principles.	Finish construction projects on budget Engage with relevant Agencies Run tenders in a proper manner	Ongoing	N/A	8, 9, 11	Capital projects ongoing Portumna Open Loughrea under construction Long Point P10 granted	In Progress

Housing

Strategic Goal	Supporting Action	Service Plan Action	Timeline	NOAC Performance Indicator	UN Sustainable Development Goal's (SDG's)	Local KPI Target	End of Year Action Status
Sustainable Galway	Support the Galway Housing Delivery Taskforce.	Work to create and extend opportunities for the delivery of private, social and affordable housing, meet Traveller accommodation needs and address homelessness, in line	Q1 – Q4 2025	N/A	6, 10, 11, 12	4 Meetings of the Galway Housing Delivery Taskforce – Q1, Q2, Q3 and Q4 2025. Delivery on	Completed

		with the Taskforce's Terms of Reference.				the actions agreed by the Taskforce.	
Sustainable Galway	Progress opportunities to deliver Affordable Housing.	Provide schemes of Affordable Housing for the county. Support the work of the Galway Housing Delivery Taskforce sub-group on Affordable Housing.	Q1 – Q4 2025	H1	10, 11, 12	Complete sales of 17 units in Phase 1, Garraí Na Gaoithe. Complete sales of 44 units in Phases 2 & 3. Obtain Dept approval of AHF funding for 66 affordable units (purchase and rental) at Droim Na Gaoithe. Prepare tendering documents for design phase of 28 units in Raheen and 16 units in Pairc na hAbhainn, Athenry with delivery anticipated in Q4 2026.	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Deliver housing in Galway under Housing for All by planning and implementing new builds, increasing social and voluntary housing, eliminating discrimination, and addressing the needs of identified groups per the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty	Advance the Housing for All - delivering units under the construction, acquisition, advance purchase, Part V, CAS, CALF, Buy & Renew, Repair & Leasing, Long Term Leasing and Voids. Work in close partnership with Approved Housing bodies	Q1 – Q4 2025	H1	10, 11, 12	Targets in accordance with the HDAP and Housing for All targets.	Completed

		(AHBs) to assist in progressing their Capital & SHCEP project to aid increased delivery of units as their figures contribute to 40% of the overall targets.					
Sustainable Galway	Implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 – 2029 having regard to the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty.	Continue major refurbishment of Traveller Specific housing, including Ballydavid – 6 houses, Gortbride – 7 houses, Castleblakeney – 2 houses, Cartron, Ballygar – 1 house, Kingsland, Athenry – 1 house, Gort – 1 house.	Q1 – Q4 2025	N/A	6, 10, 11	Refurbishment underway on all properties, to be completed by end 2026.	In Progress
Sustainable Galway	Review the requirement and potential for the redevelopment of Tuam Halting Site to provide required accommodation, dependent on planning approval and funding being made available, in collaboration with CENA.	Present completed feasibility study for consideration of LTACC.	Q4 2025	N/A	6, 10, 11	Feasibility study to be agreed and presented to LTACC Q4 2025.	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Deliver enhanced Homeless Services by adopting and implementing regional and county action plans. Focus on preventing and reducing homelessness, minimizing reliance on private temporary emergency accommodation, and addressing the needs of identified groups	Delivery and management of homeless services in line with the West Region Homeless Action Plan and with the support of Galway City Council as West Regional Lead for Homeless Services.	Q1 – Q4 2025	H6	6, 10, 11	Adoption of West Regional Homeless Action Plan 2025–2027 – Q1 2025. Adoption of Galway County Council Homeless Action Plan by Q4 2025. Increased provision of homeless services facilities – Community Based Housing &	Completed

						Youth Housing Programmes.	
Sustainable Galway	Progress provision of emergency short-term homeless accommodation and medium-term supported housing.	Collaborate with Dept of Housing and NGOs and Housing Capital team to progress plan to Part 8 planning.	Q3 2025	H6	6, 10, 11	Appoint Design Team and advance Part 8.	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Support the provision of domestic abuse refuge in Galway County (emergency response): Review requirement and potential location for domestic violence refuge.	Collaborate with Dept of Housing and NGOs to provide medium-term accommodation in 2026. Engage with domestic violence response service providers to progress refuge in County Galway.	Q2 2025	H6	6, 10, 11	Agreement in place with NGO regarding provision of supported medium-term housing for families leaving domestic violence refuge. Engage with CUAN to determine a timeline for the funding and delivery of a domestic violence refuge in County Galway.	In Progress
Sustainable Galway	Establish a dedicated team to facilitate a rolling annual differential rent review of all Council and HAP/RAS and Lease tenancies.	County-wide rent review of 1,500 Council tenants and tenants in private rented accommodation in receipt of HAP or RAS supports.	Q1 – Q4 2025	N/A	10, 11	County-wide rent review of 1,500 Council tenants and tenants in private rented accommodation in receipt of HAP or RAS supports completed by Q4 2025 with the balance of rent reviews to be	In Progress

						completed in 2026.	
Sustainable Galway	Progress a scheme of works to improve energy efficiency in the Council's stock and to contribute to efforts against climate change.	Prepare and implement a programme of energy efficiency works in 67 Council properties based on funding allocation.	Q4 2025	H7	11	Energy efficiency upgrades completed on 67 Council owned properties by Q4 2025.	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Effective Management of Housing Vacancies. Reduce level and duration of vacancies in Housing Stock:	Plan in place to have properties overturned efficiently and economically to facilitate re-letting.	Q1 – Q4 2025	H3, H4	11	Aim to achieve a reduction in the average re-let period in 2025 v 2024. Target of 20 weeks. Average Time Taken from Date of Vacation of Dwelling to the Date in 2025 When a New Tenancy had Commenced (Weeks) that don't have energy retrofits attached (KPI H3A), 40 weeks.	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Support the regulation and implementation of minimum standards in the rented sector.	Proceed with the inspections of private rented properties (RTB, HAP, RAS).	Q1 – Q4 2025	H5	10, 11	No. of Inspections carried out (KPI H5B). Achieve annual target of 1,584 inspections of private rental properties, as determined by the DHLGH, by	In Progress

						the end of Q4. Report quarterly on performance to the DHLGH.	
Sustainable Galway	Provide housing loans and grants to support individuals and families in meeting their housing needs. Address specific needs arising from diversity and help adapt accommodations to meet changing household needs.	Implementation of Local Authority Housing Loan Scheme in accordance with Department guidelines.	Q1 – Q4 2025	N/A	10, 11	Housing Loan applications processed, and returns submitted as per Department guidelines and allocation for 2025.	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Provide housing loans and grants to support individuals and families in meeting their housing needs. Address specific needs arising from diversity and help adapt accommodations to meet changing household needs.	Implement the HAG/MAG & HAOP Grant Schemes as per Department guidelines: Progress IT system to facilitate online grant applications in collaboration with IT development team	Q1 – Q4 2025	N/A	10, 11	Number of applications and length of time on hand Q1, Q2, Q3 and Q4. Applications processed in an efficient and timely manner – within 3 months of receipt, as resources allow. Develop of online system as option for applicants in 2025, in collaboration with IT development staff, as resources allow.	Completed

Sustainable Galway	Prepare and implement a land acquisition program to support mixed tenure housing for sustainable communities. Advance maintenance and improvement of existing social housing.	Acquire a land bank for housing construction.	Q1 – Q4 2025	H2, H3, H4	11	Extent of additional residential land acquired during 2025.	In Progress
Sustainable Galway	Prepare and implement a land acquisition program to support mixed tenure housing for sustainable communities. Advance maintenance and improvement of existing social housing.	implement Preventative Maintenance Programme for Housing Stock. Monitor and enhance the efficiency of housing stock maintenance by tracking the number of repairs completed, ensure timely response. Maintenance repair requests managed and logged in a timely manner via ihouse	Q1 – Q4 2025	H2, H3, H4	11	Review and update Planned Maintenance Programme by Q2 2025. Advance Energy Retrofit Programme in accordance with targets identified and funding made available. Number of repairs completed as a % of valid repair requests received by end Q4 with a target set at 95% of Emergency Repairs (I House category). Review and establish: (1) Properties to sell (2) Major Refurb Applications (no. 8) (3) Derelict Units (no. 24) Repairs to be carried out as	Completed

						requested subject to resources being available.	
Sustainable Galway	Provide housing loans and grants to support individuals and families in meeting their housing needs. Address specific needs arising from diversity and help adapt accommodations to meet changing household needs.	Implementation of Tenant Purchase scheme in accordance with revised Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016 as updated by Circular 48-2023 in December 2023.	Q1 – Q4 2025	N/A	10, 11	Applications for Tenant Purchase progressed in an efficient and timely manner.	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Prepare and implement a land acquisition program to support mixed tenure housing for sustainable communities. Advance maintenance and improvement of existing social housing.	Reduce level and duration of vacancies in Housing Stock: Continued use of the RED list system to ensure voids vacancies are minimised. Maximise use of technology.	Q1 – Q4 2025	H2, H3, H4	11	Aim to maintain the % of housing vacancies at end of Q4 2025 versus % of housing vacancies at end Q4 2024 (KPI H2A). Aim to achieve a reduction in the average re-let period in 2025 v 2024. Target of 20 weeks. Average Time Taken from Date of Vacation of Dwelling to the Date in 2025 When a New Tenancy had Commenced (Weeks) that don't have energy retrofits	Completed

						attached (KPI H3A), 40 weeks.	
Sustainable Galway	Tackle residential vacancy through grant schemes and activation including the commencement of a Compulsory Purchase of Property (CPO) activation programme.	Continue to implement the Vacant Homes Action Plan throughout 2025 and CPO Activation Programme Re-visit vacant/derelict properties identified through the Geo Directory Vacancy Data Survey, to update the vacancy status, with the aim of bringing the vacant properties back into use through the Activation Programme or CPO Vacancy/Dereliction Activation Programme	Q1 – Q4 2025	N/A	10, 11	In line with Activation Targets to be set by the DHLGH for 2025. A target of 150 properties to enter the activation programme by the end of 2025. Re-visit the 817 vacant/derelict properties identified through the Survey, to update the vacancy status, by the end of 2025. GCC has set a target of 80 of the 817 to be privately activated by the end of Q4 2025. Progress the Purchase of properties as per the target set by the DHLGH in 2025 under the CPO Vacancy/Dereliction Activation Programme	Completed

Sustainable Galway	Tackle residential vacancy through grant schemes and activation including the commencement of a Compulsory Purchase of Property (CPO) activation programme.	Manage the Croi Conaithe (Vacant Homes) grant scheme in a timely manner and track and maintain all records Ensure inspections for the Croi Conaithe Scheme are carried out in a timely manner	Q1 – Q4 2025	N/A	10, 11	Ensure initial applications for VPRGs are acknowledged within two weeks of receipt and a substantive reply with FI request sent within two weeks. 10% of applications/vacant properties which have received initial approval to be visited. Ensure initial and final inspections are carried out within 3 weeks of referral date, with inspection reports returned within 4 weeks of referral date.	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Tackle residential vacancy through grant schemes and activation including the commencement of a Compulsory Purchase of Property (CPO) activation programme.	Implement all other Schemes under the Vacant Homes Action Plan including Buy and Renew, Repair and Lease. Record all EOIs received under Buy and Renew and repair and lease, referring any properties for consideration under buy and renew to Capital for acquisitions. CPO Activation Programme. Implement and	Q1 – Q4 2025	N/A	10, 11	All Expressions of Interest to be addressed in 10 days.	Completed

		progress the CPO activation scheme by identifying and prioritising vacant and derelict properties.					
Sustainable Galway	Tackle residential vacancy through grant schemes and activation including the commencement of a Compulsory Purchase of Property (CPO) activation programme.	Long Term Leasing Advance Long term leasing programme by identifying suitable properties and engaging with property owners and securing lease agreements. Manage existing long-term leases	Q1 – Q4 2025	N/A	10, 11	1 LTL (1 unit) to be complete by end of Q1 2025 1 LTL (11 units) to be complete by end of Q3 2025 Respond to queries as they arise, and process Rent increases in line with the Lease and HICP index.	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Provide professional, timely and quality Tenancy and Estate Management Services to all local authority residents, addressing the needs of identified groups. support vibrant, integrated, mixed tenure, self-reliant communities in line with legal requirements	Tenancy Sustainment Strategy Implementation of the Tenancy Sustainment & Estate Management Strategy. Review and update the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy. Digitization of all TEM files for increased efficiencies. Develop online Case Tracker onboarding. Individual Tenancy sustainment review for transition properties.	Q1 – Q4 2025	N/A	10, 11	No. of Tenancy Sustainment Home Visits carried out. (Measure at the end of each quarter). No. of coordinated multiagency initiatives/site visits taken to promote sustainable communities (Target No. 11). By Q4 2025 100% of TEM files digitized. To complete by Q4	Completed

						No. of support plans in place for LA tenancies.	
Sustainable Galway	Provide professional, timely and quality Tenancy and Estate Management Services to all local authority residents, addressing the needs of identified groups. support vibrant, integrated, mixed tenure, self-reliant communities in line with legal requirements	Rent a Room to Students Programme. Roll out the rent a room to a student initiative, where local authority tenants can apply to rent a room in their accommodation to students.	Q1 – Q4 2025	N/A	10, 11	Support the Rent a Room Programme as per guidance from the DHLGH.	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Provide professional, timely and quality Tenancy and Estate Management Services to all local authority residents, addressing the needs of identified groups. support vibrant, integrated, mixed tenure, self-reliant communities in line with legal requirements	Community CCTV systems Procure, operate and manage Community based CCTV Systems in accordance with Data Protection Impact Assessment and Data Protection Officer	Q1 – Q4 2025	N/A	10, 11	Compliance with GDPR requirements.	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Provide professional, timely and quality Tenancy and Estate Management Services to all local authority residents, addressing the needs of identified groups. support vibrant, integrated, mixed tenure, self-reliant communities in line with legal requirements	Period Poverty Project. Expansion of the current programme which has provided free period poverty products in all our libraries, funded by Health Ireland, to also include HQ and M.D. buildings.	Q1 – Q4 2025	N/A	10, 11	Expanded Programme by Q4 2025	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Provide professional, timely and quality Tenancy and Estate Management Services to all local authority residents, addressing the needs of identified groups. support vibrant, integrated, mixed tenure, self-reliant communities in line with legal requirements	To deliver a professional, practice-based Social Work service to referred clients. Implementation of Referrals process and Case allocations SOLO (Sexual Offences Liaison Officer) role (SSW) Child Protection Officer (SSW) Improved communication with	Q1 – Q4 2025	N/A	10, 11	Tracking on Caseload management System. Review at Social Work Team Meetings – reprioritise cases, close cases, allocate new	Completed

		<p>stakeholders Adherence to Children's First legislation. Respond to and support staff re concerns for child welfare CORU obligations. Referrals to external agencies as required Case closures.</p>				<p>cases etc. Updates on Actions / interventions – Outcomes - noted in Social Work Case notes. Reporting and screening within the timelines as outlined in the National Safeguarding Policy 2014. Case management of SOLO clients Changes to Sex Offenders legislation, implications for SOLO and LA. Responding to referrals appropriately and timely. Liaison with Tusla on behalf of Galway County Council. Tusla (Child Protection), Aftercare (Tusla), HSE, Mental Health, Disability services → leading to earlier intervention on</p>	
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						mutual cases → positive outcomes. Clinical Supervision. Training of Social Workers from University of Galway on placement with Galway County Council. CPD – CORU registration. Implementation of caseload and referrals management. Prioritisation System in place. P1, P2, P3. Accountability of casework, follow up etc. Progression of cases.	
Sustainable Galway	Provide high-quality, efficient and customer-focused service in assessing housing needs and meeting accommodation needs of eligible households through social housing allocation, voluntary housing and Housing Assistance Payment, Rental Accommodation Scheme.	Ongoing processing housing applications and engaging with housing applicants.	Ongoing	H3	6, 10, 11	Process valid applications for Social Housing and engage with applicants within 12 weeks of receipt of completed application.	Completed

Sustainable Galway	Provide high-quality, efficient and customer-focused service in assessing housing needs and meeting accommodation needs of eligible households through social housing allocation, voluntary housing and Housing Assistance Payment, Rental Accommodation Scheme.	Delivery of Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) & Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	Ongoing	H3	6, 10, 11	Process RAS and HAP payments in a timely manner and ensure drawdown from the Department are up to date.	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Provide high-quality, efficient and customer-focused service in assessing housing needs and meeting accommodation needs of eligible households through social housing allocation, voluntary housing and Housing Assistance Payment, Rental Accommodation Scheme.	Acquisitions Progress the acquisition of properties to provide housing for Clients in long term emergency accommodation. Progress the acquisition of properties through the Tenant in Situ Scheme	Ongoing	H3	6, 10, 11	As per Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage allocation for 2025. As per Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage allocation for 2025.	Completed
Sustainable Galway	The Strategic Plan for Housing People with a disability 2021-2026 will be reviewed regularly to allow for consideration of national disability strategies, regulation or legislation developments.	Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability.	Ongoing	H1, H2, H3, H4, H5, H6, H7	6, 10, 11	No of Meetings of Housing Disability Steering Group and Related Subgroups Implementation of the National Housing Strategy and Implementation Plan	Completed

Physical Infrastructure, Fire & Emergency Services, Climate Change

Water Services

Strategic Goal	Supporting Action	Service Plan Action	Timeline	NOAC Performance Indicator	UN Sustainable Development Goal's (SDG's)	Local KPI Target	End of Year Action Status
Sustainable Galway	Work with Uisce Éireann to ensure that key water and wastewater investments are made by UÉ to enable sustainable urban and rural growth in County Galway including the Strategic Economic Corridor. Drive the implementation of the Rural Water Programme with a focus on addressing infrastructure deficits in our towns and villages.	The Capital Team in Water Services assist and input to Uisce Éireann Capital Investment Plan along with colleagues in Planning to ensure that infrastructure investment by Uisce Éireann is aligned with development plans.	Ongoing	W1, W2	6	Work under the targets in the Master Co-operation Agreement (MAC)	In Progress
Sustainable Galway	Under the Master Co-operation Agreement (MCA), progress the operational handover, workforce transition and financial management of the water services functions to Uisce Eireann	Transfer remaining assets, to UE, workforce transition to UE employment, redeploy staff that wish not to transition to UE.	Ongoing	N/A	6	As per targets in the MCA	In Progress
Sustainable Galway	Work with the DHLGH and in partnership with UE, to address wastewater infrastructure deficits in villages of Craughwell and Clarinbridge to support River Basin water quality and housing provision.	Strengthen the resources in the Rural Water Unit to advance the wastewater deficits in partnership with UE. Identify options, business case, funding, planning	Ongoing	W1, W2	6	Q4, 2025 identify preferred option, secure resources & funding, and agreement with UE	In Progress
Sustainable Galway	Enhance and Support Rural Water Services, having regard to our public sector duties, ensuring equitable access to clean and safe drinking water, particularly for vulnerable and marginalised communities in rural areas	Invest in infrastructure and upgrades for group water schemes by securing funding from the DHLGH. Assist small water supplies and individual well grants	Ongoing	W1, W2	6	Ongoing	Completed

Roads and Transportation							
Strategic Goal	Supporting Action	Service Plan Action	Timeline	NOAC Performance Indicator	UN Sustainable Development Goal's (SDG's)	Local KPI Target	End of Year Action Status
Sustainable Galway	To enhance the National Road Network across the county through collaboration with TII, prioritise projects and secure funding to improve road safety, reduce journey time and support economic development.	Progress projects following An Bord Pleanála (ABP) approval, Strategic Assessments, feasibility studies, land acquisitions, method statements, as project appropriate. N6 GCRR – RFI submit to ABP, N59 – planning conditions compliance pre-construction N63 Abbeyknockmoy N67 Kinvara	Ongoing Q1 2025	R1, R2, R3, P1	9	N6 GCRR to ABP in Q1, 2025. Possible Oral Hearing on the additional RFI. ABP Decision Q4, 2025	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Develop the Greenways Infrastructure including the Galway to Portumna Greenway and the Galway to Oughterard and the Oughterard to Clifden Greenway	Advance the preferred option on the Galway to Portumna Greenway. Continue the work on the Conamara Greenway through planning and construction	Q2 2025 On going	N/A	8	Q2 2025 Ongoing	In Progress
Sustainable Galway	Continue the improvement and maintenance programme of works on coastal piers to support the fishing industry and the islands.	Prepare and deliver routine maintenance & minor improvements programme for Piers, Harbours and yacht moorings - subject to available funding. Progress capital projects on strategic piers Inis Óírr and Inis Meáin through the approvals, permitting and works phases. Develop strategy for future upgrade projects aligned with goals of supporting and developing sustainable coastal communities	Q4 2025 Award contract by Q4 2025 Q4 2025	N/A	14	Q4 2025 Complete works as per contractor procurement. Q4 2025	Completed

Business Transformation through Enhanced Customer Service	Prepare and implement the multi annual Roads Investment Programme for the national and non-national road network.	Undertake and complete a maintenance and resurfacing programme for national and non-national, and local routes, incorporating ordinary maintenance (verge trimming, drainage and signage provision/renewal), bridge maintenance, winter maintenance and route lighting maintenance within the limits of available funding and as agreed with the Transport Infrastructure Ireland/Department of Transport. Strategic Regional & Local Road Schemes: ü Athenry Ring Road Sections 3 & 5 ü R332 Kilbannon ü R374 Causeways & Bridges ü R339 Belville ü L52214 Cuan na Loinge	Q3/4 2025	R1, R2, P1	9	Completion of the Annual Roads Programme by Nov 2025 in accordance with TII -Chargeability of Expenditure to National Road Grants (CAP-QAW-0100-1) and DTTAS Circular RW 02, 2025 with TII & Dept of Transport 2025 Funding Allocations. S3-5, construction to commence 2025 Finalise Tenders, apply for DOT approval. Q4 2025 Q4 2025 Q4 2025 Q4 2025	Completed
Business Transformation through Enhanced Customer Service	Deliver strategic Noise Map/Noise Action Plan for the County and implement the actions in the plan.	Deliver on all actions required within the Noise Action Plan.	2025	N/A	3	Q4 2025	In Progress
Business Transformation through Enhanced Customer Service	Undertake and deliver a review of the speed limits across the road network	Fulfill all statutory obligations relating to Speed Limits. Implement nationally mandated changes deriving from the 2023 National Speed Limit Review.	2025	N/A	3	Q4 2025	Completed

Sustainable Galway	Review and implement a county wide review of speed limits under the Dept Transport Speed Limit Review	Review and implement 30km/h speed limits in towns and villages	Q4 2025	N/A	3	Q4 2025	In Progress
Sustainable Galway	Work with the NTA in the updating of the Galway Transport Strategy and publication of the Galway Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (GMATS).	Draft to public consultation	2025	R1, R2, R3, P1	11	Q4 2025	In Progress
Sustainable Galway	Support the delivery and implementation of Local Transport plans, Community Based Transport Plans, area-based transport plans having regard to the Council's commitment to universal design principles and by putting measures in place to address the specific needs of the identified groups.	A County Transport Modelling Assessment Local Transportation Plans for Tuam, Athenry, Loughrea and Gort East Galway City Suburbs Local Transport Plan to include Oranmore Community Transport Studies for 6 towns - Headford, Kinvara, Portumna, Oughterard, Maigh Cuillin and Clifden Collaboration with the NTA National Cycle Project Office teams to develop a National Cycle Network - Cycle Connects strategy currently being developed by the NTA	Ongoing	R1, R2, R3, P1	11	Q4 2025	In Progress
Sustainable Galway	Continue the preparation and delivery of mobility plans incorporating programmes such as Active Travel measures, Safe Routes to School and Low-cost safety schemes etc. having regard to the Council's commitment to universal design principles	Progress and manage NTA funded Active Travel projects across the county. Prioritise delivery of the Active Travel/Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Programme	Ongoing	R1, R2, R3, P1	11	Complete Design, Planning & Construction by Q4 2025 to Q1 2026 Complete Design, Planning & Construction by Q4 2025 to Q1 2026	In Progress

Sustainable Galway	Enhance Road Safety in County Galway	Development a Joint Road Safety Plan in partnership with Galway City Council, TII, RSA and An Garda Síochána (AGS) Continue to develop the Road Safety Initiative including Road Safety Schemes Jointly assess fatal and serious accident location with AGS	Q1 2025 On going	R1, R2, R3, P1	3, 11	Q1 2025	In Progress
Sustainable Galway	Road Safety Promotion	Regional Road Safety Network Meetings Annual Road Safety Week – Awareness Campaign	Ongoing 6th – 13th Oct. 2025	N/A	3, 11	3 meetings per year October 2025	Completed
Business Transformation through Enhanced Customer Service	Enhance the Councils Municipal District office' capacities to deliver as many services as possible closest to our citizens with each district having a bespoke business plan aligned to the Corporate Plan and with full regard to the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty.	Strengthen the MD Structures in line with the Workforce Plan objectives	Ongoing	N/A	11	Q4	In Progress
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Enhance the accessibility & comfort of bus stops in Gaeltacht areas	Conduct a needs assessment across the Gaeltacht areas and prioritise Incorporate universal design principles to ensure bus stops are accessible by all Orientate shelters to protect users from the prevailing weather conditions Secure funding opportunities and enter a Service Level Agreement with Údarás na Gaeltacht for funding support.	Q1 2025 Continuous and On-going	N/A	9	Q1 2025	Completed

Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Enhance Public engagement in transport planning	Conduct public consultation including non-statutory consultation on transport projects and ensure they are fully accessible e.g online participation.	2025	N/A	9	6 per year	Completed
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Embedding Equality & Human Rights in Transport Infrastructure and Services	Conduct accessibility audits on existing transport infrastructure (incl. bus stops, pedestrian crossings, footpaths, cycleways etc) Implement Universal design principles in all new transport projects ensuring compliance with the Disability Act 2005 and the National Disability Inclusion Strategy Ensure safe pedestrian and wheel-chair accessible routes in towns and villages, prioritising areas with high footfall Improve rural transport accessibility in partnership with the NTA and Local Link to ensure that routes serve disadvantaged and isolated communities	2025	N/A	9	SPC Agenda	In Progress

Fire Services/Civil Defence

Strategic Goal	Supporting Action	Service Plan Action	Timeline	NOAC Performance Indicator	UN Sustainable Development Goal's (SDG's)	Local KPI Target	End of Year Action Status
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Enhance Fire Station infrastructure across the county to improve emergency response times, modernise the facilities and to ensure that the fire service can effectively meet the needs of local communities	Work with the DoHLGH for funding for the construction of a new Galway City Fire Station and Headquarters. Progress construction of a New Fire Station in Loughrea Progress plans for the upgrade of Ballinasloe Fire Station in terms of design drawings and inclusion on the national capital plan for funding	Ongoing	P1, F1, F2, F3	3	City Station, identify site Q2, 2025 Loughrea, detailed Design and Tender construction Q3, 2025	In Progress
Performance, Transparency, Equality, Human Rights, and Accountability	Strengthen Fire & Rescue Services for enhanced public safety Ensure that fire services and major emergency management continue to deliver services to a high standard with measures to address specific needs of the identified groups and ensure the implementation of workforce planning and recommendations of the WRC in relation to Retained firefighters and operation of the service.	Maintain and improve response times across all fire stations in County Galway Continue to invest in modern firefighting equipment & vehicles Continue Fire Inspections and fire safety campaigns. Promote fire safety in schools Conduct fire safety assessment in vulnerable community areas Enhance fire recruitment and retention. Review the recommendations of the report "A Review of Recruitment and Retention and the Future Sustainability of Service Delivery" with a view to ensuring greater recruitment and retention of retained fire service personnel	Ongoing	P1, F1, F2, F3	3	15 to 20 min from call-out for 80% of incidents Q4, 2025 new fire tenders' delivery from Scotland Continuous and On-going Q2, 2025	In Progress

Climate Change							
Strategic Goal	Supporting Action	Service Plan Action	Timeline	NOAC Performance Indicator	UN Sustainable Development Goal's (SDG's)	Local KPI Target	End of Year Action Status
Sustainable Galway	Implement the Galway County Climate Action Plan on a whole of organization basis through the agreed governance structures and reporting progress to Management Team, with measures to address specific needs of the identified groups of the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty.	Enhance Climate Resilience and Adaption by delivering Flood Risk Management solutions in collaboration with OPW. Climate adaptation measures aligned with the strategic goals of the Galway County Council Climate Action Plan.	Ongoing	E7	13	Gort Lowlands – enter planning Q3, 2025 Clifden – Consultation Q2, 2025 Ballinasloe - enter planning Q3, 2025	In Progress
Sustainable Galway	Implement the Galway County Climate Action Plan on a whole of organization basis through the agreed governance structures and reporting progress to Management Team, with measures to address specific needs of the identified groups of the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty.	Secure funding and complete the retrofit of the Public Lighting network with LED luminaries.	Ongoing	N/A	13	100% LED by end of 2026	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Support and Advance the Decarbonisation Zone in County Galway	Work in partnership with the Decarbonisation Zone (DZ) Stakeholder Group in the development and implementation of action plans. Roll-Out dedicated DZ funding opportunities	Quarterly	N/A	13	4 meetings	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Implementation of the Community Action Climate Fund, having regard to the specific needs of the identified groups	Administer 2024 Fund Initiate 2025 Fund	2025	E7	13	Q4 2025	Completed

Sustainable Galway	Implement Galway County Council Energy Efficiency & Carbon Reduction Programme towards meeting national 2030 targets	Support SEAI Sustainable Energy Communities	2025	N/A	13	Support 4 communities to develop Energy Master Plans	Completed
Sustainable Galway	Implement Galway County Council Energy Efficiency & Carbon Reduction Programme towards meeting national 2030 targets	Advancing energy projects to achieve emissions reductions and energy efficiency targets across Council buildings. Deliver design for energy upgrades	2025	N/A	13	3 buildings Westside Library Ballinasloe Area Office Tuam Area Office	In Progress
Sustainable Galway	Implement Galway County Council Energy Efficiency & Carbon Reduction Programme towards meeting national 2030 targets	Apply for ISO 50001 for Energy Management in respect of Fleet, Public Lighting, 6 Council Buildings	Q3 2025	N/A	13	Q4 2025	In Progress

Strategic Policy Committees & Municipal District Reports

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. For the period 2025- 2029, the Council established six Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) comprised of Councillors and Sectoral Representatives. The composition of these committees is detailed in the table below:

Strategic Policy Committees Report

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.

Strategic Policy Scheme for the period 2025-2029

Galway County Council adopted a new Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) Scheme for the period 2025–2029. Throughout 2025, the new SPCs continued their work under this scheme, meeting regularly to progress policy development across their respective areas.

Housing

Membership

Title + Name	Sector
Cllr. Michael Maher, Chairperson	Galway County Council
Cllr. Peter Keaveney	Galway County Council
Cllr. Eileen Mannion	Galway County Council
Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe	Galway County Council
Cllr. Jimmy McClearn	Galway County Council
Cllr. Gerry Finnerty	Galway County Council
Cllr. Declan Kelly	Galway County Council
Ms. Rachael Stewart	Business/Commercial
Mr. AJ Dean	Development/Construction
Ms. Helen Jennings	Social Inclusion
Mr. Seamus Duffy	Community/Voluntary

Summary of items considered and progressed

The Housing SPC meetings held in February, June, and September and December 2025 featured presentations that focused on key strategic areas including Safe Home Ireland, homelessness, age-friendly supports, anti-social behaviour, housing maintenance, zoned land delivery, Part V implementation, Vacant Homes Action Plan, Affordable Housing update and the Council’s Garda Checking Matrix for allocations and estate management. In February, the committee received an in-depth briefing from Safe Home Ireland on supports for returning Irish emigrants, followed by a detailed presentation on the Draft West Region Homeless Action Plan 2025–2027, outlining emergency accommodation pressures, Housing First pathways, and national and regional homelessness statistics. Additional updates were provided on the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy, affordable housing schemes, and progress on CPO activation and housing delivery. In June, the SPC received a comprehensive analysis of Safe Home Ireland and housing allocation impacts, a full overview of the Healthy Age Friendly

Homes Programme, an update on the Homeless Action Plan, and a detailed report on Planned Housing Maintenance, covering voids, derelict units, energy retrofits, and collaboration between Housing and TEM teams.

By September 2025, the focus had shifted to operational and delivery frameworks, beginning with a full presentation on the updated Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2025–2030, detailing legal frameworks, complaint-handling processes, staffing structures, and enforcement mechanisms. This was followed by a technical briefing on Part V delivery, including challenges, transitional arrangements, and case studies, as well as an extensive update on the Galway Residential Zoned Land Report, which analysed infrastructure deficits, zoned land availability, and costed interventions required to unlock development potential. The SPC also received detailed updates on the Housing Grants Programme, including new thresholds and processing volumes, and a demonstration of the Housing Supply & Demand Dashboard, which tracks real time social housing need by area, property type, age cohort, and demand category. In December a substantial presentation on the Vacant Homes Action Plan was delivered, and the SPC received a detailed Affordable Housing update on schemes in Claregalway, Kinvara, Athenry, and Loughrea, supported by findings from the countywide Affordable Housing Expression of Interest Survey. The SPC further reviewed the Council’s Garda Checking Matrix for allocations and estate management.

Economic Development & Enterprise & Planning

Membership

Title + Name	Sector
Chairperson Donagh Killilea	Galway County Council
Cllr Gerry King	Galway County Council
Cllr Thomas Welby	Galway County Council
Cllr Mary Hoade	Galway County Council
Cllr Declan Geraghty	Galway County Council
Cllr David Collins	Galway County Council
Lyn Donnelly	Community/ Voluntary
Deborah Reynolds	Trade Union
Paul Carey	Development/Construction
Helena McElmeel	Business/ Commercial

Summary of items considered and progressed

The Economic Development & Enterprise & Planning SPC met on 3 occasions and had 1 joint meeting with Galway City Planning SPC, undertaking significant work on a number of areas and received presentations and updates on various areas of work. These included the following:

- Residential Zone Land Tax
- URDF projects
- Town Centre Plans
- Draft Joint Retail Strategy
- Variation no 1 to County Development Plan
- Gort Local Area Plan
- LEO Programmes
- Planning & Development Act 2024

Physical Development, Transportation & Emergency Services

Membership

Title + Name	Sector
Chairperson Pádraig Mac An Iomaire	Galway County Council
Cllr Peter Feeney	Galway County Council
Cllr Martin Mc Namara	Galway County Council
Cllr Seán Broderick	Galway County Council
Cllr Michael Connolly	Galway County Council
Cllr Siobhan Mc Hugh Ryan	Galway County Council
Cllr Tomás Ó Curraoin	Galway County Council
Aodán MacDonncha	Community/Voluntary
Mark Green	Environment/Conservation
Colm Ryan	Development/Construction
Anne Mitchell	Agriculture/Farming

Summary of items considered and progressed

At the Physical Development, Transportation & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee, members received updates on several key policy and operational areas. An overview of the National Speed Limit Review was provided, outlining expected implications for local roads and future implementation timelines. Members also discussed the Draft Road Safety Plan, noting priority actions to improve safety across the county. An update was given on Galway County Council's paid parking framework, including current operations and upcoming review processes. The Active Travel team briefed members on the Bus Stops initiative, highlighting planned locations and accessibility improvements. A review of the Hedge Cutting Policy was noted, with members raising points regarding maintenance schedules and responsibilities.

In addition, funding updates were provided on both the Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) and the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS), outlining allocations, applications received, and delivery progress. GLUAS, the light rail proposal for the Galway MASP, also presented an update on recent work and ongoing feasibility considerations.

Community, Irish Language, Gaeltacht, Tourism & Integration

Membership

Name	Chair	Community, Irish Language, Gaeltacht, Tourism & Integration
Cllr. Seamus Walsh	2	3
Cllr. Noel Thomas		4
Cllr. Alan Harney		5
Cllr. Evelyn Parsons		4
Cllr. Shane Curley		1
Cllr. Michael Leainde	2	3
Cllr. Máirtín Lee		5
Cllr. Michael Regan (Shane Curley replacement from March 2025)	1	3
Community/Voluntary		

Paul Dillon		3
Social Inclusion		
Chika Onyia		5
Development & Construction Sector		
Mr. Paul Carey		5
Business/Commercial		
Ms. Colleen Baxter		4

Summary of items considered and progressed

Five meetings of the Community, Irish Language, Gaeltacht, Tourism & Integration SPC took place in 2025. The meeting held in July was a special meeting to discuss the new Age Friendly Strategy 2026-2031.

Much of the work undertaken in 2025 will contribute to the ongoing community and integration development of Galway and will continue to be priority actions over the coming years. Key items and issues where inputs and presentations were received in 2025 included the Humanitarian Response to Storm Eowyn, Irish Placenames, Rural Schemes, Age Friendly Strategy, the Flag and Special Lighting Protocol, County Galway Tourism Strategy 2023-2031 priorities for 2026, Development of Local Sports Plan for County Galway, UNESCO Cities of Film International Meeting Galway 2026, Draft Customer Action Plan 2025 – 2029 and activities and initiative by the Library service.

Environmental Protection & Agriculture

Membership

Title + Name	Sector
Chairperson Karey McHugh Faraj	Galway County Council
Cllr James Charity	Galway County Council
Cllr Andrew Reddington	Galway County Council
Cllr Geraldine Donohue	Galway County Council
Cllr Cillian Keane	Galway County Council
Cllr Dermot Connolly	Galway County Council
Noel Finnegan	PPN - Community/Voluntary
Kevin O’Crowley	PPN - Environment
Karina Finn	Sectoral - Agriculture/Farming
Elaine Murphy	Sectoral - Business/ Commercial

Summary of items considered and progressed

Three meetings of the Environmental Protection and Agriculture Meeting were held in 2025. A detailed presentation was provided to the Members on LAWPRO (Local Authority Waters Programme) delivered by the Regional Coordinator Dr. Bernadette White. This outlined the role of LAWPRO and detailed their work under the Water Action Plan and Water Framework Directive. The Members were also advised of funding schemes for community engagement projects and partnership initiatives through LAWPRO. Following on from this item, the SPC discussed an item brought forward by the PPN Representative regarding excessive nutrients in waterways. The Council’s Agricultural Inspector also provided an overview of farm inspections under the NAIP (National Agricultural Inspection Plan) and engagement with the DAFM (Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine and IFI (Inland Fisheries Ireland).

The SPC also received a review of actions and activities under the Litter Management Plan 2023-2025 in preparation for the development of a new plan from 2026 and discussed targeted measures to address issues of illegal dumping under the Anti-Dumping Initiative, and the reinstatement of CCTV at bottle banks and litter blackspots under new

requirements. A presentation was also made to the Members on the 18 historic landfills in the County and the process for attaining a Certificate of Authorisation following aftercare works through a specific remediation programme. The Members were also briefed on new initiatives in the area of waste management including the development of a fourth civic amenity site for the County at Gort.

Climate Action, Biodiversity & Heritage

Membership

Title + Name	Sector
Chairperson Cllr Ivan Canning	Galway County Council
Cllr. Paul Killilea	Galway County Council
Cllr. Laurie Harney	Galway County Council
Cllr. Tomas Grealish	Galway County Council
Cllr. Martina Kinane	Galway County Council
Cllr. Ollie Turner	Galway County Council
Mr. Stephen Canavan	Agriculture / Farming
Ms. Justine Delaney	Business / Commercial
Ms. Hazel Morrison	Community / Voluntary
Mr. Peter Butler	Environment / Conservation

Summary of items considered and progressed

Throughout 2025, the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Heritage SPC reviewed the implementation of the Heritage and Biodiversity Plan and Climate Action Plan. Updates on the Climate Action Plan included energy efficiency and retrofit programmes, adaptation, development of the Decarbonisation Zone as well as water quality and catchment management issues. The SPC received detailed updates from the Biodiversity and Heritage Offices, including progress on initiatives related to habitats, invasive species, heritage conservation, community archaeology, and public engagement. Significant focus was placed on community engagement and funding priorities.

Municipal Districts Report

The Municipal District of Athenry

Municipal District	Director	Meeting Administrator
Athenry	Liam Hanrahan	Margaret Jordan



The Municipal District of Athenry consists of the Local Electoral Area of Athenry-Oranmore. The Municipal District Members are elected to the Council at the Local Elections for a term of five years. The Members of the Athenry Municipal District met on ten occasions in 2025 to discuss the provision of services for the Municipal District, policy matters, community issues and concerns and matters relating to their representational role. The Meetings convened in Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway and the Bia innovation Campus in Athenry,

The district extends from the Galway City Boundary on the North, East and South and includes the main towns and villages of Athenry, Oranmore, Baile Chláir, Clarenbridge and Cór an Dola, as well as dispersed rural areas that have experienced consistent population growth. Issues relating to road maintenance, active travel, Oranmore railway, speed

limits, road safety and traffic calming measures, were discussed at the Meetings and updates were given to the Members by the Engineers for the area.

During 2025, Members approved the Declaration of several roads to be made Public Roads under Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

At the April Meeting, the Municipal District Schedule of Works, which included the Roads Programme 2025, was presented to the Members and, following consideration and discussion, the Members approved the Schedule of Works and Roads Programme.

The Annual General Meeting was held on the 10th of June 2025 and Cllr. Kean was elected Cathaoirleach, for 2025-2026 Cllr. Charity was elected as Leas Cathaoirleach.

The Municipal District Budget Meeting was held on the 14th of October 2025 to consider (with or without amendment) a Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District. Following consideration and discussion, the Members approved the Draft Municipal District Budget for Athenry Oranmore.

The Municipal District of Ballinasloe

Municipal District	Director	Meeting Administrator
Ballinasloe	Damien Mitchell	Angela Spellman



The Municipal District of Ballinasloe covers the Local Electoral Area of Ballinasloe. The Municipal District Members are elected to the Council at the Local Elections for a term of five years.

In 2025, the Members of the Ballinasloe Municipal District met thirteen occasions to consider service provision within the district, local policy matters, and issues raised by the community issues and concerns and matters relating to their representational role. The Meetings convened in Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway and in the Ballinasloe MD Office. Geographically, the District includes the town of Ballinasloe and its surrounding rural hinterland, along with key areas such as Ballygar, Ballyforan, Laurencetown, Eyrecourt, and Kiltormer. The area forms the eastern part of County Galway and includes communities along the River Suck and the Galway–Roscommon boundary.

Throughout 2025, a wide range of operational and strategic matters were discussed by the Members. These included:

- **Road maintenance** and resurfacing, informed by the Three-Year Roads Programme and Annual Roadworks Programme presented by the District Engineers. [
- **Public lighting** issues, including delays in commissioning completed works and updates on ESB-related connections.
- **Footpath** improvement needs, including planned reviews and repair works in Ballinasloe town and surrounding villages.
- **Flood relief** and engagement with the OPW, particularly relating to the Ballinasloe Flood Scheme and follow-up correspondence to the Minister and the Office of Public Works.
- **Road safety** and low-cost safety proposals, such as applications for improvements at Creggs Road, Ballygar.
- **Community** and amenity developments, including feasibility work for a proposed swimming area on the River Suck and discussions on an emergency slipway.

During 2025, Members approved the Declaration of several roads to be made Public Roads under Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 for the following: Forest View Ballygar; Bovinion Mountbellew; Moylough More; Woodview Crescent Clonberne; Carrowntober East Glenamaddy; Glentaun Creagh Ballinasloe.

At the April Meeting, the Municipal District Schedule of Works, which included the Roads Programme 2025, was presented to the Members and, following consideration and discussion, the Members approved the Schedule of Works and Roads Programme.

The Annual General Meeting was held on the 11th of June 2025 and Cllr. P Keaveney was elected Cathaoirleach, for 2025-2026 Cllr. Parsons was elected as Leas Cathaoirleach.

The Municipal District Budget Meeting was held on the 23rd of October 2025 to consider (with or without amendment) a Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District. Following consideration and discussion, the Members approved the Draft Municipal District Budget for Ballinasloe Area for 2026.

The Members of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held 13 meetings during 2025, including a Budget Meeting, Annual General Meeting, and a Special Meeting to consider the Annual Schedule of Works for the Ballinasloe Municipal District.

Date	Type of Meeting	Key Topics
Wednesday 8 January 2025	Monthly	Public lighting; Emergency slipway; Swimming study; Roads Programme; Speed calming.
Wednesday 12 February 2025	Monthly	Flood Relief Scheme; Slipway; footpaths; Storm response; Anti-Social Behaviour Taskforce; Bus shelters; speed limits.
Wednesday 12 March 2025	Monthly	Footpaths; Flooding; Active Travel; Anti-Social Behaviour; LAP review; Illegal Dumping; Part 8 housing
Wednesday 9 April 2025	Monthly	Illegal dumping; Tenant in Situ; flooding; LCSP; rezoning; Parking; Works Programme; Roads Programme.
Wednesday 14 May 2025	Monthly	Dumping; Water capacity; Creagh Junction; School safety; TIS; Planning reviews; St Brigid's
Wednesday 11 June 2025	Monthly	Roads Programme; Junction safety; trading; ramps; CCTV; Roads; Water recreation; LCSP; Hedge cutting
Wednesday 11 June 2025	Annual	Annual statutory business
Wednesday 9 July 2025	Monthly	PUH maternity; Roads Programme; LIS/CIS; Active Travel; Flooding; October Fair; Zoning; Leisure works.
Wednesday 10 September 2025	Monthly	PUH maternity; traffic calming; Anti-Social Behaviour; Recreation / Parks; Swimming study; Creagh; Town Centre First Plan.
Wednesday 23 October 2025	Monthly	Footpaths; flooding; Active Travel; Anti-Social Behaviour; Town Centre First Plan, Municipal District Activity updates
Thursday 23 October 2025	Budget	Budget Discussions
Wednesday 12 November 2025	Monthly	Dumping; Water capacity; Creagh Junction; School safety; TIS; Planning reviews; St Brigid's; toilets.
Wednesday 10 December 2025	Monthly	Leisure Centre; Part 8; Taking in Charge; Library Strategy; Bus stops; Footpaths; Lighting.

The Municipal District of Conamara

Municipal District	Director	Meeting Administrator
Conamara	Uinsinn Finn	Ita Martyn

The members of the Municipal District of Connemara held ten meetings in 2025 including an Annual Meeting and a Budget Meeting.

At their meeting on the 11th April 2025 the members approved the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2025 (to include Roads Programme and Environment, Housing, Recreation and Amenity Schedule of repairs and maintenance) for the Municipal District of Connemara. The Annual General Meeting was held on the 20th June 2025 where Cllr. King was elected Cathaoirleach and Comh mac An Iomaire was elected Leas Cathaoirleach for 2025.

The Cathaoirleach was presented with an MD Chain of Office at the Conamara M.D. meeting on 12th September 2025.

In accordance with the Roads Act, 1993 the Municipal District of Conamara declared 5 roads to be public roads in 2025.

The Members considered a wide range of topics which included the following:

- Roads Programme 2025
- Flooding/Clifden Flood Relief Scheme
- Declaration of roads to be public roads
- Taking in Charge
- Islands
- Caravan Parking
- Draft Beach By-Laws/Lifeguards/Public Facilities
- Causeways
- Burial Grounds
- Piers & Harbours
- Road Safety/Hedge Trimming/Cold Weather response
- School Safety
- Conamara Greenway/Active Travel
- Clifden Regeneration
- Extension to Leitir Mór Burial Ground

Members received presentations on the following:

- Presentation Oughterard Pedestrian Bridge
- Update on Clifden Regeneration Program
- Presentation Sceirde Rocks Wind Farm
- Presentation on the Clifden Flood Relief Scheme.
- Presentation on Active Travel.
- Presentation on Piers & Harbours
- The Geopark Team gave a presentation on progress towards achieving UNESCO Global Geopark Status for Joyce Country and Western Lakes Geopark.



The Municipal District of Loughrea

Municipal District	Director	Meeting Administrator
Loughrea	Eileen Ruane	Mary McGann

The Municipal District of Loughrea held 15 meetings during 2025, including a Budget Meeting, Annual General Meeting, and two Special Meetings to consider the Gort Local Area Plan and Loughrea Local Area Plan. At the Annual Meeting held on 9th June, Cllr. Paul Killilea was elected Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District for 2025/2026 year, and Cllr. Michael Regan was appointed Leas-Cathaoirleach. At the Annual Budget Meeting held on 20th October, the Members approved the draft budgetary plan for the Loughrea Municipal District setting out how the General Municipal Allocation of €12,850,737 would be spent in accordance with Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.



Statutory Adoptions and Approvals:

The following statutory items were considered and approved by the Members during the year:

- Approval of 3-Year Roads Programme including Annual Road Resurfacing Programme 2025.
- Approval of Municipal District Schedule of Works of maintenance and repair.
- Approval of Loughrea Local Area Plan 2025-2031
- Approval of Gort Local Area Plan 2025-2031
- Declaration of road to be a public road at Ceathrú an Tobair Oranmore
- Approval of Part 8 Planning for housing development at St. Joseph's Road Ballinasloe
- Approval of Part 8 Planning for housing development at Cosmona, Loughrea
- Approval of Part 8 Planning for housing development at St. Brigids Road Portumna
- Approval of Part 8 Planning for extension to Rinvile Burial Ground

Presentations:

During the year, the Members received presentations on the following:

- Athlone-Galway Greenway
- Kinvara Traffic Management Plan
- Litter Management Plan 2023-2025
- Kinvara Community Transport Study
- Active Travel
- Loughrea Signage Interpretative Plan
- Galway Public Libraries 5-year Strategy
- Boardwalk Project Kinvara
- Updates on Flooding Studies

The Members also received a tour of the regeneration project which is taking place on the Loughrea Town Hall.

Deputations:

During 2025, the Members received the following Deputations:

- Kilcolgan Community Development Committee – safety concerns
- Kinvara Community Council – pop-up swimming pool project for Ballinderreen
- Gort Community School – cycling infrastructure

LPT (Local Property Tax) Discretionary Capital Fund:

The Members received a briefing on the Local Property Tax (LPT) Discretionary Capital Fund which is focused on leveraging funding for the delivery of large-scale capital and infrastructural projects in the Municipal Districts. The total LPT Capital Fund allocation for Loughrea Municipal District for the 5 years of this Council is €1,025,640 and the allocations agreed by the Municipal District during 2025 are as follows:

- €2,500 as match-funding for a LEADER-funded Feasibility Study into the development of a public swimming pool for Loughrea
- €4,994 for the removal of a wall at Clarinbridge Cemetery to create an additional 18 double burial plots
- €16,000 towards restoration and resurfacing works on the L85172 road
- €6,450 towards excess costs of conservation works approved under a Community Heritage Grant Scheme project

€15,000 being part of the match-funding requirement for upgrades to Clarinbridge Playground under LEADER funding.

The Municipal District of Tuam

Municipal District	Director	Meeting Administrator
Tuam	Michael Owens	Geraldine Byrne



The Municipal District of Tuam held 8 regular meetings, (meetings are held on the 2nd Monday, and are now bimonthly from June 2025, no meetings are held in August), 1 Special Meeting, 1 Annual General Meeting and 1 Budget Meeting during 2025.

At the Special Meeting held on the 20th October 2025, the Members discussed the Part 8 application for the residential development for 62 no. units at Farrannamartin, Tuam, Co. Galway.

The members approved the Schedule of Works for the Municipal District at the Special Meeting held on the 10th of February. The Members also considered and approved the Annual Roadworks Programme for the Municipal District of Tuam.

At the Annual General Meeting held on the 28th June 2025, Cllr. Karey Mc Hugh was elected as Cathaoirleach and Cllr. Mary Hoade was elected as Leas Cathaoirleach.

At the Budget Meeting held on the 13th of October 2025, the Members considered and approved the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Tuam, under Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

During 2025, the Members considered a wide range of topics which included:

- Election of Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach
- The adoption of the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District
- Schedule of Works for 2025
- Roads Programme 2025
- Housing Capital Programme
- Declaration of roads to be public roads
- Taking in Charge
- Part 8 Planning Reports:
- Burial Grounds

- Road Safety/Hedge Trimming
- Speed Limit Reviews
- Windfarms
- Active Travel

During 2025, the Members received the following Deputations:

- Geopark
- Palace Grounds
- Tuam Town Traders

The members of the Municipal District of Tuam agreed to take in charge the following roads during 2025:-

- Beaupark, Tuam, Co Galway
- Hazel Court, Farrannamartin, Tuam Co Galway
- Locations at Castlegrove, Killaloonty, Sylau & Woodquay

The Members considered and approved the following Part 8 reports under the Planning and Development Regulations:

- The residential development for 62 no. units at Farrannamartin, Tuam, Co. Galway.
- Tuam Station House Part 8 – Consideration of Chief Executives Report
- Cold Weather and Medium-Term Response Unit at Vicar Street, Tuam, Co. Galway.

LPT (Local Property Tax) Discretionary Capital Fund:

The Members received a briefing on the Local Property Tax (LPT) Discretionary Capital Fund which is focused on leveraging funding for the delivery of large-scale capital and infrastructural projects in the Municipal Districts. The total LPT Capital Fund allocation for Tuam Municipal District for the 5 years of this Council is €717,950 and the allocations agreed by the Municipal District during 2025 are as follows:

- Kilcloghans Public Lighting €20,430
- Caherlistrane Public Lighting €55,000

Conclusion

In conclusion, this Annual Report reflects our progress, performance, and key achievements throughout 2025. The dedication of our staff, the commitment of our elected members, and the continued support of our communities have played a central role in advancing our work over the year.

For further detail on our operational performance, the Chief Executives Monthly Reports to Plenary are available on our website at <https://www.galway.ie/en/governance-administration/publications/chief-executive-monthly-reports>.

We remain committed to openness, accountability, and ongoing improvement across all areas of service delivery.

As we look ahead to 2026, our focus remains firmly on delivering our vision and mission through a coordinated set of strategic and operational objectives. Supporting strategies, together with the Annual Service Delivery Plans and the Schedule of Municipal District Works, will guide the organisation in meeting its statutory obligations and responding to local needs.



Our ambition is to continue progressing a programme of business transformation, strengthening our capacity, systems, and governance to ensure we are equipped to meet the challenges and opportunities of the year ahead. Together, we will work to deliver efficient, responsive, and forward-looking services for the people and communities of County Galway.

Appendices



Appendix 1: NOAC: Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Section 126(c) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 established the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC). One of the functions of the National Oversight and Audit Commission is to evaluate the performance of local government bodies using relevant indicators.

Local Authorities are required to validate and submit data on 42 Performance Indicators. This data is collated by the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) and provided to NOAC for analysis and publication as part of a National report on Local Authority Performance Indicators. In addition to Council-supplied information, data is also provided by external bodies such as the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport's (D/TTaS) Vehicle Registration Unit (VRU), the EPA, and the Road Management Office (RMO). This data is saved and validated by the Council using an online e-returns system. The indicators aim to standardise measurement and benchmarking, supporting local authorities in improving services for local communities.

For 2025, there **were 45 local authority** performance indicators, as outlined below:

UNIT	NOAC Code	DESCRIPTION
Housing	H1	Social Housing Stock
	H2	Housing Vacancies
	H3	Average Re-letting Time and Direct Costs
	H4	Housing Maintenance Costs
	H5	Private Rented Sector Inspections
	H6	Long-term Homeless Adults
	H7	Social Housing Retrofit
Roads	R1	Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI) Rating
	R2	Roadworks/Expenditure
	R3	Percentage (%) Motor Tax transactions conducted online
Water	W1	Percentage (%) drinking water in private schemes in compliance with statutory requirements
	W2	Percentage of registered schemes monitored
Waste/Environment	E1	Households which availed of a 3 Bin Service
	E2	Environmental Pollution Cases
	E3	Litter Pollution
	E4	% of schools that currently hold and have renewed their green flag status
	E5	Percentage Energy Efficiency Performance
	E6	Public Lighting
	E7	Climate Change
Planning	P1	Building Control Inspections
	P2	No./% of Planning decisions confirmed by An Bord Pleanála
	P3	Planning Enforcement
	P4	Cost per Capita
	P5	Fire Safety Certificate Applications
Fire Services	F1	Cost per Capita of the Fire Service
	F2	Mobilisation Times
	F3	Attendance Times at Scenes
Library Service/Recreation	L1	Library visits and items issued
	L2	Cost of Operating a Library Service (€)
Youth/Community	Y1	Participation in Comhairle nan Óg scheme
	Y2	Groups associated with the Public Participation Network (PPN)
Corporate	C1	Whole Time Equivalents (WTE)
	C2	Sick Leave

	C3	Website and Social Media
	C4	ICT Expenditure: Overall Cost of ICT Provision per WTE
	C5	ICT Expenditure: Total Cost of ICT Provision as a percentage of Revenue Expenditure
Finance	M1	Revenue Account Balance
	M2	Revenue Collection Rates
	M3	Public Liability Claims
	M4	Overheads
Economic Development	J1	Job Creation
	J2	Trading Online Vouchers
	J3	No. of mentoring recipients
	J4	Tourism Strategy
	J5	Economic Development: The annual spend on local economic development (per head of population) by each local authority

The 2025 Performance Indicators will be submitted to NOAC by Galway County Council in April 2026, with NOAC's Annual Performance Indicator Report for 2025 expected to be published in September 2026.

NOAC Performance Indicator Report 2024

The National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) published its eleventh Performance Indicator Report in 2024, providing an evidence-based overview of local authority performance across 46 indicators in 11 service areas. The report highlights continued improvements across the sector, particularly in housing delivery, environmental services, road maintenance, climate action capacity, and community-focused services such as libraries and enterprise supports. Local authorities added 5,324 social housing units nationally in 2024, with overall vacancy levels continuing to decline. Strong progress was recorded in private rented inspections and climate action resourcing, while road strengthening and resealing works remained at scale across the national network. Library usage and community participation continued to recover to pre-pandemic levels, supported by extended opening hours and outreach initiatives. Economic development activity strengthened, with increased job creation and mentoring supports through the Local Enterprise Offices. The report also identifies persistent pressures affecting the sector, including rising re-letting times and refurbishment costs, recruitment and skills challenges, inspection capacity in planning and regulatory functions, and increased operational costs across several service areas.

Galway County Council's performance

Galway County Council's performance aligns with national trends. The Council added 205 new social housing units in 2024, one of the highest proportional increases nationally, and reduced its vacancy rate to 2.02%. Progress continued across retrofitting, road maintenance and environmental monitoring, alongside ongoing investment in economic development, digital services and climate action. Re-letting timelines remain above the national average, reflecting the condition and complexity of some older housing stock, and the Council continues to face the sector-wide challenges of funding certainty, specialist skills recruitment, and rising service delivery costs.

Galway County Council's performance across the Performance Indicators (PIs) can be reviewed in the report available on NOAC's website at [Report 77: NOAC Performance Indicator Report 2024 - National Oversight & Audit Commission](#)

Appendix 2: Compliance and Best Practices

Policy Alignment

To ensure compliance with relevant policies and objectives, the Council has integrated policies from the national, regional, and local policy frameworks within the Corporate Plan 2025-2029. This comprehensive approach ensures alignment and consistency across all levels of governance. The following key policies have been incorporated:

Policy Alignment				
Corporate Plan	Strategic Goal 1: 2025 – 2029: Business Transformation through enhanced customer service	Strategic Goal 2: 2025 – 2029: Performance, equality, human rights, transparency and accountability tasks	Strategic Goal 3: 2025 – 2029: Sustainable Galway	Strategic Goal 4: 2025 – 2029: Democracy and Council Leadership tasks
National Policy				
Renewed National Planning Framework	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Development Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Delivering Homes, Building Communities	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
National Action Plan Against Racism	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Our Rural Future	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
National Sector Digital Strategy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
National Guidelines on Green Procurement Town	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Centre First Policy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Regional Policy				
Regional Spatial and Economic Plan Regional	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Employment Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Local Policy				
County Development Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Local Economic and Community Plan Local	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Climate Action Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Local Area Plans	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

By adhering to these policies and incorporating best practices in service delivery, the Council aims to achieve the highest standards of operational effectiveness and public service.

Appendix 3: Elected Members nominated to Committees & Municipal District Reports

Elected Members Nominated to Committees & Other Bodies

Lough Corrib Navigation Trustees Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Mary Hoade	21.06.2024
Mr. David Luskin	07.06.2019

Northern & Western Regional Assembly Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Mary Hoade	Until 27.01.2025
Cllr. Gerry King	27.01.2025
Cllr. Eileen Mannion	21.06.2024
Cllr. Peter Feeney	21.06.2024

Athenry Heritage and Tourism Co. Ltd. Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Peter Feeney	21.06.2024
Cllr. Seán Broderick	16.12.2024

Association of Irish Local Government Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Mary Hoade	07.06.2019
Cllr. Jimmy McClearn	07.06.2019
Cllr. Thomas Welby	07.06.2019

Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd. Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Alan Harney	21.06.2024

Local Authority Members Association (LAMA) Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Michael Regan	28.04.2025
Cllr. Shane Curley	Until 31.01.2025

Galway & Roscommon Education & Training Board (Formerly VEC) Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Mary Hoade	28.02.2022
Cllr. Michael "Moegie" Maher	07.06.2019
Cllr. Thomas Welby	07.06.2019
Cllr. Dermot Connolly	21.06.2024
Cllr. Michael Connolly	21.06.2024
Cllr. Siobhan Mc Hugh	16.12.2024

Western Inter-County Rail Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Michael Connolly	07.06.2019
Cllr. Laurie Harney	28.04.2025
Cllr. Cillian Keane	21.06.2024
Cllr. Peter Feeney	21.06.2024
Cllr. Martin Mc Namara	16.12.2024

Regional Health Forum West Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Dr. Evelyn Francis Parsons	27.07.2020
Cllr. Donagh Killilea	07.06.2019
Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe	21.06.2024
Cllr. Eileen Mannion	21.06.2024
Cllr. Alan Harney	21.06.2024

Galway Rural Development Company Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Michael Connolly	22.07.2024
Cllr. Andrew Reddington	16.12.2024

Forum Conamara Ltd. Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Seamus Walsh	21.10.2019
Cllr. Gerry King	26.05.2025
Cllr. Eileen Mannion	29.06.2020
Cllr. Thomas Welby	28.05.2018

Comhar na nOileán Teoranta Committee	Membership Date
Comh. Pádraig Mac an Iomaire	21.10.2019

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Michael "Moegie" Maher	07.06.2019
Cllr. Cillian Keane	21.06.2024
Cllr. Mairtín Lee	21.06.2024
Cllr. Karey Mc Hugh Farag	21.06.2024
Cllr. Tomás Grealish	21.06.2024
Cllr. Peter Feeney	21.06.2024
Cllr. Andrew Reddington	21.06.2024
Comh. Tomás Ó Curraóin	21.06.2024

County (Local) Rural Water Monitoring Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Mairtín Lee	21.06.2024
Cllr. Ollie Turner	21.06.2024
Cllr. Michael Connolly	21.06.2024

County Galway Local Sports Partnership	Membership Date
Cllr. Thomas Welby	21.06.2024

Local Community Development Committee	Membership Date
Comh. Pádraig Mac an Iomaire	07.06.2019
Cllr. James Charity	21.06.2024
Cllr. Michael Connolly	21.06.2024

Audit Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Mary Hoade	21.06.2024
Cllr. Ollie Turner	21.06.2024

Road Safety Together Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Michael Connolly	21.06.2024

Public Art Management Group	Membership Date
Cllr. Dr. Evelyn Francis Parsons	22.11.2021
Cllr. Eileen Mannion	22.11.2021
Cllr. Donagh Killilea	24.10.2022

Údarás na Gaeltachta	Membership Date
Cllr. Máirtín Lee	16.12.2024

Midlands Regional Transition Team	Membership Date
Cllr. Michael Connolly	23.09.2024

Local Community Safety Partnership Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Mary Hoade	16.12.24
Cllr. Máirtín Lee	16.12.24
Cllr. Andrew Reddington	16.12.24
Cllr. Peter Keaveney	16.12.24
Cllr. Tomas Grealish	16.12.24
Cllr. Declan Geraghty	16.12.24
Cllr. Martin Mc Namara	16.12.24

Conferences attended by Elected Members

	Conference	Organised By	Venue & Date	Attendees
1	Celtic Conference - The Finance Act 2024	Celtic Conference	McKevitt's Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth – 10 th & 12 th Jan 2025	1
2	Celtic Conference - Corporate Governance	Celtic Conferences	O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork - 7, 8 & 9 Feb 2025	1
3	Mary Robinson Climate & Nature Conference 2025	Mary Robinson Centre	Mary Robinson Centre, Ballina, Co. Mayo – 26 th & 27 th May 2025	1
4	National Sustainability Summit	Premier Publishing & Events	RDS Simmonscourt, Dublin – 28 th & 29 th May 2025	1

5	35th La Touche Legacy Seminar -10th Festival of History - "The Emerging New Ireland"	Wicklow County Council	Greystones Golf Club, Co. Wicklow – 19 th & 20 th Sept. 2025	2
6	Celtic Conference - A Practical Guide to Budget 2026	Celtic Conferences	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth – 10 th & 12 th Oct. 2025	4
7	FLIARA Conference - "Women Leading Rural Innovation: From Vision to Action"	FLIARA	Rue Belliard 99, 1040 Brussels – 17 th Oct. 2025	1
8	Celtic Conference - The Evolving Role of AI in Public Relations	Celtic Conference	O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork – 7 th – 9 th Nov. 2025	1

Training Events attended by Elected Members

	Training Event	Organised By	Venue & Date	Attendees
1	LAMA Spring Training Seminar	LAMA	Kilford Arms Hotel, John Street Upper, Kilkenny – 30 th & 31 st Jan 2025	5
2	Association of Irish Regions' Annual Training Seminar 2025	Association of Irish Regions (AIR)	Radisson Blu Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath – 5 th – 6 th Feb 2025	1
3	AILG February Training Module - "An Overview of Wind Energy: Contribution to Economy, Climate Action and Future Potential"	AILG	- Fairways Hotel, Dundalk – 20 th Feb 2025 - Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny [OOR] – 22nd Feb. 2025	3 1
4	AILG March Training Module - "Embracing Equality - Cultivating Inclusive Local Communities"	AILG	- Clayton Hotel, Galway – 22 nd Mar 2025 - Falls Hotel, Ennistymon – 20 th Mar 2025	4 1
5	AILG - Annual Training Conference	AILG	Limerick Strand Hotel – 2 nd – 3 rd April 2025	5
6	AILG May Training Module - Emergency Response - Councils supporting Communities in Weather Crises	AILG	- Radisson Blu Hotel, Sligo – 22 nd May 2025 - Rose Hotel, Tralee [OOR] – 24 th May 2025	4 3
7	AILG Induction Training (Newly Co-Opted Councillors) 2025	AILG	Athlone Springs Hotel – 29 th May 2025	3
8	Bachelor of Science in Quality Year 2	ATU Galway	ATU Galway	1
9	AILG June Training Module - "A New Approach to Planning - the Revised National Planning Framework & Planning Act"	AILG	- Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan – 21 st June 2025 - Radisson Blu Hotel, Cork – 19 th June 2025	5 4
10	AILG-DHLGH Training for SPC Chairs and Senior Officials Supporting Strategic Policy Committees	AILG	- Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise – 2 nd Sept. 2025 - Hotel Kilkenny – 3 rd Sept. 2025	2 1

11	AILG Autumn Training Seminar 2025	AILG	Westport Woods Hotel, Westport – 17 th & 18 th Sept. 2025	5
12	AILG Video Content Creation for Local Authority Members	AILG	Galway County Council Chambers, County Hall, Galway – 24 th Sept. 2025 & 1 st Oct 2025 [On-line Editing]	7
13	AILG - Local Authority Finance & Budget Process	AILG	- Arklow Bay Hotel, Wicklow – 9 th Oct. 2025 - Horse & Jockey Hotel, Tipperary – 11 th Oct. 2025	3 3
14	LAMA (Local Authorities Member Association) Autumn Seminar	LAMA	Amber Springs Hotel, Gorey, Wexford Hotel – 16 th – 17 th Oct. 2025	9
15	AILG November Training Module - "Evolving planning context and the new Ministerial Guidelines under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act"	AILG	- Radisson Blu Hotel, Athlone – 15 th Nov. 2025 - Ravenport Resort, Wexford – 13 th Nov. 2025	6 4

Elected Members Expenses 2025

Name of Elected Member	Salary	Annual Allowance	Local Representation Allowance	Cathaoirleach Allowance	Leas-Cathaoirleach Allowance	SPC Chair Allowance	Municipal District Chair Allowance	Expenses re attendance at training	Expenses re attendance at Conferences	Security Allow	Foreign Travel / Other	Total
Broderick Sean	31,490.74 ¹	5,682.06	960.00									38,132.80
Canning Ivan	30,910.56	9,539.84	960.00			4,961.56		121.23				46,493.19
Charity James	30,910.56	4,443.51	960.00			4,523.09						40,837.16
Collins David	30,910.56	4,032.63	1,383.00	11,500.06				1,082.93	570.00			49,479.18
Connolly Dermot	30,910.56	7,682.50	960.00									39,553.06
Connolly Michael	30,910.56	8,827.00	1,766.94				3,000.01	41.46				44,545.97
Cunniffe Shaun	30,910.56	5,388.53	960.00					710.14	560.00			38,529.23
Curley Shane	3,365.07	270.08	80.00					974.98				4,690.13
Ó Curraoin Tomás	30,910.56	3,165.27	960.00					3,076.12 ³	1,397.02 ³			39,508.97
Dolan Albert ²	-580.19	-82.21		2725.46								2,063.06
Donohue Geraldine	30,910.56	7,268.33	1482.50									39,661.39
Feeney Peter	30,910.56	4,164.33	960.00				3,000.01					39,034.90
Finnerty Gerry	30,910.56	7,413.98	2,672.40					1359.68	474.99			42,831.61
Geraghty Declan	30,910.56	7,656.53	2,062.50									40,629.59

1 = Including Salary owing from co-option on 16/12/24

2= Reimbursements of overpayments made due to election to Dáil Éireann

3= Includes payments made relating to 2024 claims

Name of Elected Member	Salary	Annual Allowance	Local Representation Allowance	Cathaoirleach Allowance	Leas-Cathaoirleach Allowance	SPC Chair Allowance	Municipal District Chair Allowance	Expenses re attendance at training	Expenses re attendance at Conferences	Security Allow	Foreign Travel / Other	Total
Grealish Tomás	30,910.56	3,227.96	960.00					119.19				35,217.71
Harney Alan	30,910.56	7,613.38	2056.75							2,528.50	86.62	43,195.81
Harney Laurie	20,349.03	3,235.27	793.75					1,303.44	414.60			26,096.09
Hoade Mary	30,910.56	5,149.09	5,812.14 ³		3,000.01			2,287.04		2,450.00		49,608.84
Keane Cillian	30,910.56	3,534.21	960.00				3,000.01					38,404.78
Keaveney Peter	30,910.56	7,613.38	2,178.75				3,000.01					43,702.70
Kelly Declan	30,910.56	7,785.99	1,834.41							2,497.00		43,027.96
Killilea Donagh	30,910.56	5,428.30	1959.99			6,000.02		1,356.38	651.50			46,306.75
Killilea Paul	30,910.56	4,859.98	960.00				3,000.01					39,730.55
Kinane Martina	30,910.56	4,949.50	3,485.27	15,000.06		1,038.46	3,000.01				1756.43	60,140.29
King Gerry	30,910.56	11,070.90	2,880.03				3,000.01	2,184.45				50,045.95

1 = Including Salary owing from co-option on 16/12/24

2= Reimbursements of overpayments made due to election to Dáil Eireann

3= Includes payments made relating to 2024 claims

Name of Elected Member	Salary	Annual Allowance	Local Representation Allowance	Cathaoirleach Allowance	Leas-Cathaoirleach Allowance	SPC Chair Allowance	Municipal District Chair Allowance	Expenses re attendance at training	Expenses re attendance at Conferences	Security Allow	Foreign Travel / Other	Total
Leainde Michael	30,910.56	5,727.33	960.00			3,000.01		535.44				41,133.34
Lee Máirtín	30,910.56	7,138.85	960.00					121.18				39,130.59
Mac An Iomaire Padraic	30,910.56	5,787.13	960.00			6,000.02				5,561.50		49,219.21
Maher Michael	30,910.56	6,898.14	1,140.00			6,000.02		3,236.73 ³	1,861.25 ³			50,046.70
Mannion Eileen	30,910.56	8,170.01	3,342.73									42,423.30
Mc Clearn Jimmy	30,910.56	7,195.01	3,927.74					1,186.34				43,219.65
McHugh Farag Karey	30,910.56	4,630.66	3,091.21			1,476.93	3,000.01					43,109.37
McHugh Ryan Siobhan	31,490.74 ¹	6,850.71	2,253.33					1,110.91		9,672.25		51,377.94
Mc Namara Martin	31,490.74 ¹	3,974.96	960.00									36,425.70
Murphy PJ	3,481.11	1,106.22	4,280.00 ³									8,867.33
Louis O' Hara ²	-580.19	-66.87	2,388.28 ³									1,741.22
Parsons Evelyn Francis	30,910.56	7,354.65	5,494.50 ³					724.18	613.53			45,097.42
Reddington Andrew	30,910.56	6,086.37	2,970.57				2,653.86	1,046.84	510.23			44,178.43

1 = Including Salary owing from co-option on 16/12/24

2= Reimbursements of overpayments made due to election to Dáil Éireann

3= Includes payments made relating to 2024 claims

Name of Elected Member	Salary	Annual Allowance	Local Representation Allowance	Cathaoirleach Allowance	Leas-Cathaoirleach Allowance	SPC Chair Allowance	Municipal District Chair Allowance	Expenses re attendance at training	Expenses re attendance at Conferences	Security Allow.	Foreign Travel / Other	Total
Regan Michael	23,323.83	5,529.62	720.00					2,021.00				31,594.45
Roche Peter ²	-580.19	-108.28					-115.39	1,227.07				423.21
Thomas Noel	30,910.56	3,633.79	4,178.98									38,723.33
Turner Ollie	30,910.56	6,724.41	1,710.00		2,884.63			215.10				42,444.70
Walsh Seamus	30,910.56	6,695.75	4,905.66			3,000.01		653.22	435.47			46,600.67
Welby Thomas	30,910.56	4,490.33	2,298.22				3,000.01	1,170.49		2,077.05		43,946.66
Total	1,194,209.73	237,739.13	86,589.65	29,225.58	5,884.64	36,000.12	29,538.56	27,865.54	7,488.59	24,786.30	1,843.05	1,681,170.89

1 = Including Salary owing from co-option on 16/12/24

2= Reimbursements of overpayments made due to election to Dáil Éireann

3= Includes payments made relating to 2024 claims

Payments made to non-Elected Members of Local Authority Committees

Committee	Amount paid
None	0.00

Appendix 4: Public Sector Duty Under Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014

Public Sector Duty Under Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014						
Corporate Services						
Section 42(1) Developments and Achievements			Section 42(2) Developments and Achievements			Enabling implementation
Plans, policies, programmes and strategies reviewed or developed which were subject to an equality and human rights impact assessment, as part of the ongoing Duty under Section 42(1):	Any new outcomes evident for the identified groups for the Duty as a result?	Any new developments or improvements in the delivery of your functions as a result?	Plans, policies, or actions developed and/or being implemented to target particular groups covered by the Duty or address any specific equality and human rights issues, under Section 42(2):	Any new outcomes evident for the identified groups for the Duty as a result?	Any new developments or improvements in the delivery of your functions as a result?	Steps that were taken to enable implementation of the Duty:
Risk Management Policy	While outcomes for individual groups will emerge over time it strengthened the visibility of equality and human rights issues within our Risk Management Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embedding equality and human rights considerations into the core risk management framework by way of the equality and human rights impact assessment • Strengthened alignment between corporate 		-	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training to support implementation of the Duty was undertaken in 2025 through four PSD workshops delivered across service areas, with attendance exceeding 400 staff

		governance processes and the Council's equality and human rights values.				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One dedicated workshop for elected members was held in Q1 2025.
Child Protection & Welfare Policy Review	See under 42(2)	Embedding equality and human rights considerations into our work on child protection and welfare by way of the equality and human rights impact assessment.	Child Protection & Welfare Policy Review.	While outcomes for individual groups will emerge over time improved recognition of the diversity of children and families have strengthened how the Council engages with and protects children across the identified groups.	Updated policy wording, procedures and training requirements have improved the consistency, accessibility and equality focused delivery of child safeguarding functions.	
Customer Action Plan Review	While outcomes for individual groups will emerge over time the revised plan delivers clearer expectations on non-discrimination, improved accessibility supports and strengthened processes for requesting and receiving reasonable accommodation, benefiting customers across the identified groups.	Service delivery has been enhanced through improved accessibility standards, more responsive mechanisms for reasonable accommodation requests and the integration of equality and human rights considerations into day today customer service practice.				

City & County Library Services

Section 42(1) Developments and Achievements			Section 42(2) Developments and Achievements		
Plans, policies, programmes and strategies reviewed or developed which were subject to an equality and human rights impact assessment, as part of the ongoing Duty under Section 42(1):	Any new outcomes evident for the identified groups for the Duty as a result?	Any new developments or improvements in the delivery of your functions as a result?	Plans, policies, or actions developed and/or being implemented to target particular groups covered by the Duty or address any specific equality and human rights issues, under Section 42(2):	Any new outcomes evident for the identified groups for the Duty as a result?	Any new developments or improvements in the delivery of your functions as a result?
	-	-	Supporting the ALL Strategy: Delivering accessible financial literacy workshops and practical digital money-management guidance. The provision of community tax clinics, helping vulnerable members of society navigate Revenue services confidently and without stigma.	Financial literacy enabled.	Access to financial literacy enabled with workshops and additional supports provided to navigate systems.
			Healthy Ireland At Your Library action: Health Literacy programming with a focus on positive ageing through fall-prevention workshops, strengthening balance, mobility and confidence. It also supports older		

			adults with talks and clinics that encourage safe movement, comfort and overall wellbeing.		
			Sensory Services action: Improved sensory spaces, adaptive resources and assistive technologies to support neurodiverse users. Planned upgrades will aim to create calmer, more inclusive environments that enable comfortable, supported access to library programmes and services.	Access for neurodiverse users enabled.	Reasonable accommodations made and upgrades planned.
			Age Friendly Initiative: the provision of welcoming, accessible spaces and programmes that enhance wellbeing and social connection for older adults. Services such as health events, digital skills support, and inclusive facilities help older adults remain active, informed and engaged in their communities.	Skills developed, access enabled.	Reasonable accommodations made and targeted events organised and supports provided.

Environment

Section 42(1) Developments and Achievements			Section 42(2) Developments and Achievements		
Plans, policies, programmes and strategies reviewed or developed which were subject to an equality and human rights impact assessment, as part of the ongoing Duty under Section 42(1):	Any new outcomes evident for the identified groups for the Duty as a result?	Any new developments or improvements in the delivery of your functions as a result?	Plans, policies, or actions developed and/or being implemented to target particular groups covered by the Duty or address any specific equality and human rights issues, under Section 42(2):	Any new outcomes evident for the identified groups for the Duty as a result?	Any new developments or improvements in the delivery of your functions as a result?
			Action to address the needs of the Muslim Community in accordance with the Burial Ground (Amendment) Regulations 2013.	A dedicated Muslim Burial Space has been agreed in Tuam Burial Ground and is now progressing to detailed design and planning.	Consultations held with representatives of Muslim Community to discuss dedicated burial space for Muslim Community in County Galway.
			Action to combat access issues raised by Elected Members and visitors to Burial Grounds.	A new grant scheme will leverage community match funding to improve accessibility & safety of pathways, roadways and seating in burial grounds.	New grant scheme introduced in Community Support Schemes to improve accessibility & safety in Burial Grounds.

Community, Rural Development & Integration

Section 42(1) Developments and Achievements			Section 42(2) Developments and Achievements		
Plans, policies, programmes and strategies reviewed or developed which were subject to an equality and human rights impact assessment, as part of the ongoing Duty under Section 42(1):	Any new outcomes evident for the identified groups for the Duty as a result?	Any new developments or improvements in the delivery of your functions as a result?	Plans, policies, or actions developed and/or being implemented to target particular groups covered by the Duty or address any specific equality and human rights issues, under Section 42(2):	Any new outcomes evident for the identified groups for the Duty as a result?	Any new developments or improvements in the delivery of your functions as a result?
			Age Friendly Strategy 2026 – 2031, adopted by Galway County Council in 2025.	Implementation of the Age Friendly Strategy starts from 2026 and outcomes will emerge from that point.	Interdepartmental team being established to oversee the implementation of the LA agreed actions.
			Local Economic and Community Plan 2024 – 2030 – commitment to reconvene the Traveller Interagency Group (TIG) between Galway County Council and Galway City Council, which was implemented in 2025.	Outcomes for Traveller will grow across services, including those of Galway County Council, with time, due to the enhanced focus on addressing the issues they face and the collaboration being enabled by the TIG.	The TIG is meeting quarterly with Galway County Council playing a lead role in its convening. The TIG have agreed a Framework for Public Bodies Responding to Traveller Ethnicity in Co Galway to inform service provision. An Education Subgroup has been set up by the TIG to drive action on Traveller education issues

					An employment Subgroup has been set up by the TIG to drive action on Traveller employment issues.
			<p>Arts & Young People Arts in Older Years Arts and Disability Programme Arts Programme – Reaching Broader Communities</p> <p>In 2025, we commissioned research into our Arts and Disability Programme to ensure higher-quality arts experiences for people with disabilities. Based on this research, we developed a three-year plan outlining targeted measures to strengthen the programme and improve access.</p>	<p>Increased engagement of artists and participation in the arts by the identified groups for the Duty.</p> <p>The Arts Programme supported professional development for artists with disabilities, from diverse backgrounds and Traveller artists. Across our programmes we supported inclusive arts participation projects.</p>	<p>We specifically supported two artists to develop skills and training to deliver arts programmes with older people in healthcare settings.</p> <p>Our Culture Night Programme placed emphasis on meaningful engagement for people with disabilities, older people, Travellers, and refugees, expanding opportunities for creative expression, cultural exchange, and skills development. We supported the training and development of artists to work in this area.</p>

Physical Infrastructure, Fire and Emergency Services, Climate Change

Section 42(1) Developments and Achievements			Section 42(2) Developments and Achievements		
Plans, policies, programmes and strategies reviewed or developed which were subject to an equality and human rights impact assessment, as part of the ongoing Duty under Section 42(1):	Any new outcomes evident for the identified groups for the Duty as a result?	Any new developments or improvements in the delivery of your functions as a result?	Plans, policies, or actions developed and/or being implemented to target particular groups covered by the Duty or address any specific equality and human rights issues, under Section 42(2):	Any new outcomes evident for the identified groups for the Duty as a result?	Any new developments or improvements in the delivery of your functions as a result?
Community Action Climate Fund	Community organisations that showed clear support for the identified groups under the Duty were more likely to receive funding, therefore facilities for these identified groups will be improved.	Applicants that showed clear support for identified groups under the Duty received additional marks and were more likely to be awarded funding.			

Information & Communication Technology					
Section 42(1) Developments and Achievements			Section 42(2) Developments and Achievements		
Plans, policies, programmes and strategies reviewed or developed which were subject to an equality and human rights impact assessment, as part of the ongoing Duty under Section 42(1):	Any new outcomes evident for the identified groups for the Duty as a result?	Any new developments or improvements in the delivery of your functions as a result?	Plans, policies, or actions developed and/or being implemented to target particular groups covered by the Duty or address any specific equality and human rights issues, under Section 42(2):	Any new outcomes evident for the identified groups for the Duty as a result?	Any new developments or improvements in the delivery of your functions as a result?
	-	-			Website Review included a focus on accessibility

Appendix 5: Principal Officers/Council Offices

Chief Executive:	Liam Conneally
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Housing

Director of Services:	Damien Mitchell
Senior Executive Officers, Housing:	Ger Scully Karen O'Donnell
Administrative Officer, Housing:	Angela Spelman Nuala Heffernan John Waters Sharon Horan
Senior Social Worker:	Kieran Keon
Senior Engineer:	Daithi Flood
Senior Executive Engineers:	Alan Brogan James Farrell Walter Gill

Physical Infrastructure, Fire & Emergency Services and Climate Change

Director of Services:	Uinsinn Finn
Administrative Officers, Roads:	Geraldine Byrne, Edel Hourigan
Administrative Officer, Climate Change:	Denise Feeney
Administrative Officer, Fire Services/Civil Defence:	Maurice Headd
Senior Engineers:	Sean Devaney Tom Prendergast Derek Troy (Acting) Sean Whelan (Acting)
Senior Executive Engineers:	Aengus Breathnach Sara Duffy Anne Marie Johnston Tom Regan (Acting) Padraic Wall (Acting) Enda Gallagher Gerard Haugh John Coyle Paula Higgins Stephen Lally Paul Batty (Acting) Peter Gavin (Acting) TJ Redmond (Acting)
Chief Technician:	Enda Thompson
Senior Executive Engineers, Rural Water:	Mike Sheil Paraic Breathnach
Climate Change Co-Ordinator:	Christina Ryan

Safety Advisor/Health & Safety Officer:	Claire Forde
Chief Fire Officer:	Gerry O'Malley
Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officers:	Michelle Hennelly (Acting) Antony Travers Joseph Kelly Paul G. Duffy
Civil Defense Officer:	Brendan Qualter

Area Engineers

Municipal District Ballinasloe:	Paul Batty (Acting)
Municipal District Loughrea/Portumna:	Gerard Haugh ,Niall Kennedy
Municipal District Loughrea (Gort):	David O Loughlin
Municipal District Athenry/Oranmore:	Peter Gavin (Acting)
Municipal District Tuam:	John Coyle
Municipal District Conamara:	Naoise O Conaola (Acting)

Planning & Economic Development

Director of Services:	Liam Hanrahan
Senior Planner:	Valerie Loughnane Moran
Senior Executive Planners:	Brian Corcoran Saoirse Kennedy Ciara Cosgrave Patrick O'Sullivan
Administrative Officer, Planning:	Eileen Keaveney
Heritage Officer:	Marie Mannion
BioDiversity Officer:	Rosina Joyce
Conservation Officer:	AnnMarie Cusack
Head Of Regeneration/Town Regeneration Officer:	Hazel Fox
Senior Executive Engineer, Regeneration	Ronan Conway (Acting)
Senior Engineer, PMO	Sean Whelan (Acting)
Head of Enterprise (LEO)	Caroline McDonagh

Corporate Service, Rural Community and Tourism Development and Integration

Director of Services:	Michael Owens
Senior Executive Officer Corporate Services:	Jean Brann Liadhan Keady
Administrative Officer, Corporate Services:	Breege Lynn Una Ní Eidhin

Buildings & Facilities Manager:	Kevin Finn
Senior Executive Officer, Rural, Community and Tourism Development and Integration:	Lorna Baek
Administrative Officer, Rural, Community and Tourism Development and Integration:	Kieran Coyne Eimear Dolan Theresa Donohue Siobhan Cleary
Arts Officer, Rural, Community and Tourism Development and Integration:	Sharon O'Grady
Sports Co-Ordinator, Rural, Community and Tourism Development and Integration:	Andrew McBride
Tourism Officer, Rural, Community and Tourism Development and Integration:	John Neary
Integration Support Co-Ordinator, Rural, Community and Tourism Development and Integration:	Jennifer Swannock
Rural Proofing Officer, Rural, Community and Tourism Development and Integration:	Bernie Donnellan
Community Safety Co-Ordinator, Rural, Community and Tourism Development and Integration:	Marie Nicholson
Internal Auditor:	Eibhlin Curran
Data Protection Officer	Eric Hennelly-Flanagan

Head of legal - Law Agent:	Robert Meehan
Senior Executive Solicitors:	Angela Casey Anne McCormack Dermot Caslin
Executive Solicitors:	Michael O'Doherty
Senior Legal Assistant:	Monica Keigher

Finance, Motor Tax, ICT & Digital Transformation

Director of Finance:	Katie O'Connor
Head of Information Systems:	Michael Martyn
Financial Accountant:	Áine Fenton
Management Accountant:	Michael McGovern
Administrative Officers Finance:	Margaret Jordan Sara McDermott
Administrative Officer Motor Tax:	Ita Martyn

Human Resources, City & County Libraries and Environment

Director of Services:	Eileen Ruane
Senior Executive Officer, Human Resources:	Niamh Farrell
Administrative Officer, Human Resources:	Sinead Monaghan

County Librarian:	Elizabeth Keane
Senior Executive Librarians:	Josephine Vahey Meliosa McIntyre Siobhan Arkins
Administrative Officer, Environment:	Mary McGann
Senior Executive Engineer, Environment:	Mike Melody
Senior Executive Scientist, Environment:	Ann Dolan



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe

Galway County Council

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email: customerservices@galwaycoco.ie

<p>OPENING HOURS Monday to Friday 9:00am – 4:00pm</p> <p>OFFICE LOCATION Headquarters Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, 091509000 Galway <i>The following offices are located in Áras an Chontae</i></p> <p>Housing Applications091 509200 Housing Loans & Grants091 509301 Human Resources091 509303 Motor Taxation091 509099 Planning091 509343 Roads, Transportation & Marine091 509309 Rates091 509171 Register of Elector091 509310</p> <p>Casual Trading091 509225 Local Enterprise Office091 509090</p>	<p><i>The following offices are located at Centrepont, Liosbaun, Tuam Road Galway</i></p> <p>Environment091 509510 Rural Water.....091 509505 Community & Enterprise091 509521 Business Response Unit091 509521 Arts Office091 509521 Social Inclusion091 509521</p> <p><i>The following office is located at Corporate House, Ballybrit, Galway</i></p> <p>National Roads Project Office.....091 509594</p> <p>AREA OFFICES Athenry/Oranmore091 509088 Ballinasloe091 509074 Conamara South091509060</p>	<p>Conamara North091 509095 Tuam 091 509011 Gort 091 509065 Portumna090 9741019 Loughrea091509166</p> <p>FIRE BRIGADES Athenry, Ballinasloe, Clifden, Galway City, Gort, Inis Mór, Loughrea, 999 or 112 Mountbellew, Portumna and Tuam Civil Defence Officer091 570940</p> <p>LIBRARIES Headquarters, Galway091 509388 Galway City Branch091 509594 Ballybane..... 091 509244 Westside091 509091 An Cheathrú Rua091 595733 Athenry091 845592 Ballinasloe090 9643464 Ballygar090 66249199 Clifden095 21092 Dunmore093 38923 Eyrecourt090 9675056</p>	<p>Glenamaddy094 9659734 Gort091 631224 Headford093 36406 Inis Meáin099 73126 Inis Oírr.....099 75154 Inishbofin095 45891 Killimor090 9676062 Kilronan099 20937 Leenane095 42920 Letterfrack091 742666 Loughrea091 847220 Moylough090 9679072 Oranmore091 792117 Oughterard091 557002 Portumna090 9741261 Roundstone095 35518 An Spidéal091 504028 Tuam093 24287 Woodford090 9749887</p>
<p>Tá míle fáilte roimh chomhfhreagras agus ghnó l nGaeilge gaeilge@cocogaillimh.ie</p>			



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Galway County Council Annual Report 2025