

**MINUTES OF THE PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION &
EMERGENCY SERVICES SPC**

**HYBRID MEETING HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE
ON MONDAY 15TH JUNE 2026 AT 12.30pm**

I Láthair:

Baill: Comh. Pádraig Mac an Iomaire (Chairperson)
Comh. Tomás Ó Curraóin
Cllr. Seán Broderick
Mr. Aodán MacDonncha

Baill ar Líne: Cllr. Siobhán McHugh Ryan
Cllr. Martin McNamara

Oifigí: Mr. Uinsinn Finn, Director of Services
Mr. Tom Prendergast, Senior Engineer
Mr. Conrad Harley, Senior Engineer
Ms. Geraldine Byrne, Administrative Officer
Ms. Mary-Esther McHugh, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies: Mr. Mark Green

Absent: Colm Ryan
Cllr. Peter Feeney
Cllr. Michael Connolly
Ms. Anne Mitchell

Item No. 1: Galway County Council Road Maintenance Practice and Improvements

- Comh. Mac an Iomaire opened the meeting and proceeded to Item 3 on the agenda. Conrad Harley, Senior Engineer, delivered a presentation on Galway County Council's road maintenance practices and ongoing improvements. He outlined the benefits of maintaining roads in optimal condition, highlighting how proactive upkeep enhances road quality and provides safer, more reliable surfaces for road users.
- It was explained that the roads programme uses the Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI), rated from 1–10 (with 10 being excellent), to provide a snapshot of road conditions. The Department of Transport has allocated €46 million so far this year. Typically, roads undergo deep upgrades every 20 years and restoration maintenance every 10 years, supported by additional grants.
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland has allocated €22.65 million to Galway County Council for national road maintenance, using GeoAPP to identify and repair defects. The HD28 engineering standard is applied to improve skid resistance.

- Further funding includes €12.25 million for areas such as gritting, €2.6 million for active travel and bus stops, and €1.4 million under the Local Improvement Scheme (LIS).
- It was explained there are two main types of works: overlays (most expensive, longest lasting) and road recycling (used on low traffic roads, reuses materials, environmentally friendly). Further considerations include additional pothole repairs using the JCB Pothole Pro, replacement of velocity patchers, and purchase of new hotboxes.
- Galway's road network condition exceeds the national average across all categories, with more than two-thirds of local primary and secondary roads in good condition.
- Councillors requested that the presentation be shared and queried flood relief. Overall, they complimented the quality of works completed, particularly summer pothole repairs, and thanked the presenter. A query was raised on the cost of machinery purchases, while another concern highlighted road surfacing issues, noting ridges or dips and suggesting additional surfacing (e.g. blacktop) to improve finish.
- It was advised that opening water tables is carried out in the off-season, with drainage works funded through Department grants to remove water from roads and support flood relief. In cases of major flooding, additional funding is typically provided by the Department. Pothole repairs peak in winter, with four velocity patchers operating countywide, though this is often insufficient in summer.
- Regarding machinery costs, the JCB Pothole Pro is estimated to cost €250k (€350k with €100k reduction due to grants). It also involves weighing pros and cons to ensure value for money throughout the year. Regarding surface quality, works are based on a cycle of 10 years surface and 10 years strengthening, aiming to improve overall finish and durability.

Item No. 2: Minutes of the Physical Development, Transportation and Emergency Services SPC Meeting held on 26th March 2026

- On the **Proposal** of Cllr Seán Broderick and **Seconded** by Comh. Tomás Ó Curraóin, the minutes of the Physical Development, Transportation and Emergency Services meeting of the Strategic Policy Committee held 26th March 2026 were agreed.

Item No. 3: Matters Arising

- A request was made to include parking permits on the SPC agenda. It was confirmed an update on parking permits will be provided in this meeting as per agenda item 5.

Item No. 4: Joint Road Safety Strategy Galway City and County Councils 2026-2030 update

- It was confirmed that the strategy remains in draft form. It had been submitted earlier in the summer; however, a launch date has not yet been set. The SPC will be invited to attend the launch.

Item No. 5: Galway County Council – Car Parking

- An update report on paid parking and parking management in the County of Galway was discussed, which detailed the strategy for car parks and paid parking in different areas, parking bye-laws, measures to increase turnover and review long-stay rates in towns.
- It was noted that a €10 residents parking permit applies in paid parking areas to avail of parking. There is a 2 hour limit and fee of €1 per hour for off-street parking to increase turnover and support businesses in towns. It was also shared that all-day car parks are available at a reduced fee to encourage their use.
- Section 4 of the report was detailed, comparing on-street parking rates with nearby Councils, noting that we are at the lower end.
- Carers permits and residents parking permits were also discussed. Provision for carers was considered, noting a carers permit could allow a nominated carer to park without charge, linked to an individual with the option to apply for an additional carer, similar to provisions in Galway City Council bye-laws. It was noted that bye-laws for enforcement of carers permits are currently in place. Schedule 14A of the Local Government Act 2001, Article C197, Section 131A provides that such changes are reserved functions of the plenary Council, as one Municipal District could have implications for another. It was also noted that County Hall manage car parking, permits and fines, and that bye-laws are based on traffic management plans across Municipal Districts, linked to Article C197.
- Changes to bye-laws would need to be completed at Plenary. It was recommended to review the bye-laws, including parking structure and control measures in place, noting areas such as Oranmore have no paid parking.
- It was also shared that parking generates €1 million in revenue, which goes back into services and the management of towns.
- Queries were raised regarding a request from a Municipal District to increase on-street parking from 2 to 3 hours and whether individual MDs could introduce their own bye-laws, along with how to progress a motion previously raised. Clarification was sought on whether the €1 million parking revenue figure is net or gross. Concerns were also raised regarding the proposed carers permit model, noting the onus is on the person receiving care to nominate/apply, and that it may be more practical for carers, including contract staff, to apply directly to avoid undue burden.
- It was requested to have the parking as an item on the next agenda when the committee have reviewed the report. With reference to carers permits it was proposed by Cllr Seán Broderick, and seconded by Tomás O Currin to further discuss at the next SPC.
- It was responded that the matter would be placed on a forthcoming agenda when the report and review are available. It was noted that different rates and bye-laws currently apply across Municipal Districts, with a general 2-hour limit and full-day rate in place. It was agreed to bring the carers permit proposal back to the next meeting for further discussion, including how it could be incorporated. It was also agreed to provide further detail on salary costs, community wardens, time

allocation, administrative burden, and clarification on revenue (net/gross) as part of a future presentation to the SPC.

Item No. 6: Galway County Council – Water Services Authority Transition to Uisce Éireann

- The Uisce Éireann (UE) presentation was discussed. While the transition of water services has been ongoing since 2013, work carried out on behalf of UE by the Local Authority has been progressively phased out. The Local Authority is expected to fully exit this role by the end of 2026, with the exception of rural water and group water schemes. Staff have the option to transfer to UE, while some may remain with the Local Authority and be redeployed. A number of senior staff have already transitioned to the new UE offices in Crown Square. In relation to Clarinbridge, it was confirmed that a report will be brought before the main Council meeting. There were no matters arising from this update.

Item No. 7: Any Other Business

- Under Any Other Business queries were raised regarding traffic light sequencing in Barna and congestion on the R336, particularly westbound. It was responded this would be reviewed.
- Concerns were raised regarding falling walls along the R336 and pedestrian safety at locations such as Furbo Hill and Spiddal. It was noted that walls are generally the landowner's responsibility and issues will be examined where there is a safety risk.
- Queries were raised regarding grass cutting and overgrown vegetation at junctions affecting visibility. It was noted that works are limited to grass cutting, with restrictions during bird nesting season except where safety issues arise.
- It was confirmed the next SPC is due to take place on the 09th of September 2026.

The meeting concluded.

Críochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.

Signed &

Approved by:


Comh. Pádraig Mac an Iomaire
Cathaoirleach

Date: 9/9/2026