



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

# Galway County Council Annual Report 2024





**Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe**  
**Galway County Council**

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# Introduction

## Message from the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway



As Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council, I am honoured to introduce and welcome this Annual Report which outlines the programme of work and significant achievements of the local authority during 2024. It was with great pride that I accepted the position of Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council and to represent Galway as its first citizen for the County.

This annual report is a very comprehensive record of what Galway County Council has delivered for its customers and the citizens of the county over the past twelve months across a range of services, schemes, and projects. The range of initiatives and services delivered by Galway County Council across the County is considerable. The Council seeks to continually improve the economic, social, cultural, and physical infrastructure throughout the County for all our citizens. To ensure that our citizens receive an efficient, trustworthy, and reliable service in a cost-efficient manner.

Throughout 2024, my elected colleagues and I worked with council management to make financial provision for various services and projects in the county in a competitive and challenging operating environment. Ongoing collaboration between Elected Members, the Council's Executive and Officials, Oireachtas Members, Government Departments, and other stakeholders and partners has been the key in delivering the range of initiatives and services delivered by Galway Council across the County that are outlined in this report.

As Cathaoirleach of the Council, I wish to sincerely thank the staff of the organisation for the work they carry out daily for the development of this County. I wish to thank our chief Executive Liam Conneally and his Executive Team for supporting me and my fellow Elected Members in our work, I would like to thank Cllr. Liam Carroll who presided as Cathaoirleach for the first six months in 2024 and also Cllr. Albert Dolan from whom I received the Chain of Office upon his election to Dáil Éireann in December. A special word of thanks also to my Leas-Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Ollie Turner. Their dedication and professionalism exemplify the important public service provided by the local authority. I acknowledge the support and hard work of my councillor colleagues in continuing to achieve a better quality of life for all our citizens during 2024.

Mar Chathaoirleach ar Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe, is mór an onóir dom a bheith ceaptha mar Chathaoirleach Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe agus ionadaíocht a dhéanamh ar Ghaillimh mar an chéad saoránach don Chontae. Ba mhaith liom buíochas ó chroí a ghabháil leis an bPríomhfheidhmeannach Liam Conneally agus a Fhoireann Feidhmiúcháin agus le foireann na heagraíochta agus leis na Comhaltaí Tofa ar fad as an obair a dhéanann siad go laethúil ar mhaithe le forbairt an Chontae seo.

## Message from the Chief Executive



As Chief Executive of Galway County Council, I am pleased to present our Annual Report for 2024. This report encapsulates the significant strides we have made in enhancing the quality of life for the people of County Galway through our dedicated efforts in community and planning & economic development, infrastructure improvement, and environmental protection.

Throughout 2024, together we have worked diligently to deliver efficient and sustainable services, guided by our core values and strategic goals. We have focused on fostering community participation, driving economic growth, and ensuring the forward planning, development and delivery of essential infrastructure. Our commitment to good governance and transparency has been steadfast, as evidenced by our adherence to the Local Government Code of Governance and our robust spend risk management practices.

This year, we have seen notable achievements across various sectors, including housing and planning, transportation, climate action, and public health and safety. Our work initiatives have not only addressed immediate needs but also laid the groundwork for long-term sustainable development and the betterment of our communities. The collaboration between elected members, the entire staff, government departments, and community stakeholders has been instrumental in achieving these outcomes.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our staff for their unwavering dedication and hard work. Their commitment and support have been pivotal in realising our vision for County Galway as expressed in the Council's Corporate Plan. I want to convey my deep appreciation for their efforts to achieve the work successes this year.

I also want to express my sincere appreciation to the Cathaoirleach and the elected members for their enthusiasm and dedication to serving our community. The achievements outlined in this report are a testament to the collaborative efforts between our elected members and the Council staff. Together, we are making it happen.

As we look ahead to 2025, we remain committed to our mission of enhancing the quality of life for the citizens of County Galway. We will continue to build on our successes, embrace new challenges, and strive for excellence in all our endeavours in accordance with our new Corporate Plan 2025-2029.

Agus muid ag breathnú chun cinn ar 2025, táimid fós tiomanta do chaighdeán maireachtála do shaoránaigh Chontae na Gaillimhe a fheabhsú, ag tógáil ar ár gcuid éachtaí, ag glacadh le dúshláin nua, agus ag iarraidh barr feabhais a bhaint amach inár n-iarrachtaí go léir. Le chéile, leanfaimid orainn ag tógáil ar thodhchaí níos gile do Chontae na Gaillimhe.



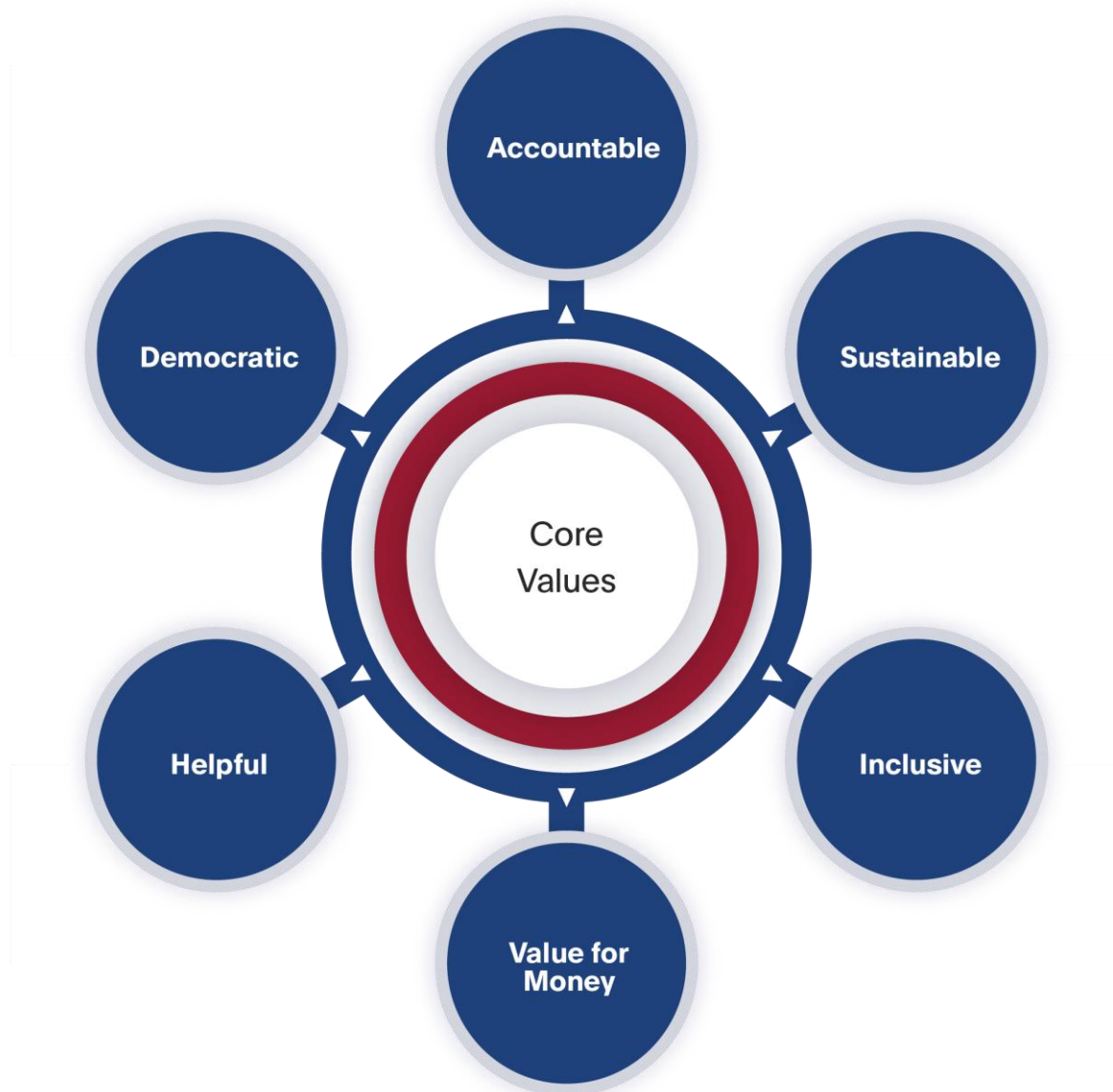
## Our Vision

*A county with a clear sense of identity, reflecting its heritage, language, and culture, that promotes sustainable economic and community development, citizen and stakeholder engagement, develops essential infrastructure and protects our environment.*

## Our Mission

*To enhance the quality of life for the people of County Galway by leading and strengthening Community and Economic development and delivering efficient and sustainable services.*

## Our Core Values



# 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.

### 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.

### Local Elections 2024

The Local Elections for Galway County Council were held on June 7, 2024. These elections determined the representatives for all 39 seats on the council, using the proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote (PR-STV) system.

#### Overall Results:

**Re-elected Councillors:** 29 incumbents were re-elected

**New Councillors:** 10 new councillors were elected.

Local Electoral Area	Total Seats	Re-elected	Newly Elected
Athenry-Oranmore	7	3	4
Ballinasloe	6	5	1
Conamara North	4	4	0
Conamara South	5	3	2
Gort-Kinvara	5	4	1
Loughrea	5	5	0
Tuam	7	5	2

During the General Election held in November 2024, Councillor Albert Dolan, Councillor Peter Roche, and Councillor Louis O'Hara were elected to Dáil Éireann. Subsequently, at the December 2024 Plenary:

- Cllr. Sean Broderick was co-opted to Cllr. Dolan's seat in the Athenry-Oranmore MD.
- Cllr. Martin McNamara was co-opted to Cllr. O'Hara's seat in the Athenry-Oranmore MD.
- Cllr. Siobhan McHugh Ryan was co-opted to Cllr. Roche's seat in the Tuam MD.

Following the local elections held in June 2024, the newly elected council promptly initiated the development of our Corporate Plan for the next five-year term, 2025-2029. This plan outlines our strategic goals and objectives, adheres to relevant legislation, involves consultations with both internal and external stakeholders, and addresses cross-cutting issues such as social inclusion, equality, and climate change. It incorporates mechanisms for performance

measurement and is designed to be adaptable to changing circumstances. The Corporate Plan 2025-2029 is comprehensive, inclusive, and flexible, enabling Galway County Council to effectively manage our responsibilities and serve our communities.

## 125th Anniversary Celebration of Local Government & Galway County Council

In 2024, we celebrated 125 years of local government in Ireland. The Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898, which introduced county councils, led to the first Irish local elections in 1899. To commemorate this significant milestone, a special event titled "**Voices: Stories from Galway County Council 2019 & 2024**" was held at County Hall on October 21, 2024.



The Heritage Office reached out to retired staff and former Elected Members of Galway County Council to share their experiences, insights, and fond memories from their time with the council. These stories, which highlight the rich history and traditions of Galway County Council, were launched at the event and have been captured in two videos. The first video was commissioned in 2019, and the second in 2024. These videos offer a unique glimpse into the council's past and present, showcasing the evolution and enduring legacy of local governance in Galway.

These heartfelt stories, celebrating 125 years of dedicated service and community spirit, can be viewed at the following links:

- Voices: Stories from Galway County Council 2019 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jmc-v2VPNk>
- Voices: Stories from Galway County Council 2024 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GlmnE0b-g8A>

We hope you enjoy these inspiring stories and join us in celebrating this remarkable milestone.

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## 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.

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## 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. 10 Meetings of the CPG took place in 2024. 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.

## 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.

During the period 2020-2024, 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 2020-2024	Elected Members	Sectoral Representations	Committee Total
Housing	7	4	11
Economic Development & Enterprise	6	4	10
Planning, Environment, Agriculture & Emergency Services	7	4	11
Transport & Infrastructure	7	4	11
Community & Cultural Development	6	4	10
Climate Change & Biodiversity	6	4	10

In September 2024, following the Local Elections, the new Council developed and adopted a new Strategic Policy Scheme for the period 2025-2029. The new committees were formed as outlined in the table below:

SPC Scheme 2025-2029	Elected Members	Sectoral Representations	Committee Total
Housing	7	4	11
Economic Development & Enterprise Planning	6	4	10
Physical Development, Transportation & Emergency Services	7	4	11
Community, Irish Language, Gaeltacht, Tourism & Integration	7	4	11
Environment Protection & Agriculture	6	4	10
Climate Action, Biodiversity & Heritage	6	4	10

## Twinning

### Straubing

In August 2024, Cllr. Ollie Turner led a Tuam delegation to Straubing, Bavaria, celebrating 40 years of twinning.

The visit, part of the Gäubodenvolksfest, focused on strengthening cultural and economic ties. Discussions included future collaborations and exchanges, with plans to invite a Straubing delegation to Tuam next year for a 4-day event funded by the Council. The visit ended with a symbolic exchange of gifts, highlighting the strong relationship between the towns.





## Galway County Council Forges New Tourism, Business, and Community Links in USA

### New York St. Patrick's Day

In March 2024, the Chief Executive and Cathaoirleach participated in St. Patrick's Day festivities in New York, invited by the Galway Association of New York. Meetings with the IDA, Enterprise Ireland, Tourism Ireland and the Irish Consulate were highly successful, raising the profile of County Galway as a prime destination for business and tourism. The celebrations culminated in their participation in the St. Patrick's Day parade.



### Washington County & Milwaukee Irish Fest

In August 2024, a delegation from Galway, including representatives from local government, academia, business, and the arts, completed a weeklong promotional visit to the US Midwest. The 18 delegates engaged with leaders in government, tourism, culture, and business across Illinois and Wisconsin, including Galway City's sister city of Chicago and Galway County Council's twinning partner Washington County. The visit also featured a tourism showcase at Milwaukee Irish Fest.



The visit was successful in fostering connections and exploring future collaborations. The delegation met with various

organisations, including Enterprise Ireland, Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce and World Business Chicago. An alumni event hosted by the University of Galway in Chicago brought together Illinois-based alumni to network and reflect on their time in Galway.

In Washington County, the delegation celebrated the 21st anniversary of the twinning arrangement and attended a County Board meeting. They explored the Next Generation Housing project and learned about Parks Sustainability from Jamie Ludovic, Chief Community Development Officer.

A highlight was the delegation's attendance at Milwaukee Irish Fest, where Galway has promoted its tourism sector for 25 years. The visit emphasised the importance of raising awareness about direct transatlantic services to the West of Ireland.



The visit successfully strengthened County Galway's tourism, business and community links in the US Midwest.

## Elected Members

### Municipal District of Athenry-Oranmore



Cllr. James  
Charity

Tonegurrane  
Cor an Dola  
Co. Galway

0872191792



Cllr. Peter  
Feeney

Ballydavid  
Athenry  
Co. Galway

0876812403



Cllr. Tomas  
Grealish

An Carn Mór  
Oranmore  
Co. Galway

0868283110



Cllr. David  
Collins

Waterview,  
Turloughmore  
Co. Galway

0877831687



Cllr. Cillian  
Keane

Prospect  
Maree  
Oranmore  
Co. Galway

0871930764



Cllr. Seán  
Broderick

Colemanstown  
Ballinasloe  
Co. Galway

0879335477



Cllr. Martin  
McNamara

Cartymore  
Athenry  
Co. Galway

0872804295

### Municipal District of Tuam



Cllr. Shaun  
Cuniffe

4 Loftus Terrace  
Ballgaddy Road,  
Tuam  
Co. Galway

0878161663



Cllr. Mary Hoade

Main Street  
Headford  
Co. Galway

0872255979



Cllr. Donagh  
Mark Killilea

171 Palace Fields  
Tuam  
Co. Galway

0866079563



Cllr. Karey  
McHugh Farag

Brooklodge  
Demesne  
Ballyglunin  
Tuam  
Co. Galway

0872822225



Cllr. Andrew  
Reddington

Coarsepark  
Headford  
Co. Galway

0876458115



Cllr. Siobhan  
McHugh Ryan

Kilcloghans  
Tuam  
Co. Galway

0870026433



Cllr. Leas  
Chathaoirleach  
ollie Turner

Castle Street  
Dunmore  
Co. Galway

0862626958



## Municipal District of Loughrea



Cllr. Michael  
"Moegie"  
Maher

Clostoken  
Loughrea  
Co. Galway

0868109185



Cllr. Jimmy  
McClearn

Tynagh Road  
Killimor  
Ballinasloe  
Co. Galway

0872191792



Cllr. Declan Kelly

1 An Baile Glas  
St Brendans Road  
Portumna  
Co. Galway

0868032732



Cllr. Ivan  
Canning

Lecarrow  
Gortanumera  
Portumna  
Co. Galway

0871376666



Cllr. Shane  
Curley

Raheen  
Loughrea  
Co. Galway

0862706550



Cllr. Geraldine  
Donohue

Springvale  
Kylebrack  
Loughrea  
Co. Galway

0861692827



Cllr. Gerry  
Finnerty

Ballymurphy  
Gort  
Co. Galway

0872674295



Cllr. Paul Killilea

Carrowgarriiff  
Kinvara  
Co. Galway

0879763930



Cllr.  
Cathaoirleach  
Martina Kinane

Stradbally North  
Clarenbridge  
Co. Galway

0872692102



Cllr. PJ Murphy

Ballindive  
Ardrahan  
Co. Galway

0877905401

## Municipal District of Conamara



Cllr. Eileen  
Mannion

Sky Road  
Clifden  
Co. Galway

0879555645



Cllr. Thomas  
Welby

Cregg  
Oughterard  
Co. Galway

0872855676



Cllr. Séamus  
Walsh

Glann  
Oughterard  
Co. Galway

0870519884



Cllr. Gerry King

Errislannan  
Clifden  
Co. Galway

0861798749



Cllr. Tomás Ó  
Curraoin

Na Forai Maola  
Thiar  
Co. Galway

0872933782



Cllr. Pádraig Mac  
an Iomaire

Na Doireadh  
Baile na hAbhann  
Co. Galway

0879213795



Cllr. Michael  
Leainde

Ros an Mhil  
Baile na hAbhann  
Co. Galway

0863134491



Cllr. Máirtín Lee

Tir an Fhia  
Leitírmair  
Co. Galway

0877372147



Cllr. Noel  
Thomas

Gort an Chalaigh  
Maigh Cuilinn  
Co. Galway

0877372147

Municipal District of Ballinasloe



Cllr. Declan Geraghty

Williamstown  
Via Castlerea  
Co. Galway

0862543304



Cllr. Dermot Connolly

Glennavaddogue  
Aughrim  
Ballinasloe  
Co. Galway

0860886160



Cllr. Michael Connolly

Moyloughmore  
Moylough  
Ballinasloe  
Co. Galway

0876829049



Cllr. Alan Harney

Glentaun  
Creagh  
Ballinasloe  
Co. Galway

0879904456



Cllr. Peter Keaveney

Bushtown  
Glenamaddy  
Co. Galway

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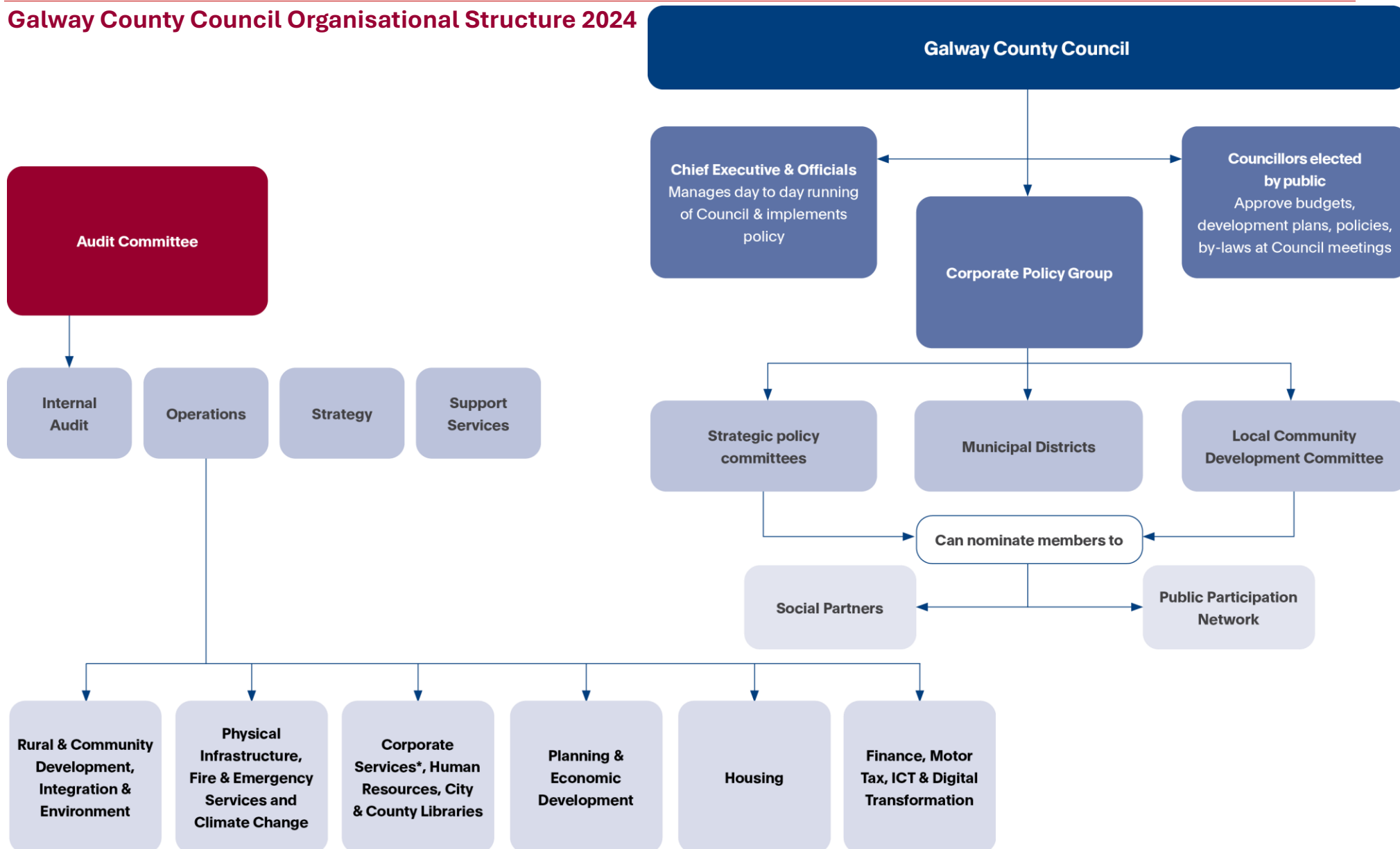


Cllr. Dr Evelyn Francis Parsons

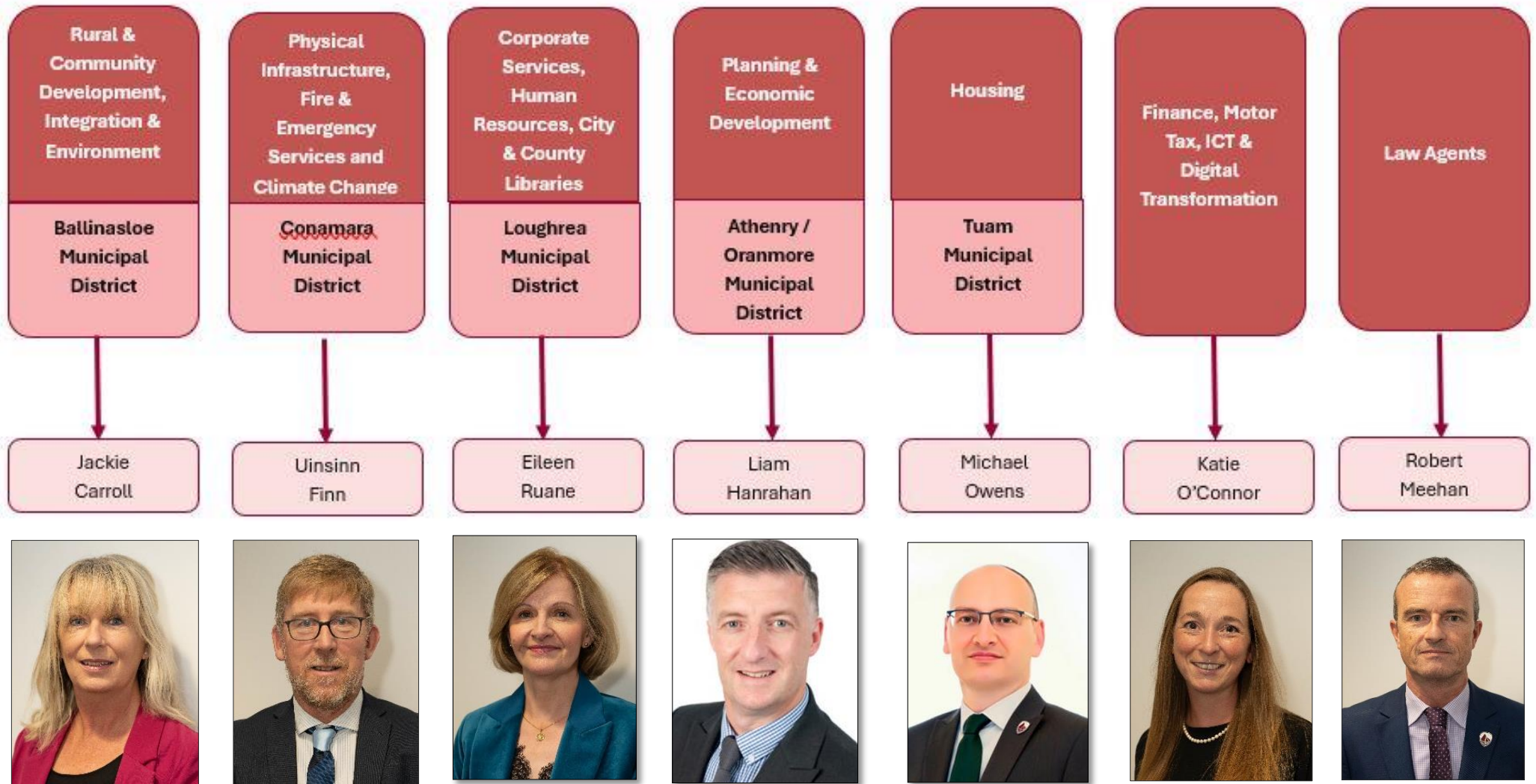
Beechlawn Hill  
Ballinasloe  
Co. Galway

0871365793

## Galway County Council Organisational Structure 2024



**Liam Conneally**  
Chief Executive





## 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.



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## 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.

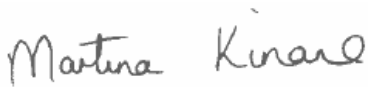
**CORE PRINCIPLE 6** - Good governance means engaging openly and comprehensively with local people, citizens and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability.

**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

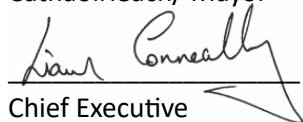
As the Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive of the council, and on behalf of the elected members, management and staff we confirm that:

- 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/ Mayor

Date: 28/04/2025



Chief Executive

Date: 28/04/2025

## Statement of Internal Financial Control 2024 (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 2024, 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 2024.

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: 2024 €	Previous year: 2023 €
Goods & Services	25,643,229	29,368,317
Grants & Subsidies	96,716,263	84,722,200
Other Contributions (as appropriate)	9,026,836	9,031,702
Rates	36,093,665	32,770,432
Local Property Tax	20,309,071	14,517,890

Activity on the Income and Expenditure account for 2024 is as follows:

	Current year: 2024 €	Previous year: 2023 €
Total Income (including rates and LPT)	187,789,064	170,410,541
Expenditure	181,356,236	168,147,829
Transfer to reserves	6,431,275	2,259,764
Surplus for the year	1,553	3,278
Opening Revenue Reserve	46,204	42,926
Closing Revenue Reserve	47,756	46,204

The total income in the current year of 31 December 2024 saw an increase year on year of over €13m (8%) and an increase of €8m 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 €3.5million. 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 €1.5m. The main drivers for the increase relate to the funding made available by the Department for additional maintenance and improvement works.
- The actual expenditure in the development management directorate increased by nearly €12m when compared to the prior year. The main driver for this increase was the rollout by Galway County Council of the Increased Cost of Business (ICOB) grant to qualifying businesses.
- Galway County Council operated a small surplus of €1,553 for the year ended 31 December 2024. This surplus for the year 2024, 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 2024 total €3,964,261,203 and are as follows:

	Current year: 2024 €	Previous year: 2023 €
Fixed Assets	3,751,990,981	3,703,661,947
Works in Progress	180,237,701	178,472,762
Long Term debtors	50,996,763	48,662,270
Current Assets	93,443,274	82,303,178
Current Liabilities	48,134,956	46,590,766
Net Current Assets/ (Liabilities)	45,308,318	35,712,412
Creditors (Amounts greater than 1 year)	64,272,561	63,717,239
<b>Net Assets/(Liabilities)</b>	<b>3,964,261,203</b>	<b>3,902,792,152</b>

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 CE 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 CE 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 CE 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:

- to review financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within the local authority that has established it
- to foster the development of best practice in the performance by the local authority of its internal audit function
- 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
- to assess and promote efficiency and value for money with respect to the local authority's performance of its functions; and
- 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**

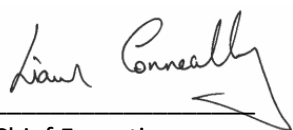
Galway County Council has implemented a risk management system which identifies and reports key risks and the management actions being taken to address and, to the extent possible, mitigate those risks.

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 division 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 30 April 2025 and thereafter included in the published Annual Report prepared and adopted by the Council by 30 June 2025.



Chief Executive

Date: 28/04/2025

## Internal Audit, to include Audit Committee

### Internal Audit Work Undertaken in 2024

The Internal Audit Unit is a function under the Corporate Services Directorate. Each year the annual Internal Audit Plan is designed and prepared in consultation with Management of the Council, Local Government Auditor and the Audit Committee and forms part of the work programme for the Audit Committee. The Internal Audit Plan for 2024 was presented and agreed by the committee on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

The Internal Audit Charter, which sets out the role and responsibilities of the Internal Audit Unit along with management's responsibilities and reporting arrangements, is reviewed annually, with the most recent update undertaken in December 2024 in line with the recommended template issued by the Institute of Internal Auditors.

### Internal Audit Plan Progress

In 2024, seven audits were undertaken across various divisions. These audits included compliance checks, statutory audits, and verification reviews. The assurance levels varied from limited to substantial, reflecting the diverse nature of the audits. While some audits experienced delays, others are still in progress, with external consultants engaged for specialised areas. Overall, the audits identified several areas for improvement, contributing to the ongoing enhancement of internal controls and compliance.

In addition to comprehensive audit reviews, the Internal Audit unit regularly conducts compliance checks. These checks are invaluable to the organization and the Local Government Auditor, providing assurance in key areas that may not be covered in full audits and informing future audit plans.

Division	Area	Frequency	Assurance
Finance - Motor Tax Office	Bank Reconciliation, Cancelled Stock item & Stock take	HQ Monthly/Regional offices Biannual	Substantial
	Year-end Stock Take	Annual	Substantial
	Refunds	Quarterly	Substantial
Finance – Cash Desk	Reconciliation of receipts/lodgements, cancelled receipts	HQ Monthly	Substantial
Prompt Payment Interest	Review of PPI for the year	Annual	Substantial

### Strategic Audit Plan 2025-2029

The process of preparing a Strategic Audit Plan commenced in quarter 3 of 2024. The first stage of the process was to compile a list of potential auditable activities of Galway County Council. The audit universe was drawn up using a variety of sources such as previous Audit Plans, Annual Service Delivery Plans, Internal Audit Guidance Handbook, Budgets, Annual Financial Statements, Catalogue of Services etc. This exercise has identified 226 potential auditable activities. As management are responsible for managing risks in their areas, Internal Audit considers them to be best place to identify the level of risk inherent in each activity in the audit universe. This is currently in the second stage of the process, where each Director of Service was provided with a list of auditable activities and was asked to rate each activity in terms of High, Medium or low risk. The plan is expected to be completed by Q2, 2025.

### Support to Audit Committee

Head of Internal Audit continues to support the Audit committee in their duties as Audit Committee Secretary. Four meetings were facilitated during the year, along with additional workload for appointment of new audit committee post 2024 local elections and in compliance with S.I. 244/2014 Local Government (Audit Committee) regulations



2014. In addition, several meetings were held with the Audit Committee Chairperson to draft and review Audit committee statutory reports and work programme throughout the year.

An audit committee tracking system was also developed to track AC actions and activities to aid year end reporting. Audit Committee Training was organised on behalf of the members in December 2024.

Regulation 13 of the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations and in accordance with Principle 4 of the Code of Governance for Local Authorities, the Audit Committee is required to undertake an annual review of its own effectiveness and report to the Council on its findings. As secretariat to the A.C., the head of Internal Audit facilitated this exercise through the development of an eForm questionnaire. The findings concluded that the committee deals with appropriate issues and that it conducts its business in a professional manner with meetings that are well organised and that actions of the Audit Committee reflect independence from management. Overall assessment of effectiveness of the Audit Committee’s performance for 2024 was considered ‘very good’.

**Audit Committee**

Following the local elections in June 2024, a new Audit Committee was appointed. The Audit committee is established by resolution of the Council upon nomination by the Corporate Policy Group and following consultation with the Chief Executive.

The term of the committee is concurrent with that of the current Council which commenced on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024. The committee consists of five members, three external members and two Local Authority members who possess an appropriate mix of desired skills, knowledge, and experience in the areas of Finance/Audit/Risk Management. At the inaugural meeting of the newly appointed committee on November 5<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Martina Moloney was elected as Chairperson for the committee.



The composition of the Committee since July 2024 is as follows:

<b>Dr. Martina Moloney, Chairperson</b>	Board member of The Heritage Council, Former Chief Executive of Galway & Louth County Councils, Former member of - The Arts Council, National Oversight & Audit Commission
<b>Mr. Seamus Duffy</b>	Director of Ballinasloe Area Community Development, Financial Adviser & former bank manager
<b>Ms. Sarah Roarty</b>	Board Director for Iarnród Éireann bringing independent judgement to bear on issues of strategy, performance, resources, key appointments and standard of conduct for the state transport body. Serves as Chairperson of Strategy, Chairperson of Safety and a member of the Audit and Risk committee.

<b>Cllr. Mary Hoade</b>	Elected member, Galway County Council
<b>Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr. Ollie Turner</b>	Elected member, Galway County Council

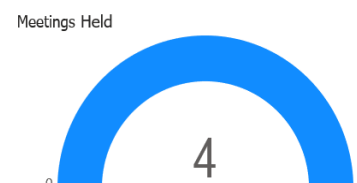
## Training

Dr. Tom Ward of the IPA Governance Team attended County Hall on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December to provide induction training for the newly elected committee. The training provided an overview to the members of the role of the audit committee, how to deliver their mandate, their independence and relationship with the Executive, emerging areas of risk for consideration and audit committee effectiveness.

## Attendance

Meetings were conducted in person during 2024, with one member being facilitated to attend remotely on one occasion.

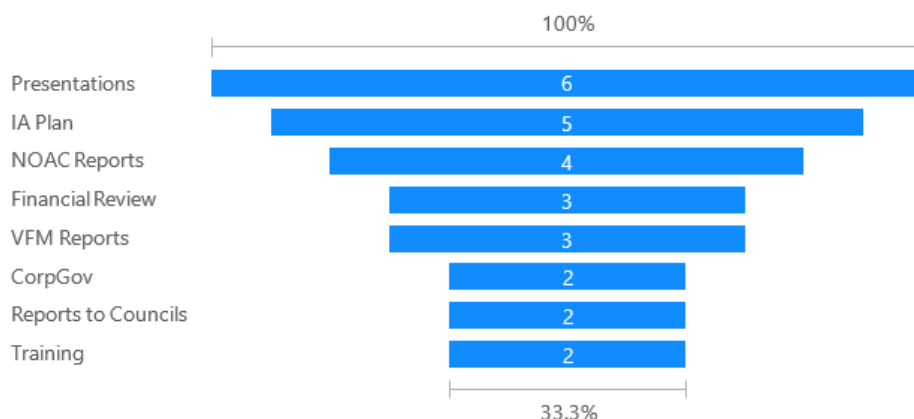
There were 4 no. Audit Committee meetings held in 2024. There was strong participation from all Committee members at each meeting.



## Work Programme

In addition to its statutory functions, the focus of the newly appointed Audit Committee is to have senior management attend Audit Committee meetings, to review matters arising from issued audit reports (internal & external), NOAC & VFM reports, along with identified risks included in the Corporate Risk Register. This will continue in the 2025 Work Programme with priority being given to Risk Management. The committee prepares their Annual Activities report. The 2024 report was brought before the Council in March 2025.

### Activities WP Reference



The Audit Committee considers progress against its annual work programme, the annual Internal Audit Plan, and the recommendations in Audit Reports at each meeting throughout the year. Several presentations were provided to the committee.

NOAC issued a report on the Internal Audit function in local authorities in March 2024. The committee will continue to periodically review the recommendations of the NOAC report and acknowledges that the information gathered through Internal Audit Reports provides the Committee with significant insight into the management and operations of the Council.

The committee continually discusses the implementation of Internal Audit's recommendations throughout the organisation and places a strong emphasis on the timely follow up of any outstanding actions.

Presentations	Corporate Risk Register	Presentation on the Corporate Risk Register by Ms. L. Keady	2024	Qtr. 4
Presentations	Cybersecurity in Galway County Council	Presentation by Head of IT, Mr. M Martyn giving overview of cybersecurity in GCC	2024	Qtr. 1
Presentations	Infrastructure & Operations - Unfunded Capital Balances	Review of TII Unfunded Capital Balances by Director of Services, Mr. U. Finn	2024	Qtr. 2
Presentations	IPB Insurance Report 2023	AC requested Risk Control Officer, Mr. E Lydon to attend meeting to clarify statistics in Q4 IPB report	2024	Qtr. 2
Presentations	IPB Insurance Report 2023	Presented by IA on behalf of Risk Control Officer, Mr. E Lydon	2024	Qtr. 1
Presentations	Rates Revision status & procedures for GCC	Rates Revision status & procedures for GCC by Mr. S. Canney, including clarifications on VFM report - Rates Revision in Local Authorities	2024	Qtr. 1

The committee also met with the Chief Executive, Head of Finance and Local Government Auditor at various points during the year. The Head of Internal Audit attends all the meetings and provides regular updates on the work of the Internal Audit function and progress reports on the Local Government Auditor's management letter recommendations.

### Statutory reports to Council

The Audit Committee Annual Report 2023, work programme and Charter was reported to the Council for noting at the plenary meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024. [Minute 4305](#)

The Audit Committee statutory report on the Local Government Auditor's 2023 Annual Financial Statement has been completed and was brought before the Plenary on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025. [Minute 4495](#).

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### Legal Advisory Service

The Law Agent Department continued to provide the usual legal and advisory services for all programme areas and Directorates during 2024.

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 to include District Court enforcement prosecutions, Circuit and High Court, including Judicial Review, all of which have now resumed to normal levels with developments within the Court Services to provide for both in-person and online court hearings. The completion of land acquisitions, CPOs on inter-urban routes and road widening schemes, were also substantial areas of work for the Law Agent Department. Code Enforcement also represents a significant workload for the department involving both planning and environmental prosecutions at various court jurisdictions. A new area of significant work that will continue into the future 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.

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.

Work has continued on the council Register of Lands, in co-operation with our partners in other units such as IS, Finance and Housing. Significant progress has been achieved in terms of the Property Interest Register, and indeed on the archiving of old files. Funding for a software solution for the Property Interest Register was approved previously and the Law Agent Office continues to engage with various service providers with the view to an ultimate acquisition of the most appropriate system. Staffing for a new Property Interest Register Unit has also been approved and initial staff identified, and the formal staffing requests have been filed with the Human Resources Department. This is in line with Local Government Auditor requirements.

The Law Agent Department has also provided additional support and advisory services to the Executive of the Council and administrative support staff within the specialised areas of Corporate Governance, 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.

## 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.



In 2023, Galway County Council created the necessary conditions for the implementation of the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty (the Duty). A cross-organisational working group was established to facilitate this process, working with an external consultant to develop:

- An equality and human rights values statement.
- An assessment of equality and human rights issues relevant to the Council's functions.
- An Implementation Plan for the Duty, providing a frame for its ongoing implementation.

On July 25, 2023, the Management Team adopted the Implementation Plan. The Human Rights and Equality Assessment (with Evidence Book) and the Implementation Plan are available on our website <https://www.galway.ie/en/services/yourcouncil/corpdocs/>.

During 2024, the key development was the incorporation of the Duty in the Corporate Plan 2025-2029. In compliance with the Duty the plan provides access to the assessment of equality and human rights issues relevant to our functions and the plans, policies and actions Galway County Council will be taking to address these issues. The planning process included undertaking an equality and human rights impact assessment of the draft plan at final draft stage and incorporating the results of that.

During 2024, we continued to implement our implementation plan for the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty (the Duty) and the following is a summary of the developments and achievements in this:

- Steps taken under Section 42(1): *Types of policies with Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessments undertaken in their development and review.* We conducted an Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment on the Corporate Plan and the Traveller Accommodation Programme
- Steps taken under Section 42(2): *Targeted policies, plans actions developed and or being implemented to directly addressed the identified groups for the Duty or the equality and human rights issues in our assessment of equality and human rights issues* e.g. The Traveller Accommodation programme
- Enabling steps taken to support staff in their implementation of the Duty *including* the development of Support materials together with the delivery of a number of mentoring events.

More detailed information, including 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.

## 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 seven complaints from Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga, all relating to incorrect place names. Four of these complaints were about road signage, while three were related to errors ón placenames in printed literature. These 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 2024, Galway County Council surpassed some of these requirements by publishing 39.13% of its print advertisements in Irish, along with 42.51% of its social media ads in the Irish language. Additionally, 4.69% of our annual advertising budget was spent with the Irish-language media company Tuairisc.ie.

Galway County Council also received guidance from Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga concerning the clarity of signage and its responsibilities under the Official Languages Acts and also relating to legislation relating to the Department of Transport.

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## Galway County Council Corporate Plan 2020-2024

The Galway County Council Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024 as adopted by the Elected Members of Galway County Council, provides the framework to enable Galway County Council to guide the strategic direction and development of the County of Galway for the period 2020 - 2024.

The strategic goals and supporting strategies identified in the Plan supported Galway County Council in carrying out its functions, prioritising its actions, and assessing its progress. The core values underpinned and guided the delivery of local authority services over the period 2020 - 2024, while the mission reflected the importance of enhancing the quality of life for people of County Galway by leading and strengthening community and economic development and delivering efficient and sustainable services. The achievement of our mission and vision was realised through the attainment of a number of interrelated Goals. To deliver these goals the council implemented a range of Supporting Strategies. These Supporting Strategies formed the basis of the functions as set out in the Annual Service Delivery Plans and schedule of Municipal District works.

An assessment of our performance against the targets set in the 2024 Annual Service Delivery Plan is also included within the [Strategic Objectives and Performance](#) of this report, while details of our key performance indicators is included at [appendix 1](#) of this report. For additional information, please refer to the Annual Progress Report on the Galway County Council Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024, available within the Galway County Council's Annual Budget 2024. You can view it at the following link: <https://www.galway.ie/en/services/yourcouncil/finance/annualbudgets/>





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## Strategic Goals

### Community Participation

- *"To facilitate the broadest possible participation by citizens in local decision making and the sustainable development of their communities and their county."*

### Economic & Enterprise Development

- *"To maximise the continued and sustainable economic and enterprise development of our county."*

### Infrastructural Capacity

- *"To ensure that our physical and social infrastructure is sufficiently developed to support economic development, and to enhance our quality of life."*

### Organisational Capacity

- *"To maximise organisational capacity through the continuous review of operational efficiency, financial and risk management and the development of our Staff and Elected Members."*

### Protection of Environment & Heritage

- *"To improve, protect and promote our environment, culture, heritage and language in the interests of present and future generations."*

### Quality Customer Service

- *"To ensure that quality customer service is at the centre of everything we do."*

# Strategic Objectives and Performance

This section provides a high-level overview of each unit's major achievements during 2024. To support and provide a comprehensive update, the Annual Service Delivery Plan 2024 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 2020-2024.

For more detailed insights into the operations and accomplishments of each unit, please refer to the **Monthly Management 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/services/yourcouncil/corpdocs/>.

## Directorate: Housing

### Record Results in Housing Allocations

This year, we achieved commendable outcomes in housing allocations, casual vacancies, and new vacancies. With a portfolio exceeding 3,000 properties, by year-end there were no vacant available to let properties available. We distributed over 500 keys to tenants under the Local Authority (LA), Approved Housing Bodies (AHB), Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS), and Mortgage to Rent (MTR) programs. Additionally, over 1,500 applicants and their family members underwent Garda vetting. Notably, we surpassed the milestone of 3,000 LA-owned properties in November 2024.

### Exciting Milestone for Affordable Housing

The first affordable homes in County Galway since 2013 were nearing completion in Baile Chláir. The Garraí Na Gaoithe development will provide 61 affordable housing units. The initial phase includes 17 modern homes, and nominations were finalised by year end. Interest has been substantial, with 165 applications received. Construction on the remaining 44 homes is scheduled for completion in 2025.



*Computer generated Images of the Garraí Na Gaoithe Development in Claregalway*

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## Tackling Vacancy Rates with a New 5-Year Action Plan

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, with 465 applications received and 283 approved, representing a €16 million investment in rejuvenating communities.



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## Targeting Vacant and Derelict Properties

Galway County Council has identified 40 derelict buildings for inclusion in the first phase of a nationwide programme to address vacancy and underutilisation. Property owners have been directed to bring these buildings back into use or risk compulsory acquisition by the Local Authority.



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## Housing Borrowing Requirements Approval

In November, the Elected Members approved €66.5 million in housing borrowing requirements to fund critical projects. This will support affordable and cost rental options, regenerate communities, and invest in existing social housing. The approval will enable the delivery of the first affordable cost rental homes and advance three affordable housing schemes in Baile Chláir and Athenry.

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## Housing Capital Delivery Programme

Under the Government's Housing for All plan, Galway County Council is on track to deliver over 500 new social housing homes in the next two years. This includes secure, high-quality housing through direct builds, turnkey developments, and partnerships with Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs). The Council remains focused on providing security of tenure, addressing homelessness, increasing supply, and making efficient use of existing stock to build sustainable communities.

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## Official Openings and New Developments

- Gort Na gCloch, Hospital Road, Clifden: Officially opened with modern interiors.
- Pairc na Cille, Baile an Theimpeal, Weir Road, Tuam: New housing development.
- Pairc na Darach, Ballymoe: Ongoing construction with completion expected in April 2025.



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## Galway County Council's Interactive Housing Supply & Demand Dashboards



We are pleased to announce the continued enhancement of Galway County Council's interactive Housing Supply and Demand Dashboards. This dynamic webpage offers comprehensive insights into social housing stock and demand, providing users with the ability to extract detailed information updated daily.

By exploring these dashboards, users can stay informed about the latest trends and statistics in social housing, enabling them to understand the current housing landscape.

Visit [www.galway.ie/en/services/housing/supplydemand/](http://www.galway.ie/en/services/housing/supplydemand/) to access our interactive reports and search our current housing supply and demand.

## Directorate: Corporate Services, Human Resources, City & County Libraries

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### Corporate Services Achievements

Corporate Services has successfully delivered on all 2024 objectives, demonstrating our team's dedication and hard work. This year, we meticulously planned and executed a successful count for the Local Elections, ensuring a smooth transition to the new Council formed in June 2024, which includes 10 newly elected members.

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### Strategic Policy and Governance

We also commenced the development of the Corporate Plan 2025-2029 through meaningful engagement with stakeholders, members, and staff. This comprehensive plan was proudly adopted by the Members at the November Plenary, setting a clear direction for the future and reinforcing our commitment to excellence in governance and service delivery.

In September 2024, we adopted a new Strategic Policy Scheme, with new committees set to be formed in early 2025. Our commitment to robust governance continues with the ongoing development of the Corporate Governance Framework.



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### Register of Electors: Ensuring Electoral Integrity

Corporate Services staff, led by the Register of Electors team, have been instrumental in processing all applications received for the three electoral events held in 2024:

- 8th March (Referendum)
- 7th June (European & Local Elections)
- 29th November (Dáil Election)



From 1st January to 12th November 2024, over 31,000 requests were processed via ChecktheRegister or in hard copy. This comprehensive effort included adding new electors who turned 18 since 2020 and updating the details of existing electors. Following the 2022 Census, 14,000 electors were moved from the Galway/Roscommon Dáil Constituency to Galway East, resulting in an additional TD for Galway East. These achievements reflect a whole-of-staff approach, ensuring the accuracy and integrity of the electoral register and facilitating smooth and efficient electoral processes throughout the year.



## Celebrating Community and Achievements

The annual **Cathaoirleach's Ball** was a resounding success, uniting the community to support two wonderful charities: ACT for Meningitis and i4Life. Held in May 2024, the event raised nearly €15,000 for these local causes.



The highlight of the evening was the announcement of the **Cathaoirleach Award winners**, recognising individuals and groups who have significantly impacted the quality of life in communities across County Galway. These annual awards celebrate the dedication of those



involved in community and voluntary activities, showcasing their positive contributions.



The awards ceremony included posthumous Special Recognition Awards presented to the families of the late Saoirse Ruane from Kiltullagh and Martin Horgan from Oranmore. Galway County PPN (Public Participation Network) partnered with Galway County Council to deliver the awards, with the winners announced at the Cathaoirleach's Annual Charity Ball.





We also hosted numerous civic receptions to honour the outstanding citizens and sports people of our county including our November Honourees, Keith Finnegan, St Thomas Senior Hurling Club and Kilkerrin-Clonberne Senior Ladies Football Team.

A special homecoming was held for our Galway Footballers, who were finalists in the All-Ireland Gaelic Football Final in July 2024.

## Facilities & Buildings Management

**Energy Management & Reduction Initiatives:** Energy efficiency monitoring and management remained a priority, with County Hall improving its operational Building Energy Rating (BER) and restoring numerous PV panels on local authority buildings.

**Health and Safety:** The Corporate Services Unit continued to meet Safety Management Programme requirements, including PAT testing, legionella testing, periodic electrical installations testing, VDU assessments, fire alarm and emergency light testing, and statutory inspections of passenger lifts, roof access systems, and gas heating systems. Regular Health & Safety Inspections were conducted in line with the Council's Health & Safety Management Plan.



Significant progress was made in various projects and maintenance activities. Rinville Park saw landscaping and recreation maintenance, public walkway upgrades, and an ash dieback survey leading to tree maintenance and landscaping. The external façades of Tuam Leisure Centre, Dunmore Library, and Portumna Library were painted, and the Loughrea Office chamber had flooring and



windows replaced. Heating and BMS systems in Ballinasloe Library and office, as well as Tuam Library, were repaired. A fire consultant report for Aughrim Interpretation Centre was completed, including pricing for remedial works. A generator was installed in County Hall to ensure uninterrupted power supply. Roof leaks in Centrepont were addressed, with 90% of the work completed, and additional security systems were installed in Athenry and Portumna offices. Numerous fire safety drills were conducted in Galway County Council buildings.

The health and safety of contractors and local authority buildings were monitored, including updating the Health & Safety Competency register and conducting safety inspections. The count centre for local elections was successfully set up, ensuring a smooth process.

Overall, the year was marked by substantial achievements in maintenance, safety, and operational efficiency, reflecting our commitment to excellence and continuous improvement.

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## Water Safety

We have continued to implement our water safety programme across the county, alongside providing a shared Lifeguard service within both the City and County across 16 designated bathing areas. These efforts are crucial in ensuring the safety of our residents and visitors. The team is led by our Water Safety Development Officer and comprises 55 Lifeguards, who are dedicated to maintaining high safety standards and responding effectively to any emergencies.



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## Enhancing Customer Service, Recreation & Amenities, and Promoting the Irish Language

In September, our Irish Office team hosted Scoil an Phiarsaigh, an event held at Ionad Cultúrtha an Phiarsaigh in Rosmuc. This event showcased Connemara's cultural and entrepreneurial spirit through the medium of Irish. Scoil an Phiarsaigh featured a variety of cultural activities, music, and interactive workshops, providing attendees with an immersive experience of Connemara's rich traditions and heritage.

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## Aughrim Interpretive Centre



Our free Summer Lecture series at the Aughrim Interpretive Centre was reintroduced in 2024. This centre is dedicated to the Battle of Aughrim, one of the most significant and bloody battles in Irish history, fought on 12th July 1691. The centre offers an interactive and immersive experience, including audio-visual presentations and hands-on displays, which bring the historical events to life. As a valuable tourism asset to East Galway, the Aughrim Interpretive Centre attracts visitors interested in Irish history and heritage, thereby contributing to local economic growth and cultural preservation. We welcomed 785 visitors to the Aughrim Centre during the period from May 16th to September 1st, 2024.

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## Recreation & Amenity

Our Recreation and Amenity team secured funding in 2024 from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration, and Youth Grant for the Parkmore Playground Renovations project in Tuam. Co-funded by the council, the project included repairing equipment, replacing the multi-play unit and slide, and installing sensory play panels. The works are now complete. Furthermore, new items were added to Garrai Breeda Playground and Gort Road Playground in Loughrea during 2024 under the Community Recognition Fund Grant Application made on behalf of Youth Work Ireland.



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## Dunlo Track, Ballinasloe

Our Operations team collaborated with Sportskey Technology on the installation of a new Access Control pad system, set to be operational from early January 2025. This system will allow groups to self-book online for slots between 5

pm and 9 pm, and prior to 9 am each morning, similar to the My Own Library concept. This initiative encourages community engagement with the motto "Run as fast as you can."

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## Casual Trading

During 2024, our Customer Service team issued 117 Casual Trading permits for both Annual Traders and Special Events across County Galway. Casual trading permits have significantly benefited the local economy by providing opportunities for small businesses and entrepreneurs to reach a wider audience. These permits also enhance the vibrancy of local markets and events, contributing to community cohesion and economic growth.

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## Social Media Stats

Between 2023 and 2024, we gained an additional 5,000 followers on our social media platforms. This increase in followers reflects our growing engagement with the community and enhances our ability to communicate effectively with residents. Our social media presence allows us to share important updates, promote events, and foster a sense of community, ensuring that our services and initiatives are widely known and accessible.

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## Galway Public Libraries: Celebrating 100 Years of Service

In 2024, Galway Public Libraries celebrated 100 years of public service. Samuel Maguire began work in Galway in 1924 on behalf of the Carnegie Trust and was appointed County Librarian in 1926 when Galway County Council assumed control of the service. The library celebrated with talks, exhibitions, musical events, writing workshops, and opportunities for retired staff to share their experiences.



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## National Initiative Engagement Exceeds 3,000 Participants

Summer Stars, part of the national Right to Read initiative, encourages children to read over the summer holidays. This year, over 3,000 children signed up, borrowing 36,635 books from June to August. Library staff organized over 150 events, making the library a destination for families. The programme concluded with awards ceremonies for participants.

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## Cruinniú na nÓg: National Day of Creativity

On June 15th, Galway Libraries hosted over 10 events across the city and county for Cruinniú na nÓg, the National Day of Creativity for Children and Young People. Events included theatrical performances, gardening, balloon making, storytelling, quilling, and mosaic art, all free of charge and celebrating creativity.

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## Children's Book Festival Celebrations

Book It!! is Galway's annual Children's Book Festival held every October. This year, events included storytelling, author talks, creative writing, comic book creation, and art workshops. Galway Public Libraries hosted 41 events for 502 children across the county.

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## Digitization of Complete Collection and Online Availability

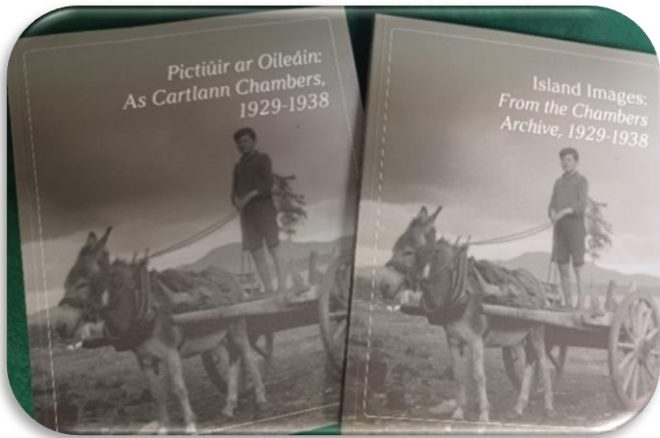
Galway County Council Archives completed the digitization of the Galway Board of Guardians collection (GPL6/), with volumes dating from 1889-1921 now available on the Digital Archive. This collection, comprising over 144 volumes, is freely accessible to researchers, facilitating exploration into the history of the Galway workhouse, the Famine, social conditions, and political changes.



## Archives Services Achievements in 2024 Transition to New Electronic Collections Management System

Completing the transition to a new Archives electronic collections management system (CMS) and launching a new online catalogue was a major accomplishment for Archives Services in 2024. This followed years of preparatory work, testing, and verification, with invaluable assistance from our ICT team, particularly Morgan Matthews and JP Meaney.

### Connecting with the Past: The Chambers Family



A touching highlight was virtually meeting the grandson (Chris) and great-granddaughter (Ingrid) of George Chambers (1873-1960), whose photograph albums were featured in "Island Images: From the Chamber Archive, 1929-1938," published by Galway County Council Archives in 2022. Despite extensive research, no contact had been made with his descendants until Ingrid visited the Blasket Island Centre in Kerry and learned about the publication. The Chambers family verified much of the book's information and provided additional background on George. Witnessing their pride and delight in knowing George's memory and photographs are preserved was

truly moving. This connection underscores the power of archives to bridge the past with the present and bring joy to people's lives.

### Centenary of Galway Public Libraries

Another highlight for Archive Services in 2024 was participating in events marking the centenary of Galway Public Libraries. We contributed to the research, curation, and organization of several commemorative events and assisted library colleagues in designing panels for their branch libraries. The overall exhibition was launched by Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr Albert Dolan, in Ballinasloe Library in July



### Freedom of Information/Access to Information on the Environment

#### Freedom of Information

A total of 140 requests were received by Galway County Council during 2024 under the Freedom of Information Act 2014.

Decision	Number
Requests Granted	31
Requests Part-granted	57
Requests Refused	19
Requests Transferred	0
Requests Withdrawn	15
Withdrawn and handled outside of FOI	18

#### Access to Information on the Environment

A total of 30 requests were received by Galway County Council during 2024 under the European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007-2018.

Decision	Number
Requests Granted	17
Requests Part-granted	4
Requests Refused	7
Requests Transferred	0
Requests Withdrawn	1
Requests Withdrawn and handled under FOI	0
Deemed Refusal	1

## Data Protection

In performing its functions, Galway County Council is required to process significant amounts of “Personal Data” within the meaning of the Data Protection Acts and the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). Galway County Council respects the privacy rights of those whose personal data we process, and we are conscious of our obligations under Data Protection Law. Galway County Council’s commitment is that the personal data individuals may be required to supply to us is:

- Obtained lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner
- Obtained for only specified, explicit and legitimate purposes
- Adequate, relevant, and limited to what is necessary for the purpose for which it was obtained
- Recorded, stored accurately and securely and where necessary kept up to date
- Kept only for as long as is necessary for the purposes for which it was obtained.
- Kept in a form which permits identification of the data subject
- Processed only in a manner that ensures the appropriate security of the personal data including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing.

Galway County Council has implemented a Data Protection Management System across the organisation to assist with the Council’s continued compliance with GDPR and Data Protection law.

### Staff Training 2024

Online training and induction programmes concerning Data Protection and Cyber Security were conducted for existing and new staff. Additionally, in-person Staff Awareness Training sessions were offered, and a quarterly Staff Newsletter was published to enhance awareness regarding Data Protection.

### Data Access Requests 2024

A total of 21 Data Subject Access Requests were received by Galway County Council during 2024 under the Data Protection Act 2018 and the GPDR.

Decision	Number
Requests Received	21
Requests Granted	14
Requests Refused	7

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

The Council’s Data Protection Officer is part of the Corporate Services Team and can be contacted by email at: [dpo@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:dpo@galwaycoco.ie) or by phone at: (091) 509319.

## 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 organization. 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 organization 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, 2024 is as follows:***

Category	Headcount
Core Staff	893
Retained Fire Fighters	125
Non DHLGH	73

The Human Resources Department ran 70 recruitment competitions up to the end of Quarter 4, 2024.

Galway County Council continues to experience high staff turnover due to the strong employee market and high demand for skilled workers. During 2024, 172 new or vacant posts were filled by the Human Resources department. 127 posts were vacated and 30 staff members retired.

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

### **Pensions**

In 2024, thirty employees retired from the service of Galway County Council. 7 staff members availed of the Water Services Voluntary Redundancy Scheme.

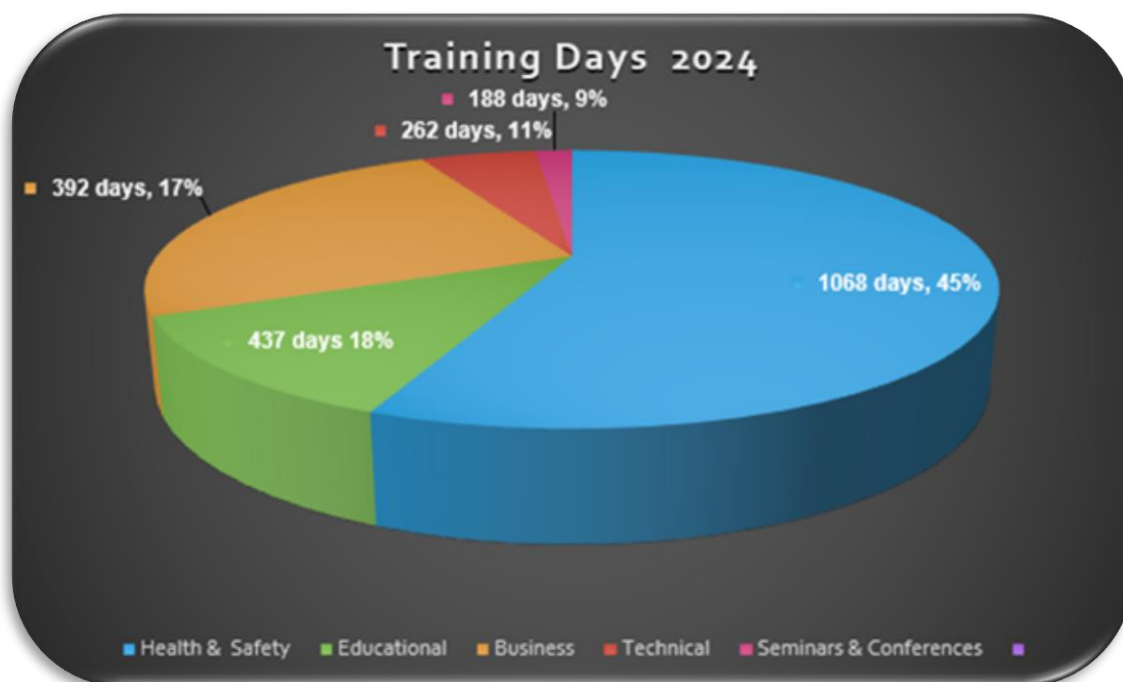
Galway County Council Management and staff would like to take the opportunity to thank all of the retirees for their dedicated service to Galway County Council.

### **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 2024 was 2347 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 wellbeing.

Schemes that are provided include: Shorter Working Year Scheme, Maternity Leave, Parental Leave Scheme, Paternity Leave, New Parent Leave, Work Sharing, Carer's Leave, 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.

## Directorate: Physical Development, Fire & Emergency Services, Climate Change

### Inis Oírr Pier Redevelopment Project

The Inis Oírr Pier Redevelopment Project involves the construction of 135 metres of berthage and enhancements to storm protection, with an estimated cost of €30 million. This project is fully funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD).

Key milestones achieved include the completion of land acquisition and near completion of contractor procurement, with appointments anticipated in early 2025, subject to DRCD approval. Additionally, the procurement process for the Resident Engineering team has been finalised, with the appointment also pending DRCD approval.



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## Casla agus Indreabhán (Séipéal An Cnoc) Bus Shelters



In November, Rachel Lowe (Physical Development) and Mary McGann (Community Development) celebrated Galway County Council's Age Friendly Ireland Transport Award with Rehabcare in Casla. The Rehabcare team, along with local councillors, facilitated the installation of bus shelters in Casla and Inverin. This project was managed by the Carraroe Area Office (Roads) and constructed by Pdraig Folan Civil Engineering. The installation of these bus shelters has made a significant positive impact on the local community, enhancing accessibility and comfort for residents.

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## Storms Bert and Darragh

In 2024, Galway County Council effectively managed the challenges posed by Storm Bert and Storm Darragh. During Storm Bert, our crews addressed significant flooding and severe road damage in Connemara. For Storm Darragh, the council issued advance warnings, and despite high winds causing numerous fallen trees and road blockages, swift responses from Galway County Council crews, fire services, Gardaí, and civil defence minimized disruptions.



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## An Spidéal Wastewater Treatment Plant

Commissioned in 2024, the An Spidéal Wastewater Treatment Plan is now fully operational and performing within its Emission Limit Values (ELVs). Identified by the EPA as one of 39 priority areas, this new treatment facility is crucial for protecting the quality of our bathing waters. The plan boasts a design capacity of 1,000 Population Equivalent (P.E.) and utilizes Rotating Biological Contactors (RBCs) for efficient secondary treatment.

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## Athenry Fire Station

The new fire station in Athenry, valued at €2.8 million, became operational on October 25th. This state-of-the-art facility was officially opened by Minister of State Anne Rabbitte TD and An Cathaoirleach Albert Dolan on November 15th. It replaces the old Clarke Street station, which had been in use since the 1960s. The new station is equipped with advanced training facilities and unmanned ground vehicles for remote firefighting and hazardous materials response, significantly enhancing our emergency response capabilities.



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## Health & Safety Management

### Galway County Council's Safety Statement and Health & Safety Policy

In 2024, the Health and Safety Department of Galway County Council continued to promote a culture of safety, compliance and wellbeing across all service areas. The department conducted a comprehensive range of initiatives, including over 60 site safety inspections, regular safety audits, and numerous internal health and safety training sessions tailored to staff roles and risk areas. The roll-out of the updated Safety Management System progressed steadily, with enhanced procedures implemented for risk assessments and incident reporting.

A major milestone during the year was the ongoing alignment with ISO 45001, the international standard for Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems. Galway County Council successfully completed two external

audits conducted by the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI), which confirmed the Council's strong commitment to continual improvement in health and safety performance and compliance with ISO 45001 requirements.

The Corporate Safety Statement and Health and Safety Policy were both reviewed and updated to reflect current legislation, operational practices, and organisational structure. These updates reinforce the Council's commitment to providing a safe and healthy working environment for all staff, contractors, and service users.

Collaborative efforts with departments such as Roads, Housing and Environment and Fire Service ensured targeted support in high-risk operational areas, while contractor management protocols were strengthened through improved documentation and monitoring practices.

Throughout the year, health promotion remained a key focus, with awareness campaigns addressing mental health, manual handling, and display screen equipment ergonomics. Notably, a positive trend was observed in the reduction of reported incidents and near-misses, reflecting improved awareness and safety behaviours.

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## 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. 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 2024 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). The SWEMS system was further integrated into emergency workflows with expanded functionality and engagement from other agencies. A detailed debrief on Storm Ashley highlighted the importance of coordinated communication and data capture during severe weather events. Training remained a priority with exercises such as the Circle K and Tynagh Energy EEPs, CBRN scenarios, and airport-based simulations and attended by all principal response agencies. Progress was made on the draft Oil Pollution Plan and emergency planning for high-risk facilities. The committee also began reviewing Tetra radio interoperability and drone usage. 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.

Galway County Council was proactive and coordinated responses to a number of severe weather events including Storm Ashley, Bert and Darragh. Utilising the SWEMS system, we 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.

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## Climate Change

In 2024, Galway County Council's Climate Unit coordinated extensive climate action efforts. The Galway County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029, adopted in February, includes 107 actions. Housing retrofits upgraded 364 homes, enhancing comfort and reducing energy bills. The Decarbonisation Zone for County Galway supported clean energy projects. The Community Climate Action Fund financed 32 projects worth €762,000. Engagement with SEAI's Sustainable Energy Communities led to Energy Master Plans. Public training and support programmes were conducted countywide. Energy consumption reduction efforts included retrofitting public lighting with LED lights. Adaptation initiatives included the Protect Our Dunes campaign. Green Public Procurement strategies were developed with ATU. Active travel projects aimed at reducing emissions were progressed. Biodiversity protection efforts included the adoption of the Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2024-2030.

For more information, please refer to the [Climate Action section](#) of this report.

### Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Schemes 2023/2024



### Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) – 2023/2024

Our objective was to maximise funding for Galway County to develop rural recreation projects. We are pleased to report that out of 14 projects submitted, 13 successfully received funding. The total funding secured under the 2023 scheme amounted to €740,750. This achievement underscores our commitment to enhancing rural recreation opportunities and improving the quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

### Outdoor Recreation Projects

In 2024, we provided substantial support to local communities in developing projects and applying for funding. As a result, 15 projects were successfully completed and recouped, leading to the launch of new amenities for public use.

### Galway Sports Partnership 2024 Overview

This year, we have made significant strides in our community engagement and development initiatives:

- **Programmes:** We successfully delivered over 160 programmes, engaging a total of 12,057 participants. These programmes spanned various areas, including community development, health and wellness, and cultural activities.
- **Training and Education Courses:** We offered 61 training and education courses, which were attended by 1,957 participants. These courses aimed to enhance skills, provide professional development opportunities, and support lifelong learning.
- **Club Development Grants:** We awarded €30,000 in Club Development Grants to 28 grantees. These grants supported local clubs in enhancing their facilities, expanding their activities, and fostering community spirit.
- **Bike Week:** Our annual Bike Week was a resounding success, featuring 28 events with a total of 3,213 participants. The events promoted cycling as a healthy and sustainable mode of transportation and encouraged community participation.



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## Galway County Council Integration Team

Our goal was to support the integration of refugees and forced migrants into County Galway, and we succeeded. Our achievements include:

- Supporting 389 International Protection Applicants
- Assisting 1,215 Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection
- Aiding 239 Programme Refugees
- Welcoming 255 Ukrainians in Ballinasloe
- Implementing the "Offered a Home" Programme, providing 52 properties for 174 Ukrainians

From May to December, we have conducted:

- 183 meetings
- 12 events
- 67 stakeholder meetings
- 24 group sessions



*Wheels of Athenry – Athenry Cycle Fest*

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## Tourism Strategy 2023-2031

Galway County Council has formulated a comprehensive new tourism strategy aimed at fostering a resilient and diversified tourism sector. This strategy focuses on increasing visitor numbers, extending the duration of stays, and enhancing visitor spending. The anticipated outcomes of this strategy include:

- **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.



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## Streetscape Enhancement Schemes

This year, significant progress has been made in improving shopfronts and building facades in Portumna and An Spidéal. Each location received a €100,000 grant, contributing to the enhancement of the local streetscape. A total of 48 properties in Portumna and 32 properties in An Spidéal benefitted from these improvements, with a combined investment of €311,000.



Picture: Dunkellin Terrace, Portumna. Before and After Property Main Street An Spidéal.

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## Arts Office: Lumina a Culture Night Late Event, Tuam 2024



On Culture Night, we hosted a free, high-quality outdoor visual performance in Tuam. This event was made possible through funding for a digital mapping project that seamlessly blended Tuam's rich cultural heritage with contemporary digital art. The project featured collaborations with both local and international artists, as well as Creative Places Tuam. The performance attracted a diverse audience of 960 attendees, showcasing the vibrant cultural scene of Tuam.

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## Environment Initiatives: Seashore Event at Trá an Dóilín's An Cheathrú Rua

As part of National Heritage Week, this event featured a Scavenger Hunt, Seashore Bio-Blitz, Litter Clean-up, Sand Sculptor Challenge, and Litter Study to promote biodiversity. We engaged over 60 community members, especially young people, in



protecting local biodiversity in collaboration with Galway Atlantaquaria and Clean Coasts. Some other environment



projects this year included promoting responsible dog ownership via children's workshops with MADRA, an Anti-Litter Poster Competition with 1,000 entries, an Anti-Dumping Initiative through 9 new projects, and the Anti-Litter Ambassador Programme – 150 Ambassadors since May 2024.

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## Directorate: Planning & Economic Development

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### Economic Development and Planning

The Forward Planning Unit and members of the Municipal Districts brought two Local Area Plans through the LAP process for Athenry and Loughrea. Both were signed off on by the Minister in 2024, providing a clear roadmap for development within these two county towns. As of the end of November 2024, 86% of planning permissions were granted year to date, showing the success of our pre-planning meetings.

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## Urban Regeneration Project at Oranmore Train Station

We're delivering an exciting project to promote Transport Oriented Development towards reducing car reliance by integrating land use and transport planning. Key elements include improving the rail infrastructure with a passing loop and second platform, an eco-park, and new community facilities including a school and car park redesign.



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## University of Galway

In February 2024, students and lecturers from the University of Galway's MA in Planning & Development collaborated with second-level students and geography teachers from Presentation College, Athenry, on a retail planning exercise with our Forward Planning Section. The project aimed to connect spatial planning with youth participants and involve them in shaping their communities. A similar exercise is planned for Q1 2025, potentially inspiring students to pursue careers in planning.

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## Galway County Community Monuments Fund Projects 2024

Eight of our projects received over €285,000 from the 2024 Community Monuments Fund, supporting Conservation Works (Issertkelly and Temple Jarlath in Tuam), Management Plans (St. Grellan's in Ballinasloe, Kilmeen in Loughrea, and Moylough Castle), Digital Recording (St. Brendan's Cathedral in Clonfert), Safety Investigations (Seefin Souterrain in Craughwell), and StoryMaps (Kilcreevanty, Kilboght, Abbeygormican, and St. Kerrills in Gurteen). This funding significantly helps to conserve, protect, and promote Galway's heritage sites, encouraging best practices and resilience against climate change.

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## LAMA Awards All Ireland Community & Council Awards

- LEO Galway has selected Solar Structure (in Gortrea) to represent Galway County Council for a Best Micro Start-Up award in the upcoming LAMA Awards in February 2025.

Some other Local Enterprise Office engagements this year have included:

- The Ballinasloe Pulse Club presentations increasing new applications and supports granted in East Galway.
- National Women's Enterprise Day focusing on Entrepreneurship, Networking, Business Challenges, and Wellness highlighted by keynote speaker Síle Seoige.
- Local Food and Craft Fair event featuring over 50 stands showcasing local designers, artisans, and craftspeople. Charity partners included The Brothers of Charity West Region and Galway Hospice, with Galway City Partnership also participating. Businesses reported increased sales, with some doubling their sales compared to 2023.

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## Significant Progress in Regeneration and Master Plan Projects

- **Portumna Courthouse Regeneration:** Secured €2.9 million from the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund to redevelop the historic 1847 neo-Classical courthouse into a multipurpose arts, performance, remote working, and social space.
- **Athenry Regeneration:** Received €6 million from the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund for Phase 1, aimed at revitalizing the town centre by repurposing a long-term vacant building and modernizing the historic town core.
- **Loughrea Town Hall:** Awarded €4.2 million from the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund to create a fully accessible cultural facility, remote working/creative enterprise hub, and tourism resource.

This project will provide space for cultural and community groups, support local enterprise, attract visitors, and prevent dereliction.

- **Tuam Station Quarter Masterplan:** Received €200,000 from the Northwest Regional Assembly to develop the "Station Quarter" Masterplan. This includes the redevelopment of the Station Building over two phases, featuring a transportation hub with a coach/bus terminal, taxi rank, cycle parking, park and ride facilities, and future rail line accessibility.



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

### Finance, Motor Tax

In 2024, the Finance Department oversaw £181 million in expenditure, supporting various Council directorates. The Annual Financial Statement indicated a near-balanced position. A 15% increase in Local Property Tax over five years will generate £12 million for core services. Business support schemes provided £10.4 million to local businesses. A new commercial rates incentive scheme will generate £2.4 million annually. The Council processed 58,076 motor tax transactions, collecting over £9.5 million, with 84.5% completed online. Development contributions totalled £1.44 million, with an additional £8.347 million claimed under a temporary waiver. The Council processed over 26,000 invoices with minimal late payment interest. More details are available in the [financial overview section](#) of this report.

### ICT

During 2024 the Information Systems Section provided ongoing support for the public and staff members in accessing Digital Services. With the diligence of staff and ongoing investments the Council had no cyber breaches in the year.

During 2024, the following projects and initiatives were progressed:

- Provision of Business Intelligence dashboards to track key financial expenditure categories
- Award of tender and commencement of design on 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 at 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 2024 Outcomes

### Annual Service Delivery Plan 2024

#### STRATEGIC GOAL: COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION & SOCIAL INCLUSION

*"To facilitate the broadest possible participation by citizens in local decision making and the sustainable development of their communities and their county"*

SUPPORTING STRATEGY	SERVICE PLAN ACTION	TARGET	OUTCOMES
Work in partnership with the key stakeholders including local community groups in the promotion of heritage, fire prevention, water safety, climate change and environmental enhancement/awareness.	Conduct Schools Programme to educate young children in the importance and elements of Fire Safety and Prevention	Continuous	Heritage & Biodiversity Plan developed in 2024
	Continue Community Fire Safety initiative with community groups and vulnerable sections of society		Heritage and Biodiversity Weeks, Grants and events held
	Work with Fire Safety consultants to ensure all proposed construction and development projects achieve the required level of fire safety for the protection of life and property.		Ongoing
	Work with GCC Housing and IPAS to ensure appropriate fire safety standards for emergency accommodation displaced persons and international protection applicants.		Ongoing
Provide advice and financial resources to support communities and the sustainable development of the county.	Complete the delivery of the Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2019 - 2021 as efficiently as possible within available resources and liaise with the Department to put in place a new Multi Annual Rural Water Programme for the group scheme sector in the county for the period 2024-2026. The Rural Water Programme includes the payment of group scheme grants for the construction and upgrading of rural group water schemes and the ongoing support of the schemes through group water scheme subsidy. The programme also includes a funding heading for the provision of well grants to eligible houses.	Dec-24	Rural Water delivered on the rural water programme within available resources and engaged with group water scheme committees and the Department to support group schemes and well grants.



Supporting the Age Friendly initiative ensuring that the fact of an ageing population informs our policies and actions.	Our service is inclusive of all and the free open nature of library membership lends itself to the social inclusion of marginalised groups.	Ongoing promotion of the various resources we offer to our communities Continued engagement across all platforms to create awareness of the scope and remit of libraries in their localities.	Technology aids: new adaptive screens and large keyboards. Additional one-to-one sessions with Age Friendly Ambassadors. Attendance at community outreach events showcasing library services - attending the 'make the link' sessions in the community. User feedback to determine Healthy Ireland programming with a focus on Bone Health, Falls and prevention and risk of stroke along with foot health key issues that people wanted addressed.
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	<p>A commitment to the Galway Age Friendly Strategy with the support of the various organisational partners ensuring access for those with mobility issues or difficulties.</p>	<p>We will continue to review with the support of our Age Friendly Ambassadors our branches and services and will provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate seating</li> <li>• Large print collections</li> <li>• Audio eBook service</li> <li>• Showcase our digital library services</li> </ul>	<p>Preparatory work for Age Friendly Strategy considered in 2024.</p> <p>Provision of Age Friendly furniture in branches including height adjustable seating for computer use. Provision of large format keyboards.</p>
<p>Work with the Strategic Policy Committees (SPC's), the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) to develop, co-ordinate and implement a coherent integrated approach to local and community development.</p>	<p>* Support the Community &amp; Culture SPC &amp; Economic Development &amp; Enterprise SPC on the development of plans, strategies and policies</p> <p>* Support the LCDC and its subcommittees to achieve a joined- up approach to service delivery and delivery of LECP</p>	<p>4 SPC Meetings 6 LCDC Meetings 2 Meetings per Sub-Committee No. of policies discussed and agreed.</p>	<p>Meetings held as scheduled.</p>

Work in partnership with the key stakeholders including local community groups in the promotion of heritage, fire prevention, water safety, climate change and environmental enhancement/awareness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Promote fire safety and energy efficiency works in community facilities through all appropriate funding schemes, and in homes through the Smoke Alarm Scheme. Build capacity of local community groups in the areas of climate change and environmental awareness / enhancement through targeted PPN training programmes.</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing, KPIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of grants awarded for community facilities upgrades &amp; tidy towns initiatives</li> <li>• No. in Smoke Alarm Scheme</li> <li>• No. of PPN training programmes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 55 CSS grants for community amenities and public spaces</li> <li>• 6 CSS grants for energy efficiency audits / works.</li> <li>• PPN Training on Climate Resilience through Permaculture"</li> </ul>
Promote participation in sport and recreation in association with other agencies and the community, maximising the opportunities available through the Galway Sports Partnership and other appropriate schemes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Support the GSP to drive strategic direction of access to sports.</li> <li>* Provide Training and Education Opportunities</li> <li>* Promote and develop sports participation programmes for individuals of all abilities and communities and maximise the number of programme and participants within available budgets.</li> <li>* Provide Club Development Grants subject to Sport Ireland Funding</li> <li>* Leverage other funding schemes to maximise the participation of disadvantaged groups and communities in sporting programmes.</li> </ul>	<p>4 GSP Meetings. No. Of Courses Provided No. Of Participants on Courses</p> <p>No. of programmes. No. of participants on programmes No. Of Grants Provided Level of leveraging and participation of marginalised groups.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 GSP Meeting</li> <li>• 61 Courses</li> <li>• 1,957 Participant on Courses</li> <li>• 137+ Programmes</li> <li>• 11,000+ Participants on Programmes</li> <li>• €30,000 in Grant funding for 28 Clubs/Organisations</li> <li>• €28,000 Healthy Ireland Swimming Infrastructure</li> <li>• €50,000 Participation Nation Funding</li> </ul>

<p>Coordinate the implementation of relevant Community Development Programmes and funding schemes, including the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP), in association with the LCDC and other relevant stakeholders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Monitor SICAP to ensure effective and efficient delivery and conduct site visits to increase LCDC knowledge.</li> <li>* Develop a Healthy Ireland Plan to identify emerging priorities from the Covid-19 pandemic for delivery through a Programme of Works under Round 4 of the Healthy Ireland Fund.</li> <li>* Attend all LEADER Evaluation Meetings and comply with Section 48 requests.</li> </ul> <p>Allocate Community Enhancement Programme funding to enhance community facilities.</p>	<p>Ongoing, KPIs include Compliance with annual monitoring schedule and attainment of SICAP KPI's Compliance with HIF deadlines &amp; purposes.</p> <p>No. of CEP grants awarded and appropriate targeting of grants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 54 small grants and 45 medium grants awarded under CEP, ringfenced funding for Women's Groups.</li> <li>• €75,000 allocated under Healthy Ireland Programme of Works.</li> </ul>
<p>Maintain and develop an arts service in line with the Galway County Arts Plan to ensure that the arts contribute to the enrichment of people's lives while supporting the celebration of County Galway's unique traditions and culture.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Arts Plan 2020-2024: continue to develop and support the Arts Programme; make funding application for support funding to the Arts Council in line with Framework Agreement.</li> <li>* In consultation with Public Art Management Group, implement public art programme in line with Galway County Council Public Art Policy 2020-2024.</li> <li>* Various Arts programmes and initiatives to be progressed through the Arts Office Programme</li> <li>* Deliver Arts Act grants (CSS Cultural Grants)</li> <li>* Participate as Partner in Erasmus+ project Culture Up Round 2</li> <li>* Support Creative Places Tuam Pilot</li> <li>* Support Music Generation, Aras Éanna, UNESCO City of Film, Wrap Fund</li> <li>* Support Strategic Planning for Arts Festivals in the county and develop new festivals in collaboration with communities</li> <li>* Programme Culture Night</li> </ul>	<p>No. of initiatives and programmes supported through Arts Grants -50</p> <p>Annual Arts Programme Plan developed to implement Arts Plan. - 35 initiatives</p> <p>Culture Night - 50 events</p> <p>No of Arts Festivals Supported 10</p> <p>No of Public Art Projects 4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arts Grants Awarded: 69</li> <li>• Annual Programme Initiatives: 38 initiatives: Participants (108 artists, 1630 children/young people, 4841 community participants)</li> <li>• Culture Night: 41 events, 6800 participants</li> <li>• No of Festivals: 10</li> <li>• No Public Art: 2</li> </ul>

Maintain and develop the Creative Ireland Programme in line with the Galway County Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Deliver and programme Creative Ireland programme and bursary 2024</li> <li>* Collaborate on projects with the broad Culture Team (Arts, Heritage, Libraries, LEO, Archives, Biodiversity, Regeneration, Environment, Climate Action)</li> <li>* Programme Cruinniú na nÓg 2024</li> <li>* Develop programmes with community groups through the Creative Ireland Engagement Officer</li> </ul>	<p>No. of initiatives supported under Creative Ireland Bursary - 15</p> <p>No. of Culture Team programme initiatives – 7</p> <p>No of Initiatives supported by Cruinniú na nÓg 30</p>	<p>Bursary Projects: 13</p> <p>Culture Team Projects: 5</p> <p>Flagship Projects: 7</p> <p>Cruinniu – 37 events</p>
Provide advice and financial resources to support communities and the sustainable development of the county.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Support the PPN as a one-stop shop for funding information and support through funding workshops, Grants Information Booklet, and capacity building training.</li> <li>* Support communities to enter national competitions such as Pride of Place.</li> </ul> <p>Maximise Funding opportunities offered under Departmental Rural Schemes including CLÁR to deliver enhancements to rural amenities in collaboration with community and voluntary groups.</p>	<p>Clear information provided for PPN Members.</p> <p>No. of national competition entrants and performance</p> <p>No. of CLÁR projects developed and shortlisted and No. Funded by DRCD</p> <p>Annually - Target 15 per annum at average 50k capital grant.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeted funding workshops and 4 training courses for PPN Members.</li> <li>• 2 communities supported in Pride of Place securing Runner-Up status in 2 categories.</li> <li>• 15 CLÁR 2023 Projects Delivered –€643,000 Invested.</li> <li>• 15 CLÁR 2024 Project Awarded €724,755</li> <li>• 68 Application Assessed.</li> </ul>



Review and implement the community elements within the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) to promote and support community development and social inclusion.	*Complete the various framework stages of the 2024-2028 LECP process and bring the finalised plan forward for adoption to full Council	*LECP proposed high level goals signed off and contracted piece of work engaged to bring the process through the various stages including public consultation. Target is to bring the new plan forward for adoption by plenary Council in the course of 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LECP adopted at plenary Council meeting December 2024.</li> </ul>
Supporting the Age Friendly initiative ensuring that the fact of an ageing population informs our policies and actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Support the Age Friendly Alliance and OPC to deliver activities and improvements in consultation with older people.</li> <li>* Implement Annual Workplan</li> <li>* Establish an Interdepartmental Committee to reflect the cross-departmental nature of developing an age-friendly County</li> </ul>	4 meetings p.a. No. of initiatives supported.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 meetings of Age Friendly Alliance and Older People's Council.</li> </ul>
Support the development of the Public Participation Network (PPN) structures for community engagement and wellbeing, ensuring that these structures inform and are aligned with local government policy and activity.	* Support PPN Secretariat to manage PPN Membership, budget and to develop and implement an Annual Work Plan aimed at capacity building, information sharing and supporting effective representation on Committees.	No. of PPN Member Groups and % of these in SI college & no. of SI reps on LCDC (KPI Y2) @ No. of Committees with PPN representation. No. of training days for LA staff and elected members on PPN.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,348 PPN Member Groups with 20% in Social Inclusion Pillar.</li> <li>• 80 Member Groups registered in 2024.</li> <li>• 5 training days in 2024.</li> </ul>

To promote social inclusion and reduction of social inequalities by engaging with communities and other agencies to improve the quality of life for marginalised groups, including youth, migrants, travellers, socially and financially disadvantaged.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Manage Comhairle na nOg and support the delivery of key annual topics and a Stakeholder Engagement Plan</li> <li>* Coordinate supports with Ukraine Community Response Forum for Ukrainians under Temporary Protection Scheme.</li> <li>* Support the Traveller Interagency Group to develop a local Strategic Plan for the Traveller community in the County.</li> <li>* Implement the Disability Participation and Awareness Fund to increase opportunities for People with Disabilities in community life</li> <li>* Enable the voice of Older People through the Older People's Council.</li> <li>* Develop a programme of social inclusion events to celebrate diversity and inclusion.</li> </ul>	<p>% of schools participating in CNN (KPI - Y1).</p> <p>Progress on key CNN topics. No of meetings of TIG.</p> <p>No. of SI Events.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Youth Conference held 30<sup>th</sup> October with 66 attendees.</li> <li>• 2 topics progressed by Comhairle Committee of 29 young people with 4 meetings of Steering Group.</li> </ul>
Maximise opportunities from the European Capital of Culture 2020 designation and its legacy to the local community and local economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Seek opportunities to support creative collaboration on European Projects with other EU Countries and organisations and artists living in the County.</li> <li>* Support the delivery of the Galway 2020 Orbs to the six locations used by Galway 2020 Opening Ceremonies in line with Town Enhancement proposals and the MDs. Working with the Area Office's, Community and RRDF teams. Coordinated by the Arts Office.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing through Open Calls and International Residency Exchanges.</li> <li>• 5 Orbs left to site in 2024</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 Orbs left to site</li> </ul>
Work with the Strategic Policy Committees (SPC's), the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) to develop, co-ordinate and implement a coherent integrated approach to local and community development.	<p>Coordinate the Development of a 6-year LECP through the Advisory Steering Group</p> <p>Facilitate the Elected Member and Community Representative within our democratic structures in carrying out their representational role in response to the needs of the Community</p>	<p>End 2024</p> <p>4 meeting p.a.</p>	<p>SPC and LCDC played a significant role in the LECP process.</p>

Work in partnership with the key stakeholders including local community groups in the promotion of heritage, fire prevention, water safety, climate change and environmental enhancement/awareness.	Galway Public Libraries: Local History and Archives are key elements that Galway Public Libraries work to progress through the continuous acquisition, cataloguing and promotion of records, materials and publications. Promotion of our current collections through our vast network of organisations and community groups and provide access for citizens to the collections and archives. Ensure public are aware of all the online resources that are currently available. Develop exhibitions and Social Media campaigns in conjunction with the Promotions Team to highlight the importance of these collections. Participate in national initiatives such as Heritage Week and provide events, exhibitions and displays highlighting our materials.	Ongoing throughout the year including as appropriate for Heritage Week (17th - 24th August 2024) and other national and local awareness initiatives.	Heritage & Biodiversity Plan developed Grants and other programmes completed
To promote social inclusion and reduction of social inequalities by engaging with communities and other agencies to improve the quality of life for marginalised groups, including youth, migrants, travellers, socially and financially disadvantaged.	<p>Galway Public Libraries: Our library service is inclusive of all and the free open nature of library membership lends itself to the social inclusion of marginalised groups.</p> <p>Ongoing promotion of the various resources we offer to our communities. Continued engagement across all platforms to create awareness of the scope and remit of libraries in their localities.</p> <p>Integration activities to include information clinics and community integration events have been rolled out across the County by the Integration Team. We currently support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1294 Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection across 33 accommodation centres</li> <li>• 380 International Protection Applicants across 7 accommodation centres</li> </ul> <p>In 2024:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We delivered 212 information clinics</li> <li>2. We collaborated on 13 integration events</li> <li>3. We worked with 75 service providers and link organisations</li> </ol>	Ongoing throughout the year including as appropriate to support national and local events and initiatives.	<p>One-to-one digital skills workshops</p> <p>Participation in refugee week and promotion of library services to migrant communities.</p> <p>Literacy programmes such as Summer Stars Programme; early years programming and preschool sessions.</p> <p>Participation in Traveller week and hosting craft/ beady pockets sessions in Tuam and Ballinasloe Library.</p>

Supporting the Age Friendly initiative ensuring that the fact of an ageing population informs our policies and actions.	<b>Galway Public Libraries:</b> A commitment to the Galway Age Friendly Strategy with the support of the various organisational partners ensuring access for those with mobility issues or difficulties.	Continue to provide: Designated age friendly spaces, large print collections, provision of visual aids, showcase our digital library services & focused programming.	Technology aids including large keyboards and screen, visualiser magnify machines for local history viewing. Improved seating in four libraries to support mobility. New trolleys in libraries to assist with mobility and carrying weight of books.
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## Annual Service Delivery Plan 2024

### STRATEGIC GOAL: ECONOMIC & ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

*"To maximise the continued and sustainable economic and enterprise development of our county"*

SUPPORTING STRATEGY	SERVICE PLAN ACTION	TARGET	OUTCOMES
Develop master plans for key strategic sites to ensure that they deliver on their potential in a planned and sustainable way.	Procure consultants to lead on the masterplan for the former Airport Site	Q2 2024	Phase 1 assessment completed
Lead the development of funding applications for urban and rural regeneration programmes and other funding programmes to revitalize our towns and villages.	Deliver Part8 and Part10 planning applications and secure RRDF/URDF funding via competitive applications for a range of projects prioritised through Town Centre Plans & Regen plans. Capital delivery of projects through detailed design and construction phases.	Ongoing	RRDF projects developed & underway in Loughrea, Portumna, Gort, Athenry and Clifden. Town Centre Plans completed in Gort and underway in other locations URDF – Oranmore train station at planning stage at end of 2024
<b>Maximise the continued and sustainable economic and enterprise development of our County</b>			

Implement the Digital Strategy and identify opportunities for hubs / co-working spaces at community level.	Facilitate roll-out of National Broadband Plan	Ongoing	<p>The National Broadband Plan is set to deliver high-speed fibre broadband to over 544,000 premises in the State, 39,434 of which are in county Galway and the projected investment in Co. Galway over the life of the project is €153 Million.</p> <p>By the end of 2024 - 24,474 (61%) of NBI premises are “available to Pre-order/Order” service.</p> <p>Commercial Fibre &amp; mobile network Deployments in the County -Ongoing</p>
	Support Implementation of new Digital Strategy	Q2, 2024	(ICT)
	Facilitate provision of BCP's and WiFi4EU locations and continue to support funding applications	Ongoing	<p>All WIFI4EU points deployed. Maintenance contract Ongoing. The first EU voucher for the scheme expired in 2024, the 3 remaining vouchers will expire in 2025. All 22 BCPs have high-speed connectivity.</p> <p>The Broadband support officer supported BCPs in 2024 and encourage new initiatives in the areas such as e-health and digital skills.</p>



Through our Local Enterprise Office (LEO) to be a primary driver of enterprise development and support.	<p>Provide support to small &amp; micro businesses, entrepreneurs and self-employed by delivering a range of services including signposting and advice, training, mentoring, networking, and financial support.</p> <p>Stimulate and support the creation of economically sustainable employment opportunities for all sectors across the city and county</p>	<p>Achieve annual targets as stated in service level agreement and annual agreed matrixes from EI</p> <p>Utilise 100% of funding provided by Enterprise Ireland to LEO Galway for provision of services.</p>	<p>Grants and other supports provided throughout the year.</p> <p>Enterprise Week supported EVAC Committee met and agreed Business Supports Service Level Agreement in place with EI</p>
<p><b>Atlantic Economic Corridor-</b></p> <p>“The primary objective of the AEC is to Maximise regional assets collaboratively, integrating economic centres, clusters, and catchments to create a compelling value proposition for investment, job creation, and population growth, with a strong emphasis on enhancing the quality of life”. The Western Development Commission is a bridge to development and internationalisation for Local Authorities.</p>	<p>The Atlantic Economic Corridor Officers continued to meet on a Monthly Basis with the Western Development Commission. The main focus of activities for 2024 was the development of the Atlantic Economic Corridor Officers Strategy/Workplan, Governance Structure and Reporting Templates, for 2025 and Integration with the Western Development Commissions New Draft Strategy 2025 – 2030.</p> <p><b><u>Moving West Series 2024 – Galway County</u></b></p> <p><b>Produced by Dundara Television &amp; Media for TG4. In Association with the Western Development Commission.</b></p> <p>Galway County Council Partnered with the Western Development Commission (WDC) and the Atlantic Economic Corridor Officers Network for a third Season of Moving West in October 2024.</p> <p>Following the previous year’s success which saw over 700,000 people view the show, the show garnered national and regional media attention. The Series, presented by Mary Kennedy focussed primarily on Galway County and City and aired on TG4 focussed on promoting the benefits for those relocating to County Galway and highlighted how such a move delivers an enhanced quality of life for the individuals concerned and injects new life into our rural communities. The show highlighted Galway’s vibrant culture, balanced lifestyle, stunning landscapes and quality local services, showcasing a sense of community which makes the</p>	<p>AECO Strategy/Workplan Agreed</p>	<p>12 Monthly Meetings with AECO Network</p> <p>12 Monthly Meetings with AECO and Western Development Commission.</p> <p>2 Workshops completed.</p> <p>AECO Workplan/Strategy Agreed for presentation to LGMA and Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD)</p>

	County an attractive location for families and individuals to live work and play.		
Lead the development of funding applications for urban and rural regeneration programmes and other funding programmes to revitalize 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	RRDF, URDF and T&V programmes developed
Guide the sustainable development and growth of the County in accordance with EU, National and Regional policy, including through the implementation of the County Development Plan.	<b>Planning and Sustainable Development:</b> Implement the County Development Plan in accordance with Policy Objectives and Development Management Standards to support the strategic goals and supporting strategies of the Council including by way of appropriate funding applications e.g. Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF).	Applications submitted under URDF.	Funding is currently being drawn down to deliver the URDF Call 2 project. Ongoing.
Enhance urban environments by the implementation of streetscape improvement projects and the elimination of dereliction.	Consider a part of funding proposals including URDF/RRDF/T&V strategies/proposals.  Continue to develop and implement Schemes such as Streetscape/Shopfront Enhancement to improve the aesthetics and encourage use of vacant properties. Promote Galway County Shopfront Guidelines.	Ongoing, key KPIs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of applications submitted including proposals for vacant/underutilised sites</li> <li>• Number of applications submitted under the streetscape/shopfront scheme.</li> </ul>	URDF Call 3 in place with Tuam/Ballinasloe and Oranmore under consideration  Gort Streetscape Scheme – 250k awarded under T&V for ACA Area. Implementation Ongoing.

	<p>*Proactively target public or community owned vacant or underused properties as part of Expression of Interest Processes and applications to Town and Village Renewal Scheme(s) to maximise their value as community assets for social and economic benefit, based on community needs.</p> <p>Apply Building Acquisition Measures and national Funding options to acquire key sites/properties as feasible for redevelopment, re-use as community assets.</p>	<p>* Maximise No. of Applications Submitted for Vacant Properties under TVRS Scheme(s)</p> <p>Progress Feasibility reviews for Building Acquisition Measures / Project Development Funding Measures as required.</p>	<p>17 EOI for Project Development Measure under TCF in 2025 – 3 Projects Awarded 50k each, Eyrecourt, An Fhairce, Ascharagh.</p>
	<p>Implement National Streetscape Enhancement and Painting Schemes under Town and Village Renewal Programme (in Portumna and An Spidéal) to improve visual appearance of Towns and encourage use of vacant properties. Funded by Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD).</p>	<p>* End of Q3 2024 - Complete Programme Implementation in Each Town. * Ongoing- Support adjacent businesses, property owners and tenants to maximise draw-down of funding approved and create street by street improvements.</p>	<p>Completed in Q3 2024 – Streetscape Painting Schemes in An Spidéal (24 properties) &amp; Portumna (59 Properties). 200k grant investment plus 120k local match funding by owners/businesses &amp; residents.</p>
	<p>Progress Implementation of Action to Address Issues specified in the Council Adopted Tuam Masterplan including the possibility of progressing it under URDF</p>	<p>Pending, subject to funding approval</p>	<p>Tuan Town Hall RRDF funded Tuam Train Station Quarter Plan developed</p>

	Town Regeneration Officer appointed to co-ordinate local delivery of Town Centre First Priorities in agreed Settlements and multi-faceted approach to Town Centre Vacancy-Dereliction.	TRO appointed June 2023, TCF Gort Pilot complete, progress on next TCF plans.	TRO in place
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the various framework stages of the LECP process and bring the finalised plan forward for adoption to full Council</li> <li>• Support the Creative Sector including AV in association with the Galway Film Centre and initiative such as the WRAP fund and UNESCO City of Film</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LECP proposed high level goals signed off and contracted piece of work engaged to bring the process through the various stages including public consultation.</li> <li>• Ongoing initiatives and support for key sectors and initiative under the high-level framework and action plan to be developed under LECP</li> </ul>	<p>LECP adopted at plenary Council meeting in December 2024.</p> <p>Funding contributions were made as part of ongoing support for the WRAP initiative and the UNESCO City of Film designation.</p>

Facilitate the provision of commercial and enterprise space structured across the county.	<p>Continue to promote, provide strategic leadership and support collaborative projects with the BIA Innovator Campus Ltd, Regional Food Innovation Hub, Athenry as a flagship project of local, regional and national importance in association with relevant partners.</p> <p>Finalise Draw-down of RRDF Funding relating to BIA Innovator Campus CLG.</p> <p>Ensure strategic leadership in an advisory capacity and at Director level with GCC Nominee on the Board of BIA Innovator Campus CLG.</p> <p>Link businesses located in (and connected with) BIA Innovator Campus with Local Enterprise Office Galway to avail of business supports such as training, mentoring, financial grants, advisory and signposting.</p>	Ongoing	Final Report on BIA Advanced by Q4 2024. RRDF monies expended and final draw-down ongoing. Facility open and business events and networking and client intake ongoing.
Facilitate the provision of commercial and enterprise space in a structured manner across the county.	<p>Progress the development of the Masterplan at the former Airport site in An Carn Mór</p> <p>Progress and complete the Shared Island funded initiative</p> <p>Progress project under the Just Transition funding designation and the EU Interreg Rural Proofing initiative</p>	<p>Awaiting clarification if there will be a further phase of Shared Island.</p> <p>For Just Transition several projects to be submitted across a number of different themes.</p> <p>For EU Rural Proofing this project has a four-year timeframe and is ongoing.</p>	Airport Masterplan exercise underway



Work with the IDA, Enterprise Ireland, Údáras na Gaeltachta and other agencies in identifying and attracting opportunities for investment and job creation.	Liaise with other agencies to maximise use of existing commercial and enterprise spaces for investment and job creation.	Ongoing	REP Programme agreed as a Shared service with Galway CoCo leading.
Promote and support festivals, fairs and events throughout the County.	Support tourism and economic development initiatives through the Community Support Schemes and capacity building events.	CSS rolled out in accordance with timelines	Supported 61 individual Festivals and community-based events in 2024
	Continue to work with Fáilte Ireland with Wild Atlantic Way and the Hidden Heartlands brands and participate with destination working groups/taskforces. Work with partner local authorities and destination management organisations to deliver on shared objectives relating to tourism product development and marketing projects	Ongoing	Enhanced collaboration with Fáilte Ireland and local partners, leading to successful tourism product development and marketing initiatives for the Wild Atlantic Way and Hidden Heartlands, driving increased visitor engagement and regional growth.
	Process Special Event Licences. Engaging with community group via the Heritage office to support festivals and community activities	Within Statutory timeframe	No Event licence 2024 Not Heritage
	Process applications for casual trading, special events and filming Licences	Within 15 days of application	Achieved
Lead the development of funding applications for urban and rural regeneration programmes and other funding programmes to revitalize our towns and villages.	Progress applications under RRDF/Town & Village Renewal Programme and other relevant programmes in line with calls for proposals	Ongoing - progress delivery of ongoing projects and develop new initiatives in line with funding calls.	RRDF funded in Tuam  TVRS 2024 – Project Development Measure X 3 projects awarded, 150k. No Main Scheme in 2024.
To develop a multi-faceted approach to tackling vacant and under-utilised properties in our town and village centres.	Develop and implement Masterplans/Strategies for priority towns including Tuam Masterplan and the development of a plan for Gort and other funded towns. Implement policy around Town Centres First in line with opportunities	Ongoing and within funding calls provisions	Tuam Train Station Quarter plan developed

Develop master plans for key strategic sites to ensure that they deliver on their potential in a planned and sustainable way.	Work with Economic Development & Planning Unit and with key stakeholders in the furtherance of the Masterplan for the former Galway Airport site	Masterplan progressed in 2024	Process underway
Maximise the potential of Broadband connectivity throughout the county in co-operation with Government initiatives.	<p>*Leverage funding where possible to develop Broadband Connection Points.</p> <p>*Assist hubs with their development including linking with WDC and other initiatives where appropriate to assist with marketing and development to ensure occupancy</p>	No. of BCPs assisted.	In 2024, Galway County Council supported the rollout of various digital skills and awareness events at a number of Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) across the county. Additionally, the Council supported a pilot Health and Wellbeing event at the Lettermullen BCP.
Through our Local Enterprise Office (LEO) to be a primary driver of enterprise development and support.	<p>Provide support to small &amp; micro businesses, entrepreneurs and self-employed by delivering a range of services including signposting and advice, training, mentoring, networking, and financial support.</p> <p>Stimulate and support the creation of economically sustainable employment opportunities for all sectors across the city and county</p>	<p>Achieve annual targets as stated in service level agreement and annual agreed matrixes from EI</p> <p>Utilise 100% of funding provided by Enterprise Ireland to LEO Galway for provision of services.</p>	<p>LEO Galway exceeded all annual targets as stated in SLA for 2024</p> <p>LEO Galway utilised 94.3% of funding provided by EI in 2024.</p>
Develop the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Digital Strategy and identify opportunities for hubs / co-working spaces at community level.	Maximise the continued and sustainable economic and enterprise development of our County	Ongoing	LEO Galway provides a range of supports and funding aimed at promoting and implementing sustainable practices and processes.

	Facilitate roll-out of National Broadband Plan	Ongoing NBI projects by the end of 2024, 53% of the properties in the Galway intervention area will be passed with NBI fibre and that all intervention area properties will be passed by the end of 2026. Commercial Fibre & mobile network Deployments in the County -Ongoing	By the end of 2024 - 24,474 (61%) of NBI premises are “available to Pre-order/Order” service.
	The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Digital Strategy will have at its core 4 pillars or themes: -Connectivity -Digital Skills -Online communities /Online services -Online enterprise	Draft 2 <sup>nd</sup> Digital Strategy - target Q2 2024	GCCs ICT team are working with the ICT team of the Local Government to support the role out of Ireland’s Local Government Digital and ICT Strategy 2030
Maximise the potential of Broadband connectivity throughout the County in co-operation with Government initiatives.	Facilitate provision of BCP's and WiFi4EU locations and continue to support funding applications	All WiFi4EU points deployed by 2023 - Maintenance contract All 22 BCPs to be supplied with high-speed connectivity in 2024 - A Broadband support officer will support the BCPs in 2024 and encourage new initiatives –	Ongoing  Ongoing  Ongoing  Ongoing.

Promote and support festivals, fairs and events throughout the County.	Planning for twinning and civic events including GCC delegation to visit Washington County and Milwaukee Irish Fest.	August 2024	Delegation visited Washington County and Milwaukee Irish Fest
Continue to implement the Galway Tourism Strategy. Launch Destination Brand for Galway and implement this destination marketing plan.	<p>Advance the implementation of the County Galway tourism strategy.</p> <p>Foster and manage key strategic tourism development partnerships between Galway County Council and organizations such as Fáilte Ireland, OPW, NPWS, and Waterways Ireland.</p> <p>Develop and execute targeted tourism development plans based on the zones identified in the County Galway Tourism Strategy.</p>	Ongoing	<p>Galway Tourism Strategy:</p> <p>Destination Brand Launch: Strong brand recognition.</p> <p>Tourism Strategy Advancement: Coordinated county-wide efforts. Improved infrastructure. Strategic Partnerships: Strengthened collaboration with key organizations. Joint tourism initiatives.</p>
Establishment of a Designated Activity Company (DAC) with a specific focus on economic and tourism development across the County.	Engage the professional services of Deloitte on the establishment of a DAC on behalf of Galway County Council	Q3 2025	DAC process underway with Legals being confirmed

## Annual Service Delivery Plan 2024

### STRATEGIC GOAL: INFRASTRUCTURAL CAPACITY

*"To maximise the continued and sustainable economic and enterprise development of our county"*

SUPPORTING STRATEGY	SERVICE PLAN ACTION	TARGET	OUTCOMES
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Review office accommodation arrangements and develop proposals for the efficient delivery of office accommodation	<p>Work with the DoHLGH for funding for the construction of a new Galway City Fire Station and Headquarters.</p> <p>Complete the Construction of New Athenry Fire Station.</p> <p>Progress the design and construction of a New Fire Station in Loughrea, Part 8 Planning currently under validation in Planning Department.</p> <p>Progress plans for the upgrade of Ballinasloe Fire Station in terms of design drawings.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Q2 2024</p> <p>Q2 2024</p> <p>Q2 2025</p>	<p>City Station – Ongoing</p> <p>Athenry – complete</p> <p>Loughrea – Pt 8 Approved</p>
Provide a Brigade Mechanics Workshop	Issue tender for design team to progress this project in Athenry.	Q4 2024	Tendered
Plan for the protection of our citizens through the emergency management framework for response to flooding, adverse weather and other emergencies	Participate in the Local Authority MEDC and Interagency Regional Working, Steering and Subgroups to develop, review and practice flooding and severe weather plans.	Ongoing	Ongoing
Continued implementation and review of organisation-wide Health and Safety Management System.	<p>Participation in Fire Service H&amp;S Steering and Operational Groups</p> <p>Present new SOG's issued by the NDFEM through the safety management implementation process</p>	Continuous	On Going
To deliver early inter-agency supports and provide stable and supported housing options to homeless individuals and families to reduce the reliance on emergency accommodation.	<p><b>Housing – Homeless Services</b></p> <p>Delivery and management of homeless services in accordance with the Regional Action Plan.</p> <p>Develop Tenancy Sustainment Plans for Homeless Clients exiting emergency accommodation and being allocated tenancies in LA properties or sourcing properties via the Homeless HAP Placefinder.</p>	<p>No. of Adults in Emergency Accommodation that are Long-Term Homeless as % of the Total No. of Homeless Adults in Emergency Accommodation at the End of Q 4 2024. (H6: Long Term Homeless Adults).</p> <p>Number &amp; % of Adults in Emergency Accommodation that</p>	56.36%



	<p>Delivery of additional Housing First tenancies</p> <p>Work in partnership with the Voluntary Sector and in particular Cope, Galway Simon and the Peter McVerry Trust and AHBs in providing own door accommodation for both families and single housing applicants who require a tailored housing solution to meet their needs -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Based Housing – up to 14 properties</li> <li>• Youth Housing Programme – up to 5 properties</li> <li>• Housing Led – Supported Family Housing – up to 2 properties</li> <li>• Supported Housing – 10 households in Tuam</li> </ul> <p>Prepare design and application for planning of Emergency Homeless Accommodation and medium-term supported housing.</p> <p>Develop properties for medium-term licensing to families/individuals exiting domestic abuse refuge.</p> <p>Support provision of domestic abuse refuge in Galway County [Ballinasloe] (emergency response)</p>	<p>transfer to (a) Social Housing (b) Social Housing Supports including HAP &amp; (c) Homeless HAP.</p> <p>Number &amp; % of Adults in Emergency Accommodation during 2024 with a Personal Support/Transition Plan.</p> <p>Number of tenants receiving support from Tenancy Sustainment Officer for tenants exiting emergency accommodation into GCC or AHB units or taking up HAP Homeless tenancies in the private rented sector.</p> <p>Number of Housing First tenancies at Q4 2024.</p> <p>Number of houses and tenants at the end of Q4 2024 in:</p>	<p>29 Hap Placefinder allocations</p> <p>Support Plans prepared on allocation of property as deemed necessary.</p> <p>30</p> <p>22</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Based Housing</li> <li>• Youth Housing Programme</li> <li>• Housing Led – Supported Family Housing</li> <li>• Supported housing in Tuam</li> </ul> <p>Part 8 planning application submitted by Q4 2024</p> <p>Planning in place for 4 properties by Q4 2024:  2 1 bed properties  1 2 bed property  1 3 bed property</p> <p>Agreement in place regarding suitable location for refuge Q4 2024.</p>	<p>CBH – 9 houses. 18 tenants</p> <p>YH - 5 houses, 9 tenants</p> <p>FH – 2 houses, 2 households</p> <p>Tuam – 7 houses, 7 households</p> <p>Preparation of Part 8 planning application underway</p> <p>4 properties identified in development at Dunlo, Ballinasloe for exit from refuge</p> <p>Ongoing engagement with stakeholders including Dept of Housing regarding suitable location for domestic refugee</p>
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<p>To accelerate the delivery of well managed and maintained social housing in sustainable communities for people to live while maximising the contribution to a climate friendly built environment.</p>	<p><b>Housing - Housing Supply</b></p> <p>Advance 'Housing for All - a New Housing Plan for Ireland'; the Government's housing policy to 2030, delivering units under the construction, acquisition, turnkey, Part V, CAS, CALF, Buy &amp; Renew, Repair &amp; Leasing and Voids.</p> <p>Progress the Housing Capital Programme in accordance with the Housing Delivery Action Plan.</p> <p>Work in close partnership with Approved Housing bodies (AHBs) to assist in progressing their Capital &amp; SHCEP projects.</p> <p>Work to deliver 1,717 build units over the lifetime of Housing for All 2022-2026.</p> <p>Identify land acquisition opportunities and progress to completion where feasible. Consider the acquisition of derelict properties with the prospect of bringing urban regeneration to locations.</p>	<p>(H1: Social Housing Stock. Move to increase the directly provided dwellings whether constructed or acquired by local authorities less the no. of units sold to tenant purchasers).</p> <p>In accordance with the targets as per the Housing for All Plan and Galway County Council's Housing Delivery Action Plan.</p> <p>Work to deliver 358 social units in 2024.</p> <p>No. of Scheduled meetings held of the LA &amp; AHB Housing Delivery Forum.</p> <p>Advertise for expressions of interest and advance purchase of affordable turnkeys in Q1 2024.</p> <p>Extend of Land acquired for social and affordable housing during 2024.</p>	<p>On track to deliver over 500 new social housing homes in the next two years.</p> <p>Meetings were held</p> <p>Expressions of Interest advertised for affordable and social housing and land acquisition in the local press in 2024.</p>
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To accelerate the delivery of well managed and maintained social housing in sustainable communities for people to live while maximising the contribution to a climate friendly built environment.	<b>Housing – Affordable Housing</b> Delivery of the Affordable Housing Scheme. Provide schemes of Affordable Housing for the county via the Affordable Housing Fund or other funding available.	Work to deliver Affordable unit target (59) for 2024.	Nominations for 17 units in Phase 1 of Garraí Na Gaoithe, Baile An Chláir completed by end of 2024. Units will be delivered in 2025.
To help individuals and families meet their housing needs in communities of persons of varied ages, family, composition, ethnic backgrounds and socio-economic status.	<b>Housing – HAP &amp; RAS</b> Delivery of Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) & Housing Assistance Payment (HAP).	No. of Units Provided Under the RAS in 2024. (340)  No. of Units Provided Under HAP in 2024. (1,450)	322  1350
To help individuals and families meet their housing needs in communities of persons of varied ages, family composition, ethnic backgrounds and socio-economic status.	<b>Housing – Vacancy</b>  Develop and adopt a Vacant Homes Action Plan.  Promote the Vacant Homes Refurbishment Grant  Delivery of Repair & Lease/Leasing and/or Buy & Renew Schemes as resources allow.  Progress the CPO Activation Programme.	2024 No of Grants approved by end of Year.  No. of Units Provided Under Leasing/Repair & Leasing in 2024.  No. of Units Provided Under Buy & Renew in 2024.  No. of Properties the subject of CPO Process during 2024.	290  0  0  0

<p>To accelerate the delivery of well managed and maintained social housing in sustainable communities for people to live while maximising the contribution to a climate friendly built environment.</p>	<p><b>Housing – Tenancy Sustainment and Estate Management</b> Tenancy Sustainment Strategy-Implementation of the Tenancy Sustainment &amp; Estate Management Strategy &amp; ASB Policy.</p>	<p>No. of Tenancy Sustainment Home Visits carried out by 31.12.2024.</p> <p>No. of support plans in place for LA tenancies.</p> <p>No. of ASB complaints dealt with in 2024.</p>	<p>(150) &amp; carried out alongside new “Boots on the ground campaign” As required – Linked to Homeless Program</p> <p>148 cases processed in 2024</p>
<p>To help individuals and families meet their housing needs in communities of persons of varied ages, family composition, ethnic backgrounds and socio-economic status.</p>	<p><b>Housing – Traveller Accommodation</b> Prepare Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 – 2029 adopted by 31/12/2024.</p> <p>Complete major refurbishment works of 10 houses at Cloonlyon Traveller Specific Group Housing Scheme in Ballygar.</p>	<p>To be adopted by 31/12/2024 - timescale for consultation, preparation and adoption in line with indicative timescale advised by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. To be substantially completed in Q4 2024.</p> <p>Contractor on site Q4 2024, subject to planning and funding approval.</p>	<p>Plan adopted by Plenary Council 24/11/2024 and implementation commenced.</p>



	<p>Progress to commencement of construction of property at 4 Cloonlyon Crescent, Ballygar to replace property demolished following fire.</p>	To be completed and tenanted in Q2 2024.	Refurbishment substantially complete on 10 properties in Cloonlyon
	<p>Complete the substantial refurbishment of 2 properties and extension of 1 of the Traveller Specific Group Scheme at Ballygurrane, Athenry. Completion of refurbishment, upgrade and extension of Traveller Specific property at Attymon, Athenry.</p>	To be completed and tenanted in Q2 2024.	<p>Progressed to preparation of planning documentation Refurbishment of 2 properties at Ballygurrane completed and re-tenanted in Q4 2024.</p>
	<p>Complete extension and refurbishment of Traveller Specific property at Kingsland, Athenry.</p>	To be completed and tenanted by Q4 2024, subject to funding approval.	<p>Completed Q3 2024. Tenanted under family support programme Q3 2024.</p>
	<p>Apply for funding for the acquisition of standard housing for Traveller Families.</p>	No. Of Applications submitted by Q4 2024.	<p>Refurbishment of property at Kingsland Ongoing – start delayed due to availability of contractor.</p>
	<p>Prepare programme of refurbishment works and submit funding application for the following Traveller Specific Housing Schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ballydavid, Athenry</li> <li>• Gortbride, Loughrea</li> <li>• 2 houses in Castleblakeney</li> </ul>	<p>Works to be commenced on site Q4 2024, subject to funding approval.</p>	<p>1 Funding application submitted for refurbishment of properties at Castleblakeney and Mountbellew. Preparation of</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 in Williamstown</li> <li>• 1 in Mountbellew</li> </ul>		submission underway on Gortbride and Ballydavid.
To help individuals and families meet their housing needs in communities of persons of varied ages, family composition, ethnic backgrounds and socio-economic status.	<p><b>Housing - Disability</b> Implement the Housing Strategy for People with a Disability for County Galway 2021-2026.</p> <p>Continued Rollout of the completion of all disability priority forms for all existing applicants.</p>	<p>Targets as detailed in the Housing Strategy for People with a Disability.</p> <p>To ensure that priority is afforded in the maintenance and upgrade of Council stock for disabled persons. To support roll out of Disability &amp; Mobility Grants as funding permits.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing as required</p>
To ensure that existing housing stock is used to the maximum degree possible to improve the quality of housing stock and to contribute to the renewal of the built environment.	<p><b>Housing - Maintenance</b> Complete Housing Repairs (<i>H4: Housing Maintenance Direct Costs</i>).</p>		1,905 euro per property
To ensure that existing housing stock is used to the maximum degree possible to improve the quality of housing stock and to contribute to the renewal of the built environment.	<p><b>Housing – Planned Maintenance</b> Preventative Maintenance Programme for Housing Stock</p>	<p>Finalise the programme of prioritised PMP works for 2024 by end Q1.</p> <p>Progress contracts for further priority works (as identified above for delivery in 2024</p>	<p>Electrical works, including fire and carbon monoxide replacement and certification completed on 482 properties.</p> <p>Heat pump servicing complete on 86 properties.</p>

<p>To ensure that existing housing stock is used to the maximum degree possible to improve the quality of housing stock and to contribute to the renewal of the built environment.</p>	<p><b>Housing – Energy Efficiency</b> Progress a scheme of works to improve energy efficiency in the Council’s stock and to contribute to efforts against climate change.</p> <p>Improve the Energy Efficiency of existing Housing stock while reducing carbon emissions and reliance on fossil fuel as a heat source and thereby reducing the risk of fuel poverty for occupants.</p>	<p>Submit a proposal to the DoHLGH in Q1 for 2024 works programme under the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme 2021 -2030.</p> <p>Complete works on the existing Energy Retrofit Programme.</p> <p>Continue to achieve BER A ratings on properties.</p>	<p>Funding provided on annualised basis – no long-term plan.</p> <p>91 properties retrofitted.</p>
<p>To ensure that existing housing stock is used to the maximum degree possible to improve the quality of housing stock and to contribute to the renewal of the built environment.</p>	<p><b>Housing – Vacancy/Voids</b> Effectively Manage Housing Vacancies &amp; Voids</p>	<p>To achieve a reduction in the % of housing vacancies @ end Q4 2024 versus % of housing vacancies @ end Q4 2023 (<i>H2: Housing Vacancies, H3: Average re-letting time and direct costs</i>).</p> <p>Monthly review meetings to be held on housing maintenance budget.</p>	<p>2.02% Vacant Stock.</p> <p>47 Weeks turnaround time for allocations</p>

<p>To help individuals and families meet their housing needs in communities of persons of varied ages, family composition, ethnic backgrounds and socio-economic status.</p>	<p>Complete Summary of Social Housing Assessments 2024</p> <p>Undertake a Differential Rent Review.</p> <p><b>Housing – Applications, Rents, TP and Loans</b> Effectively Manage Housing Applications, Vacancies, Rents, Purchases and Loans.</p>	<p>Review procedures for processing housing applications and engaging with housing applicants.</p> <p>Commence Rent Review by June 2024.</p> <p>Carry out an Annual review of Social Housing Applicants To manage Housing for All Home Loans and Housing Tenant Purchase.</p>	<p>Rent review team in place in late 2024.</p> <p>Rent review commenced in late 2024 on Council, RAS and HAP tenants.</p> <p>1,000 Applicants assessed (SSHA) 7 housing loans drawn down 29 Approvals in Principle issued. 16 Tenant Purchases completed.</p>
<p>To ensure that existing housing stock is used to the maximum degree possible to improve the quality of housing stock and to contribute to the renewal of the built environment.</p>	<p><b>Housing – Inspectorate &amp; Minimum Standards for Rental Properties</b> Proceed with the inspections of private rented properties (RTB, HAP, RAS). Inspections of private rented properties will contribute to the improvement of living standards Co. Galway tenants, including those in the HAP and RAS schemes.</p> <p>Complete inspections related to requests for grants to assist with disability and ageing; to facilitate improvements to existing housing and quality of life of occupants.</p>	<p>Complete as a minimum the inspection target for minimum rented standards for 2024 (H5: Private Rented Sector Inspections).</p> <p>Complete inspections in a timely manner for persons seeking grant aid to assist with disabilities and ageing.</p>	<p>1236 rental standards inspections completed</p> <p>692 grant inspections completed</p>

To help individuals and families meet their housing needs in communities of persons of varied ages, family composition, ethnic backgrounds and socio-economic status.	<b>Housing – Ukrainian Response</b> To coordinate the Ukrainian Response in Galway County including, Offer a home scheme, Emergency Rest Centres as required.	No of Offer a Home Properties progressed,	54
To provide a safe and efficient road network for all road users including the development of N6 Galway City Ring Road (GCRR), N59 including the Maigh Cuilinn Bypass, the Conamara Greenway and the Dublin-Galway Greenway.	<b>Advance Major Schemes on the National Primary &amp; National Secondary routes</b>		
	N6 GCRR - Galway City Ring Road - The scheme has been remitted back to An Bord Pleanala for further consideration and a request for further information has been made by the Board. The application is being updated for the response to the Board.	Q3 2024	Update ongoing for submittal in Q1, 2025
	N59 Clifden to Maam Cross- Strategic Assessment Report submitted to Department of Transport - awaiting funding approval	Q1 2024	Strategic Assessment Report submitted to Department of Transport - awaiting funding approval
	Maigh Cuillinn Bypass - Mainline substantially complete - complete services and ancillary works	Q2 2024	Scheme Completed
	N59 Bunnakill to Claremount - Resolve construction stage method statements commitments with NPWS and IFI followed by advance works contracts	Q3 2024	Resolve construction stage method statements commitments with NPWS and IFI followed by advance works contracts
	N84 Galway to Curraghmore-Conclude feasibility study	Q3 2024	Feasibility Report forwarded to TII for review/comments
To provide a safe and efficient road network for all road users including the development of N6 Galway City Ring Road (GCRR), N59 including the Maigh Cuilinn Bypass, the Conamara Greenway and the Dublin-Galway Greenway.	<b>Advance Minor Schemes on the National Primary &amp; National Secondary routes</b>		
	N17 Milltown to Gortagunnad Realignment. CPO Notice to Treat issued with landowner negotiations ongoing. Advance Works contracts ongoing. Advance detailed design and Main Construction Contract tender documents.	Q4 2024	GI & Archaeology Advance Works Contracts Completed. Detailed Design advanced. CPO Notice of Entry Issued & Land Acquisition Commenced.
	N83 - Baile Chláir Traffic Calming scheme Advance. Land acquisition complete. Advance works contract and detailed design ongoing followed by Main Construction Contract tender documents.	Q4 2024	Project at tender docs and ready to go to tender once funding approved in 2025



	N63 Liss to Abbey Realignment – ABP approval in Q2 2023. Appoint Consultants for Phases 5 -7 of TII PMG's: Commence Advance Works		Q1 2014 Q3 2024	Under construction
	N59 Kenfield - Prepare NIS for An Board Pleanála approval		Q2 2024	Awaiting decision on CPO & Development Application from An Bord Pleanála
	N65 Kilmeen Cross. Publish Emerging Preferred Route and complete all environmental and ecological assessments		Q2 2024	Awaiting resource appointment
To provide a safe and efficient road network for all road users including the development of N6 Galway City Ring Road (GCRR), N59 including the Maigh Cuilinn Bypass, the Conamara Greenway and the Dublin-Galway Greenway.	<b>Strategic Regional and Local Road Schemes</b>			
	Athenry Ring Road sections 3 and 5. The CPO for the western 'elbow' section has been confirmed and preparation has commenced on Tender Documentation for construction of this section. Notices to Treat have been issued. A will be appointed in Q2 2024 and construction will commence by Q3. Detailed design and interaction with Irish Rail will continue in respect of the section to the Monivea Road.		Q2 2024 €1,600,000	Detailed design complete, contract documents prepared and Project tendered
To provide a safe and efficient road network for all road users including the development of N6 Galway City Ring Road (GCRR), N59 including the Maigh Cuilinn Bypass, the Conamara Greenway and the Dublin-Galway Greenway.	<b>Specific Improvement Grants</b>			
	R332 Kilbannon. Complete land acquisition and secure all lands. Finalise the Tender Documentation for the construction works, apply for DoT approval to move to construction and start same before year end.		Q4 2024 €500,000	Detailed design complete, contract documents prepared and Project tendered
	R374 Causeways and Bridges. Obtain conservation report on structures and propose methodology for repairs. Propose series of works to DoT for approval prior to year-end.		Q4 2024 €30,000	Awaiting resource appointment
	R339 Belville. Complete detailed design and proceed to Part 8 planning process. Complete land acquisition and commence drafting of Tender Documentation for construction.		Q4 2024 €30,000	Awaiting resource appointment
	L52214 Cuan na Loinge Environmental studies and preliminary design to commence in Q1 2024.		€30,000	Awaiting resource appointment
To provide a safe and efficient road network for all road users including the development of N6 Galway City Ring Road (GCRR), N59 including the Maigh Cuilinn Bypass, the Conamara Greenway and the Dublin-Galway Greenway.	<b>Advance Climate Change Adaption and Resilience Works</b>			
	<b>Road Number</b>	<b>Scheme Title</b>	<b>LA Allocation</b>	All complete as per roads programme
	L-87663	Tynagh – Retaining Embankment	€80,000	
	L1320	Moycullen SW Network Upgrade	€90,000	
	N67 R446 L4105	Carrowmonesh roundabout	€150,000	
	L6109	Carrownagarry Crossroads	€35,000	
	R354	Lackagh Flood Relief	€35,000	

	L6455	Fartamore	€35,000	
	R332	Ballygaddy Road	€70,000	
	L31233	Abbey Glen Estate Flood Relief	€25,000	
	L4218	Ballynagran – Road Drainage	€16,500	
	L2136	The Mall, Tuam	€30,000	
	L2116	Balrobuck Flood Relief	€15,000	
	L6304	Annaghmore	€45,000	
	R328	R328 at Knockatee East	€30,000	
	L52443	Ard Mhor	€35,000	
	L2119	Corrandulla	€20,000	
	R353	Ballardiggan – Road Drainage	€21,000	
	L8712	Summerset, Clontuskert	€65,000	
	L6468	Killuney	€20,000	
	L4312	Cappacur -Road Drainage	€15,000	
	L2317	Creggs	€30,000	
	L87611	Curraghmore – Road Raising	€22,500	
	L2229	Gortnalea	€10,000	
	L8232	Carrowcrin – Road Drainage	€29,500	
	L7402	Garrafine	€25,000	
	L2125	Gortbeg	€20,000	
	R340	Screebe to Cill Chiarain Road	€120,000	
	L1321	Barna to Tooreeny Road	€60,000	
To provide a safe and efficient road network for all road users including the development of N6 Galway City Ring Road (GCRR), N59 including the Maigh Cuilinn Bypass, the Conamara Greenway and the Dublin-Galway Greenway.	<b>Bridge Rehabilitation Works on Regional and Local Roads</b>			All compete as per roads programme
	R-336 Teernakil Bridge		Q4 2024	
	R-446 Suck (East) Bridge		Q4 2024	
	L-53221 Crumlin East Bridge 4		Q4 2024	
	L-3111 Licklea Bridge		Q4 2024	
	L-6143 Mahanagh Bridge 1		Q4 2024	
	L-3117 Cormacuagh (Clogh) Bridge		Q4 2024	
	L-6447 Kilshanvy Bridge 2		Q4 2024	
	L-46031 Pollboy Bridge		Q4 2024	
	L-2307 Newvillage Bridge		Q4 2024	
	L-6331 Kingstown Bridge		Q4 2024	
	L-2314 Timcat Bridge		Q4 2024	
	L-2218 Belmont Bridge 1		Q4 2024	

	L-7152 Ballynanulty Bridge	Q4 2024	
To provide a safe and efficient road network for all road users including the development of N6 Galway City Ring Road (GCRR), N59 including the Maigh Cuilinn Bypass, the Conamara Greenway and the Dublin-Galway Greenway	<b>Former National Roads Rehabilitation Works</b>		
	R446 (Former N6)	€ 525,000	Complete
	R458 (Former N18)	€ 250,000	Complete
To provide a safe and efficient road network for all road users including the development of N6 Galway City Ring Road (GCRR), N59 including the Maigh Cuilinn Bypass, the Conamara Greenway and the Dublin-Galway Greenway.	<b>Maintain &amp; Improve the roads Networks of 6941KM throughout the County</b>		
	Prepare a road maintenance programme for non-national roads and Annual Roads Programme to be adopted by Elected Members	Q1, 2024	Complete 5 <sup>th</sup> March 24
	Undertake and complete a maintenance and resurfacing programme for regional 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 Tourism & Sport	Completion of Annual Roads Programme by Q4, 2024 as set in DTTAS Circular RW 02 of 2024 Road Grant funding fully recouped by deadline set by DTTAS in Circular RW 02 of 2024	Complete as per roads programme
	Number of Local Tertiary Roads to be repaired	As per roads programme to be adopted	Complete as per roads programme
	Number of kilometres of Regional Road to be improved, as funded by Restoration Improvement Grant	As per roads programme to be adopted	Complete as per roads programme
	Number of kilometres of Local Roads improved, as funded by Restoration Improvement Grant	As per roads programme to be adopted	Complete as per roads programme
	Number of bridges to be improved - Rehabilitation Works	13	Complete as per roads programme

	Number of kilometres of Regional Road to be surface dressed, as funded by Restoration Maintenance Grant	As per roads programme to be adopted	Complete as per roads programme
	Number of kilometres of Local Road to be surface dressed, as funded by Restoration Maintenance Grant	As per roads programme to be adopted	Complete as per roads programme
	Winter Service Programme – monitor weather conditions, and implement salting/gritting programme on identified priority routes as required	Ongoing Winter Service	Complete as per roads programme
To provide a safe and efficient road network for all road users including the development of N6 Galway City Ring Road (GCRR), N59 including the Maigh Cuilinn Bypass, the Conamara Greenway and the Dublin-Galway Greenway.	<b>Promote scheme for the improvement of private roads within the County</b>		
	Promote the Local Improvement Scheme to facilitate improvements on private roads.	Complete schemes Q4 2024  Fully recoup funding by Deadline set by DRCD Q4 2024	Complete as per roads programme
To provide a safe and efficient road network for all road users including the development of N6 Galway City Ring Road (GCRR), N59 including the Maigh Cuilinn Bypass, the Conamara Greenway and the Dublin-Galway Greenway.	<b>Taking in Charge – Residential Housing Estates</b> Work & liaise with Residents, Developers, their Agents, Bondholders & other relevant Third Parties for the completion of Residential Estates to required standard for Taking in Charge and/or Bond Release	Target – 12 Estates Taken in Charge and/or Bond Released	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estates Taken in Charge: 12</li> <li>• Bond Release (Estates not Taken in Charge): 2</li> <li>• Total: 14</li> </ul>
Promote and support the development of walking and cycling routes throughout the county	Promote the Local Improvement Scheme to facilitate improvements on private roads.	Await funding for 2024 Complete schemes Q4 2024 subject to funding Fully recoup funding by Deadline set by DRCD Q4 2024	Pro works complete

	<u>Clifden to Oughterard Greenway</u> Clifden to Recess Section Complete Land Acquisition Complete construction of sections underway Recess to Oughterard Section Recommence Land acquisition	Q4 2024 Construction ongoing Section to be complete Q4 2024  Throughout 2024	Under construction and CPO for remaining lands required
	<u>Oughterard to Galway Greenway</u> Publish preferred route Continue with Phase 3	Q1 2024 Ongoing throughout 2024	Under Route Selection
	<u>Derrigimlagh to Kylemore Greenway</u> Hold First Non-Statutory Public Consultation Complete Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility) Tender for Phases 2 to 4 inclusive.	Q1 2024 Q2 2024 Q3 2024	Concept and Feasibility Report undertaken
	<u>Athenry to Milltown Greenway</u> Awaiting publishment of All Ireland Strategic Rail Review prior to proceeding to Phase 2	Ongoing	Pending review of rail report, not progressing as rail report as rail review recommends opening of Tuam rail link
	<u>Galway to Athlone Cycleway</u> Appoint Consultants to deliver Phases 3 – 4	Q2 2024	Technical Consultancy Framework Established for anticipated call-off competition
	<b><i>Support the Development of Walking routes throughout the County</i></b>		
	Maximise Funding opportunities through the under Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)  <b>Measure 1 – Applied for 2023 - Decision 2024</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Creggs Wildlife Garden Accessibility Upgrade</li> <li>2. Gateway to the Corrib</li> <li>3. Hymany Way Upgrade</li> </ol>		2023- 2024 – 13 Projects.  Ongoing



	4. Lackagh Knockdoemore Trail 5. Traught Beach Kinvara 6. Tra Mor, Inverin, Accessibility Upgrade 7. Cill Murvey Accessibility Upgrade  <b>Measure 2</b> 1. Castlegrove Woods 2. Glinsk Heritage Park 3. Ionad Pobail an Mháma  <b><u>Project Development Measure</u></b> 1. Aran Islands, Linn Taoide Árainn 2. Ballinasloe Outdoor Recreation Park 3. Rinvile Forest Park Masterplan.  <b>Applications Submitted to DRCD 2024/2025</b>  <b>Project Development measure</b> <b>1. Gort River Walk.</b> <b>Measure 1.</b> 1. Connemara Greenway Maintenance 2. Trail Surface Repairs – Hymany Way  <b>Measure 2.</b> 1. The Walks Project 2024, Loughrea 2. The Marconi Station /Trail 3. Connemara and Aran Islands Marketing Project  <b>Measure 3.</b> 1. Linking Rinvile Park Walkways to Rinvile Sports Development Project.		
		No. of Projects approved by DRCD	Ongoing
		No of projects completed	Ongoing Ongoing
			Ongoing
			Ongoing
	<b>Active Travel</b> - Progress and manage NTA funded Active Travel projects across the County		A.T. Schemes progressed with NTA

To provide a safe and efficient road network for all road users including the development of N6 Galway City Ring Road (GCRR), N59 including the Maigh Cuilinn Bypass, the Conamara Greenway and the Dublin-Galway Greenway.	Continue to Develop Road Safety Initiative		
	Number of schools for which support will be provided for Cycling Training Programme	35	Transport Dept continued support for schools
	Number of schools for which support will be provided for Drive for Life Programme	15	
	Successful operation of Junior School Warden scheme in County Galway	JSW scheme operations in 3 schools	
Prepare Traffic Management Plans for towns to enhance the quality of life in our communities.	Traffic Management		
	# of parking permits issued annually	250	Transport ongoing work on traffic management over the year
	# of parking tickets issued annually	2000	
	Deliver a suite of Local Transport Plans and Strategies, which include:		
	a. A County Transport Modelling Assessment	Q4 2024	
	b. Local Transportation Plans for Tuam, Athenry, Loughrea and Gort	Q3 2024	
	c. East Galway City Suburbs Local Transport Plan to include Oranmore	Q4 2024	
	d. Community Transport Studies for 6 towns - Headford, Kinvara, Portumna, Oughterard, Maigh Cuillin and Clifden	Q4 2024	
e. Collaboration with the NTA National Cycle Project Office teams to develop f National Cycle Network - Cycle Connects strategy currently being developed by the NTA	Q4 2024		
Continue collaboration with OPW on Flood Risk Management and maintenance.	Drainage Maintenance		
	Number of kilometres of drainage maintenance completed by year end	Approx 10km by Q4 2024	Completed Drainage Maintenance Programme
	Minor Works Scheme		
	Continue to identify and submit projects for funding for minor flood relief works	Approx 5 submissions by Q4 2024	Ongoing
	Complete minor flood relief works	Approx 5 schemes by Q4, 2024	Ongoing

	<b>Work with OPW in relation to flood risk management</b>		
	Dunkellin FRS - Finalise compensation payments	Q4, 2024	Ongoing
	South Galway FRS - Preparation for Public Exhibition	Public Exhibition in Q2, 2024	Ongoing
	Ballinasloe FRS - Development & Design	Development & Design complete, Q3, 2024. Public Exhibition Q3, 2024	OPW are Lead on B'sloe
	Clifden FRS - Development & Design	Development & Design complete, Q2, 2024. Planning publication Q2, 2024	Design complete, OPW approval
	Locations affected by Storm Debi – develop feasibility plan and progress Minor Works funding application	Funding application Q4 2024	Ongoing
	To deliver a programme of minor flood mitigation works to minimise and in so far as it is possible prevent flooding within the limits of available resources	Ongoing	Ongoing
To continue to develop our Piers and Harbours.	<b>Advance the Maritime Infrastructure Development &amp; Coastal Protection Programme</b>		
	Complete works to maritime infrastructure works on the Islands funded through specific DRCD programme.	Q4 2024	Programme complete
	Complete all works funded through the DAFM annual programme	Q4 2024	Programme complete
	Inis Oirr Pier – Complete works contractor procurement. Award contract, commence works on site, continue liaison with all relevant stakeholders.	Award contract by end Q2 2024. Commence works before year end 2024	Construction Tender issued and Awaiting Dept Approval

	Prepare and deliver routine maintenance & minor improvements programme for Piers, Harbours and yacht moorings - subject to available funding	191 piers, quays and landing places maintained 60 Yacht moorings maintained	Completed prog of piers and harbour maintenance and improvements
To revitalise town, villages and islands of County Galway and to improve the connectivity of communities, the built environment and public spaces.	The Capital Team in Water Services assist and input to Uisce Éireann's Capital Investment Plan along with colleagues in Planning to ensure that infrastructure investment by Uisce Éireann is aligned with development plans.	Ongoing	Working under the master Co-Operation agreement with UE
Develop a strategy for the delivery and improvement of Recreational and Amenity facilities including inland Blue Economy and Sport across the county.	Commence preparation of a Recreation and Amenity Development Strategy for County Galway.	Commence process 2024	Ongoing
	Manage and maintain Playgrounds/ Outdoor Gyms owned by Galway County Council.	Ongoing programme	Achieved
	Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre Management of the Centre and implementation of actions to increase visitor numbers via tours, publications and the holding of Lecture Series at the Centre	Maintain visitor numbers and recommence Summer Lecture series	Achieved
	Maintain Parks and Open Space including Rinvilla Park, Oranmore, Palace Grounds, Tuam and the Cowpark Clarenbridge.	Ongoing Maintenance Programme	Achieved
	Manage Water Safety/Beach Lifeguard Service in County & City (Shared Service)	Number of Lifeguard Hours provided during Bathing Season.	Achieved
	Monitor and oversee the operation, management and maintenance of Tuam & Ballinasloe Leisure Centres under License Agreement with private operator.	Increase Membership and Visits to Leisure Centres.	Achieved

Develop a strategy for the delivery and improvement of Recreational and Amenity facilities including inland Blue Economy and Sport across the county.	Provide a number of free community hours per week at Tuam All-Weather Pitch when open and operating.	40 hours	Achieved
	Provide public access to Dunlo Recreational Park, Ballinasloe.	48 hours	Achieved
Develop and promote a Library Service to enable lifelong learning, information provision, literacy development, community engagement, health and wellbeing, cultural identity and creativity.	To ensure that all local communities are aware of their local library service and what each library has to offer. We will participate in national promotional campaigns and showcase our services through the use of mixed media channels including social media, Local press and radio, community partnerships and mailing lists.	Number of visits to each library.	
		Number of books issued.	521,560
		Number of active memberships.	42,028
		Target 0.25% increase quarterly in all of the above.	Achieved
	To ensure where possible that all branch libraries organise/host a range of activities including exhibitions, readings, book-clubs, lectures and cultural events for their community.	Number of events held in libraries: Target 0.25% increase quarterly in all of the above.	Achieved
	To ensure the provision of library services in all areas of our large County through our extensive mobile library network and to support our Island populations with branch support and relevant resources.	Number of members on mobile library. Number of items issued on mobile library. Target 0.25% increase quarterly in all of the above.	Achieved  Mobile Library computerised.
	To encourage library usage by children and young adults.	Number of items issued. Number who participated in the	3000 participants in Summer Stars Programme

		Summer Stars Programme.	
	To encourage staff to build on previous successful ideas that keep children visiting and engaging with our services.	Number of organised events for Children's Book Festival.	50
	To actively support schools and teachers with relevant materials, class sets and school library materials and to continue the schools outreach program across our library service encouraging class visits to libraries throughout the year.	Number of attendees at Children's Book Festival events.	800 children attending events
<p>Develop and promote a Library Service to enable lifelong learning, information provision, literacy development, community engagement, health and wellbeing, cultural identity and creativity.</p> <p>Develop and promote a Library Service to enable lifelong learning, information provision, literacy development, community engagement, health and wellbeing, cultural identity and creativity.</p>	To provide quality children's literature and young adult book collections that are carefully selected to encompass diversity and inclusion.	Number of other events organised for children and young adults.	Ongoing
	To ensure continued involvement in all aspects of the "Right to Read Programme" by participating in 'Spring into Storytime', 'Summer Stars', 'Children's Book Festival' and 'Family Time at your Library'. These have been very important in encouraging children to utilise our services and will continue to be an important factor going forward.	Increased participation in the various relevant initiatives and events.	70 events for Family Time at Your Library. Attendance 1,174
	To ensure continued involvement in National Children's events e.g. Cruinniú na nÓg.	Increased participation in the various relevant initiatives and events.	Events held in libraries. Increase achieved
	To plan and provide for the provision of new infrastructure to enable the improved access for patrons across all platforms such as desktop PC's, WIFI and continuing to connect our branch libraries to the National Library Management System.	Online services usage. Number of internet sessions (PC and WIFI). Usage of new ICT equipment e.g. Tovertafel, interactive screens,	169,885 eBooks issued 107,470 e-Audiobooks issued 8,789 lessons viewed online via Universal Class 1608 participants in online language learning lessons.



		laptop dispensers, tablet dispensers. Target 0.25% increase quarterly in all of the above.	
	To ensure that our library resources are available online 24/7 and that communities are aware of these extensive collections.	Number of branches newly connected to National LMS.	Ongoing
	To ensure that our library resources are available online 24/7 and that communities are aware of these extensive collections.	Increase the number of branch libraries providing free WIFI.	Achieved
	To ensure that Galway Library Service preserves and develops its rich Irish language collection.	To acquire, catalogue and collate Irish language material to ensure its accessibility for all citizens.	Ongoing

## Annual Service Delivery Plan 2024

### STRATEGIC GOAL: ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY

*"To maximise organisational capacity through the continuous review of operational efficiency, financial and risk management and development of our Staff and Elected Members"*

SUPPORTING STRATEGY	SERVICE PLAN ACTION	TARGET	OUTCOMES
Implementation of the Local Authority People Strategy to provide a Workforce of the Future with Capacity and Capability delivered through Effective Management having regard to legislative, financial and changing circumstances.	Galway County Council is committed to implementing the Local Authority People Strategy and position Galway County Council as an Employer of Choice to attract the best candidates in an increasingly competitive market. The Human Resources department will plan for future workforce requirements through Strategic Workforce Planning and continue to support training and development to build capacity and empower a motivated and committed workforce to provide quality services to all citizens in County Galway.	Ongoing	70 recruitment competitions completed. Strategic Workforce Planning adopted with recruitment plan for 3-year period.

	Review personnel strengths in stations to ensure staffing sufficient to provide effective emergency response and minimise mobilisation of additional resources to incidents	Q2	Ongoing with NDFEM
	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
	Ensure cross training of administrative personnel to ensure unforeseen absences do not adversely affect the performance of the administrative role with the service		
Plan for the protection of our citizens through the emergency management framework for response to flooding, adverse weather and other emergencies.	Ensure continued review of severe weather and flooding emergency response plans	Ongoing	Ongoing
	Continued use of the ArcGIS based Severe Weather Emergency Management System (SWEMS)	Ongoing	Ongoing
Fully explore and maximise opportunities that may arise through increased use of shared services and continue to deliver quality service under the existing shared service arrangement with Galway City Council for the Library, Fire Service, Local Enterprise Office and other services.	Liaise with Galway City Council re site for a new Galway City Fire Station	Ongoing	Ongoing
Review office accommodation arrangements and develop proposals for the efficient delivery of office accommodation requirements.	Liaise with the NDFEM for the capital funding of the construction of a New Galway City Fire Station and Headquarters office accommodation	Ongoing	On going
Provide and accelerate Digital Transformation in all Council processes and activities.	Introduce the use of ICR Incident command software into the Full Time Station in Galway City	Q2	On going
	Liaise with Software providers for the development of Watch Management software to streamline operational administration of the full-time service	Q4	

Plan for the protection of our citizens through the emergency management framework for response to flooding, adverse weather and other emergencies.	<p>Ensure continued review of severe weather and flooding emergency response plans</p> <p>Continued use of the ArcGIS based Severe Weather Emergency Management System (SWEMS)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	Ongoing
Ensure the property and assets of the Council are managed in a manner which maximises their present and future potential.	Continue programme of upgrading of Council fleet subject to availability of financial resources. Trucks (5Nr) to be acquired in 2024	Q4 2024 ahead of the winter service plan mobilisation	2 acquired in 2024, 4 on order
Maintain and develop effective financial management systems which are responsive to our ever-changing needs, obtain value for money at all times, consist of strong cash-flow management and robust budgetary control.	The finance team ensure robust training in the FMS to ensure accurate and up to date reporting. The finance team meet periodically with each of the Directors of Services to ensure the actual spend is aligned to the adopted budget. The procurement team along with the line managers ensure that Galway County Council is compliant with the Public Spending Code.	Ongoing	There was robust training in the FMS ensuring accurate and up to date reporting. Meetings were held with each of the Directors of Services ensuring the actual spend is aligned to the adopted budget. The work on the 2024 Public Spending Code is ongoing and will be completed by Q2 2025.
Work with the Elected Members to ensure that the Municipal Districts operate to their maximum potential.	Co-Ordinate Municipal District Schedules of Work.	Q1 2024, February.	Agreed
Continued implementation and review of corporate governance structures and systems including risk management, procurement, audit and statutory obligations under FOI,	Co-ordinate public right of access to records in line with the Freedom of Information Act 2014 and Access to Information on the Environment Regulations.	100% compliance with FOI Act 2014 and the Access to Information on the Environment Regulations	Ongoing

GDPR, Protected Disclosures and Official Languages Act.	Facilitate the County Joint Policing Committee, support public awareness of the JPC and co-ordinate monitoring of its Annual Workplan.	Consistent compliance with Statutory Regulations for the JPC. Delivery of the JPC Annual	Meetings held 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 & 29 <sup>th</sup> April, 2024
Continued implementation and review of corporate governance structures and systems including risk management, procurement, audit and statutory obligations under FOI, GDPR, Protected Disclosures and Official Languages Act.	Co-ordinate Data Subject's Right of Access to their personal data processed by Galway County Council in line with the GDPR and Data Protection Acts 1988-2018.	Compliance with the GDPR and Data Protection Acts 1988-2018 in respect of the management of mandatory log for Data Subject Access Requests.	Ongoing
	Implementation of the Galway County Council's Child Protection and Welfare Policy & Procedures and Galway County Council's Child Safeguarding Statement across the organisation	Ongoing	Progressed
	Implementation of the Galway County Council's Public Sector Duty Implementation Plan across the organisation	Ongoing	Progressed
Fully explore and maximise opportunities that may arise through increased use of shared services and continue to deliver quality service under the existing shared service arrangement with Galway City Council for the Library, Fire Service, Local Enterprise Office and other services.	Galway Public Libraries: Continued provision of city-based library services that establishes and enhances the quality of life for citizens and develops the social infrastructure in the city.	Community awareness of the city library service reflected in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of visits to each library</li> <li>• Number of books issued</li> <li>• Number of active memberships</li> <li>• Number of events and activities held.</li> </ul>	521,560 visits to Galway Libraries  169,885 books issued across the network  41,028 active memberships

Develop and promote a Library Service to enable lifelong learning, information provision, literacy development, community engagement, health and wellbeing, cultural identity and creativity.	To ensure where possible that all branch libraries organise/host a range of activities including exhibitions, readings, book-clubs, lectures and cultural events for their community.	Number of events held in libraries	Ongoing to meet with national programmes
	To ensure the provision of library services in all areas of our large County through our extensive mobile library network and to support our Island populations with branch support and relevant resources.	Number of members on mobile library. Number of items issued on mobile library. Target 0.25% increase quarterly in all of the above.	Achieved
	To encourage library usage by children and young adults.	Number of items issued. Number who participated in the Summer Stars Programme.	3000 participants
	To encourage staff to build on previous successful ideas that keep children visiting and engaging with our services.	Number of organised events for Children's Book Festival.	63 events for children's book festival week and over 800 participants
	To actively support schools and teachers with relevant materials, class sets and school library materials and to continue the schools outreach program across our library service encouraging class visits to libraries throughout the year.	Number of attendees at Children's Book Festival events.	800
Develop and promote a Library Service to enable lifelong learning, information provision, literacy development, community	To provide quality children's literature and young adult book collections that are carefully selected to encompass diversity and inclusion.	Number of other events organised for children and young adults.	Ongoing

engagement, health and wellbeing, cultural identity and creativity.	To ensure continued involvement in all aspects of the “Right to Read Programme” by participating in ‘Spring into Storytime’, ‘Summer Stars’, ‘Children’s Book Festival’ and ‘Family Time at your Library’. These have been very important in encouraging children to utilise our services and will continue to be an important factor going forward.	Increased participation in the various relevant initiatives and events.	Achieved
	To ensure continued involvement in National Children’s events e.g. Cruinniú na nÓg.	Increased participation in the various relevant initiatives and events.	Achieved with National Press Coverage
	To plan and provide for the provision of new infrastructure to enable the improved access for patrons across all platforms such as desktop PC’s, WIFI and continuing to connect our branch libraries to the National Library Management System.	Online services usage	107470 audio books
		Usage of new ICT equipment e.g. Tovertafel, interactive screens, laptop dispensers, tablet dispensers.	Ongoing
		Target 0.25% increase quarterly in all of the above.	Achieved
	To ensure that our library resources are available online 24/7 and that communities are aware of these extensive collections.	Number of branches newly connected to National LMS.	Ongoing
	To ensure that our library resources are available online 24/7 and that communities are aware of these extensive collections.	Increase the number of branch libraries providing free WIFI.	Ongoing



Develop and promote a Library Service to enable lifelong learning, information provision, literacy development, community engagement, health and wellbeing, cultural identity and creativity.	To continue to explore avenues to extend our Library services and facilities to meet community needs.	Each library to continue to be aware of the needs of the local community	Ongoing
	To continue to provide a comprehensive service to the visually impaired.	Introduction of sensory equipment and facilities.	Achieved
		Provision of Visually Impaired Services. Develop the Postal Audio Service to the visually impaired.	Provided by Ballybane Library on a request basis
		Target 0.25% increase quarterly	Achieved
	To actively engage with community groups, organisations and other agencies to promote social inclusion and determine how our services can support community needs for those marginalised and disadvantaged.	Provision of translated materials to support community engagement and target social inequalities.	Leaflets translated. 1608 language learning sessions
	To continue to maintain the Library Vehicle Fleet and explore upgrade options.	WIFI enable Mobile Library Vehicle	Achieved
		Assess the current mechanical and physical condition of the fleet.	Ongoing

	To ensure the library service is a focal point for the provision of information on our local history and culture by acquiring, preserving and managing local records and archives.	To acquire, catalogue and collate Local History material to ensure its accessibility for all citizens.	Ongoing
	To ensure that Galway Library Service preserves and develops its rich Irish language collection.	To ensure that Galway Library Service preserves and develops its rich Irish language collection.	Ongoing Promotion of stock and programming during Seachtaine Na Gaeilge.

## Annual Service Delivery Plan 2024

### STRATEGIC GOAL: PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE

*"To improve, protect and promote our environment, culture, heritage and language in the interests of present and future generations"*

SUPPORTING STRATEGY	SERVICE PLAN ACTION	TARGET	OUTCOMES
Secure the sustainable development of the county through the review and implementation of the County Development Plan.	Assess level of risk of referred planning applications and issue responses where required	Ongoing	262 planning files assessed which includes some granted permissions checked for compliance with certain conditions
Protection and Improvement of Water Quality and Catchment Management.	Complete national inspection plan for septic tanks	31/12/2024	290 inspections completed. 85 Advisory notices and 170 warning letters issued.

	Undertake farm inspection programme	31/12/2024	28 complaints related and 40 planned farm inspections were out. 104 planning applications for agricultural developments and 78 applications for sewage sludge spreading on farmland were assessed.
	Carry out monitoring of rivers, lakes, discharge licences, bathing waters on a priority basis in accordance with legal requirements and monitoring programmes.	Ongoing	All rivers, lakes and bathing water sampling plans were 100% completed. 89% of discharge licenced sites were inspected.
	Enforcement of Discharge Licence legislation prioritising high risk sites	Ongoing	133 inspections of licenced facilities – 76 warning letters – 3 x Section 12 Notices – Court date was set for 1 file, but Notice was complied with before hearing.
	Highlight beaches with excellent water quality and facilities by achieving either Blue Flag or Green Coast status (5 with blue flag, 6 with green coast award).	30/6/2024	Achieved
	Protect public health by continuing to monitor bathing water quality at our beaches and implementing non-compliance protocols (26 bathing waters).	31/09/2024	Achieved
	Carry out enforcement in relation to water complaints.	Ongoing	6 Warning letters issued, 17 x Section 12 Notices issued and 2 files sent to Law Agent.

	Manage Private Water Supply monitoring programme	Ongoing	This work transferred the Rural Water Section in April 2024.
	Implement Catchment Management Plans in conjunction with LAWPRO	Q4	Implemented and work continues.
Monitoring and enforcement of illegal dumping and litter.	Investigate all environmental complaints in line with national priorities and within the timelines set out in the Enforcement Policy.	Q4	All complaints are investigated in a timely manner.
Implementation of the Connacht Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan. New plan called National Waste Management Plan for a circular economy to be implemented in 2024	Carry out inspections of high-risk waste facility permits and certs, household and commercial premises, permitted and bogus waste collectors, illegal dumping and C&D sites - 100% of identified high risk sites/collectors.	Q4	All our waste facility permit sites and Certificate of Registration sites are inspected once a year regardless of risk. 14 Waste facility permit sites were inspected in 2024 and 4 Certificates of Registration sites were inspected.
	Carry out joint inspections with the WERLA, the NTFSO and the Gardai and other regulatory bodies	Ongoing	4 waste enforcement checkpoints were carried out with WERLA and AGS. 1 joint inspection was carried out with Revenue and 1 with the TFS office.

	Carry out enforcement in relation to illegal dumping and PRI referrals, log all complaints and investigate in accordance with our enforcement policy	Ongoing	6 tyre referrals. 5 Packing producer referrals. 20 WEEE and batteries inspections. 25 Warning letters. 76 notices under the Waste Management Act. 25 files sent to law agent for prosecution. 5 prosecutions and other cases struck out due to compliance with notice.
	Ensure appropriate management of construction and demolition waste, sewage sludge, agricultural burning, household waste, tyres, commercial food waste, end of life vehicles	Ongoing	4 Construction and demolition site inspections were carried out on major construction sites in 2024. There were 25 Article 27 Notifications in 2024. All Certificates of Registration sites for storage of sewage were inspected.
	Manage ADI projects, invoicing, monitoring of spend, compliance with RCT and Procurement Legislation	Q4	9 projects completed in 2024. total of €100,035 of funding claimed.
	Manage CCTV programme when approval is given for the use of CCTV	Ongoing	Still ongoing. DPIA and SOPs have been completed. Public Consultation phase is ongoing.
	Follow up actions on the waste presentation by law inspections carried out in 2023 and new inspections to be carried out in 2024	Ongoing	Total of 350 waste presentation bye- laws inspections were carried out in 2024.

	Set up and manage working groups in relation to areas of the county that have specific issues re illegal waste activities	Q4	n/a
	Ensure compliance with waste collection permits, including the continued roll-out of the Brown Bin in designated areas and monitoring of compliance in skip hire sector	Q4	Responsibility changed to WERLA in 2024.
	Enforce requirements in relation to Deco Paints, Solid Fuel and Solvents, carry out inspections in relation to Deco paints, solid fuel and solvents, carry out enforcement in relation to air and noise, implement the Air Monitoring programme as per EPA requirements. The amount of work carried out here is dependent on the number of resources available	Q4	All expiring certified DECO paint operators sent reminders/warning letters. 10 Certificates issued. 1 Fine issued. Solvent Register for Dry Cleaners up to date. 36 Solid Fuel retailers inspected. Non complaint Solid fuel retailers (6) and producers (4) written to re noncompliance. 1 Section 16 Notice under Air Pollution Act issued to distributor. 3 Solid Fuel samples analysed for compliance. Complaints investigated Noise (20) and Air (28). Air Monitoring carried out by EPA. Awareness of monitoring promoted on website.
	To continue to provide recycling facilities for members of the public and extend where possible	Ongoing	No new recycling facilities in 2024.



	Investigate and report on all complaints received regarding derelict sites and enter on Derelict Sites register where appropriate	Ongoing	18 complaints received regarding derelict properties in 2024, 2 placed on register in 2024.
	Promote Green Programme with primary and secondary schools and other educational establishments and encourage more participation	Ongoing - 31/12/2024	Green Schools campaign ongoing with approximately 90% registered, presentation by St Brigid's Loughrea to Loughrea MD re Clean Air Project. WEEE Ireland school battery project, An Taisce Clean Air project, 51 schools in Picker Pals, 20 applicants in Relove Fashion competition.
Implementation of County Litter Management Plan.	Promote best waste management practices at community, household and business level	Ongoing	13 Christmas tree recycling sites, tree saplings distributed during National Tree Week, 20 mobile WEEE collections supported, 2 beach awareness events.
	Support and encourage community clean-ups	Number of groups registered with An Taisce National Spring Clean. Number of groups supported outside NSC.	200 groups in total
	Promote the use of social media platforms in highlighting illegal dumping	Ongoing	Use of assets from mywaste.ie on social

	Deliver an efficient and coordinated approach to the enforcement of litter pollution	Work in partnership with Community/Voluntary/Education Sector in educating and raising awareness of the effects of litter on our Environment. No. of meetings, campaigns and initiatives.	968 entrants in Anti-Litter poster competition, Dog Fouling campaign in 4 communities, 150 Anti-Litter ambassadors signed up, Gum Litter campaign supported, signage campaign for roads, pitches and beaches, cinema advert, 3 radio advert campaigns, support Leave No Trace campaign, Anti-Litter stickers on bring banks.
	Work in partnership with the Connacht Regional Waste Management office in disseminating awareness and information of waste management practices and campaigns in all sectors.	No. of campaigns - 31/12/2024	5 Brown bin, Illegal dumping, Cigarette litter, Christmas food waste, "Take a minute" campaign
	Provide financial support and advice to Community/voluntary/ social enterprise sectors in relation to environmental projects	No. of projects/funding - 31/12/2024	2

	Implementation of New Litter Management Plan - 2023 – 2025	Ongoing	Ongoing – 7 Information stands at Opening of Bia Innovation Centre Athenry, Kinvara Market Day, Cruinniu na mBaid, Glenamaddy Agricultural Show, County PPN meeting, Clarinbridge Cairde group, Family Carers of Ireland.
	Deliver an efficient and coordinated approach to the enforcement of litter pollution through completion of the NLMPs Surveys	Q 4	216 Litter Pollution and 56 Quantification Surveys completed by our Community Wardens service as part of this programme in 2024, the results of which have been submitted to Tobins.
	<b>Provide Burial Grounds in association with the Community</b> Acquire new sites for the provision of burial grounds facilities – progress Part 8 Planning applications	Ongoing	Planning progressed for developments in Annaghdown, Kilconieron and Rinvile.
	Complete works on new extensions at Ballyconnelly and Kilbannon	Q3	Completed.
	Engage design consultants for the development of extension to Rinvile Burial Ground	Q2	Planning design completed internally.
<b>Landfills</b>			

	Progress landfill license applications for high-risk historic landfills	Ongoing	License issued for Tullyvooheen (Clifden). Response issued in respect to draft license for Tuam. 5 Certificate of Authorisations for GCC have been submitted to the EPA.
	Perform remediation works and monitoring as required by license for historic landfills	As licenses issue	Environmental monitoring performed per the program requirements on 6 historic landfills.
	Progress amenity development projects at Kilconnell and Pollboy landfills	Ongoing	Part 8 planning submitted for Eco Park in Kilconnell. FI issued which is currently being progressed. Delivered Preliminary Design Report by Brady Shipman Martin to the Ballinasloe MD for an amenity development in Pollboy. Appropriate Assessment and Ecology surveys commissioned.
	<b>Waste Management Services and Infrastructure</b>		
	Renew contract for Glass Collection Service	Q1	Contract renewed for 1 year until Q1 2025.
	Manage inspections and replacements of Bottlebank stock	Ongoing	Inspections (608) carried out by Glassco of GCC bottlebank stock in 2024.
	Renew contract for Civic Amenity Site (CAS) operations	Q4	Contract renewed for 1 year until Q1 2025.

	Participate in Paint Re-use Initiative at Tuam CAS	Q4	Progressed the project with Bru Bhríde the social enterprise promotor including visit to the Rediscovery Centre in Dublin to examine the process. Bru Bhríde are fitting out a facility in their premises for the project. A draft MoU has been prepared.
	Provide business support and attend quarterly meetings of Atchursail Arann	Ongoing	Inis Moir recycling facility was licensed (EPA) and planning permission granted for a new waste transfer facility on Inis Oirr.

Implement statutory and contractual obligations in local abattoirs and small meat manufacturing plants in fulfilment of service contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland.	<p>Comply with Service contract with the FSAI (current service contract expires 28/02/2024). Prioritise inspections of high-risk premises and local abattoirs. Carry out risk assessments on all approved premises with audits completed as per risk assessments. Carry out agreed sampling program in accordance with Service Plan to include residue samples, chemical additive sampling, microbiological sampling. Ongoing monitoring of Welfare and standards in 11 local abattoirs within the counties.</p> <p>Participate in FSAI and LAVS working groups. Attend and participate in Western Regional Zoonosis Working Group Meetings and outbreak control training with other regulatory authorities.</p> <p>Supervise and organise TVI service in local abattoirs, to include implementation of SOPs in light of changing legislation and maintaining existing standards</p>	<p>In line with service contract</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Service contract with the FSAI rolled over to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024. Confirmed in October 2024 that LAVS would transfer to the DAFM with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025.</p> <p>Operating Procedures WG, CCMA Control of Dogs WG, DAFM Cross Agency Control of Dogs WG, Western Zoonoses Regional Committee.</p> <p>103 official control inspections were carried in 2024. VIs inspected 9,507 (bovine, ovine, caprine) in 9 local abattoirs. 2608 Ante and Postmortem sessions carried out on birds in poultry establishments</p>
	Accurate returns completed and returned to FSAI within criteria set.	Ongoing	All returns completed to FSAI via OAPI as per service agreement with FSAI
	Provide training and advisory services to Start Ups and existing Food Business Operators. Liaise with the Councils' Economic, Rural and Community Development Section in regard to food sector development in the region.	Ongoing	Startup advice for small business operators. Continued input into BIA hub in Athenry.



Implement regulatory framework in respect of animal welfare including dog and horse control.	Increase level of dog licencing and microchipping compliance in the county	31/12/2024	1.8% increase in licencing achieved in 2023 with 9,276 licenced purchased in 2024. Door to door licencing/responsible dog ownership campaign carried during the year.
	Oversee operation and management of Council's Dog Shelter	Ongoing	Ongoing management of shelter with high number of dogs still coming through service.
Implement regulatory framework in respect of animal welfare including dog and horse control.	Participate in CCMA led National Dog Control Working Group	Ongoing	Ongoing as required
	Ongoing training for dog wardens/community wardens and review of current SOPS. Protocols in place for interaction with the Council's Housing Section and An Garda Síochána.	Ongoing	XL Bully Identification Training held in October.
	Implement national An Garda Síochána / Local Authority Dog Warden Protocol and continue local liaison with nominated Garda inspectorate	Ongoing	Ongoing as required
	Implement the DBE Act through inspections and risk analysis of registered DBE premises. All complaints of DBE's to be followed up.	Ongoing	All 8 DBEs in the county inspected in 2024. Function to transfer to DAFM from 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2025
	Continue to promote and support initiatives which assist in ensuring responsible dog ownership across the county	Ongoing	Continued support to MADRA's Millies Fund Spay Initiative for female dogs in 2024. Partnered with MADRA on a pilot series, 'Talking Dog' Primary school workshops in schools in Maree and Tuam in December 2024

	Provide advice and assistance to GCC Housing Section regarding the implementation of Control of Horses Act and also in respect of dog control in local authority properties	Ongoing	Regular interaction with Housing section in regard to control of dogs in GCC tenanted properties.
	Provide advice and assistance in regard to Animal Welfare/Horse Control/Marine Mammals. Liaise with other agencies as required. Ensure all complaints received are logged and actioned.	Ongoing	All welfare complaints logged and cross reported to DAFM as appropriate.
	Continue to oversee ongoing upgrade works to the Council's Shelter	Ongoing	Significant work carried out in the shelter in 2024 around improvement of insulation and biosecurity involving flooring works and provision of electrical heaters.
	Provide advice and assistance in regard to Animal Welfare/Horse Control/Marine Mammals. Liaise with other agencies as required. Ensure all complaints received are logged and actioned.	Ongoing	Continued co-operation and support to DAFM as the competent body for Animal welfare queries – All complaints logged and actioned on our database.
	Oversee Large animal pound in line with legislation (Pounds Act) and liaise as necessary with public & external agencies regarding its use e.g. An Garda Siochana, rehoming charities	Ongoing	Ongoing
	Assess all welfare complaints and cross report if necessary to pertinent agency.	Ongoing	Continued assessment of all cases reported and liaison with DAFM as required
	Assist the council in intervening in complex situations where large numbers of dogs are kept at a single property i.e. veterinary involvement in removal, assessment, treatment, rehoming, legal guidance surrounding cases	Ongoing	As required

	Consult with multiple rescue agencies in seeking places for large volumes of stray and unwanted dogs entering the care of Galway County Council	Ongoing	As required-no major cases to report in 2024.
Implement with stakeholders the Galway County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029	Adopt the Climate Action Plan Prioritise the short-term actions in the Adaptation Strategy and work with relevant departments to progress them.	Q1 Ongoing	Completed
	Manage and support the Galway County Council Climate Action Steering Group and Climate Action Team. Support staff to implement actions and develop leaders across the organisation.	Ongoing	5 meetings held of Climate/Energy Teams
	Develop a stakeholder engagement strategy and carry out meaningful engagement with all relevant stakeholders. Develop submissions system.	Ongoing	Submission system developed. Engagement at events across county.
	Work with Decarbonisation Zones Steering Group and implement DzActions	Q4 2024	Stakeholder Group established. Potential projects identified and being pursued.
	Support the SEAI Sustainable Energy Communities Program and the development of Energy Master Plans including the community-led County Level Energy Master Plan.	Ongoing	Several communities supported.
	Implement the Community Climate Action Fund. Assessment of applications from Community Groups under 5 themes, submit selected projects for final validation to DECC, and support communities in receipt of funding to implement projects	Ongoing	Funding allocated for 32 projects. Extensive education and support programme completed.
	Cultivate and actively participate in partnerships with enterprise, community, voluntary sectors, third level institutions and the research community to deliver on initiatives that reduce climate impact including the following projects: PPN Green Recovery Group EMP; CONNECTED; LEAP; EMERGE; Cities4Forests; Shared Green Deal	Ongoing	Work on projects ongoing.

Continue to implement an Energy Efficiency Strategy to deliver a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions to meet National and International obligations.	Manage the GCC Energy Team and support the development and implementation of a prioritised work program to ensure energy targets are met. Maximise on the input from the Regional Energy Bureau and the Energy Bureau Officer in developing and delivering the prioritised work program.	Ongoing	Data management system installed. DEC's completed. ISO50001 documentation developed.
	Build expertise within the GCC Energy Team by identifying training needs and organising relevant training.	Ongoing	ISO50001 training completed for SEUs.
	Support Donegal County Council in developing a Regional EV Strategy.	Q 3 2024	Entering a service level agreement with Donegal CoCo. Sites identified and progressed
	Support the electrification of the fleet procurement requirements	Q3 2024	
	In consultation with the Regional Energy Bureau and regional LAs/CARO reapply for ISO50001	Q4 2024	Postponed to 2025
	Explore and develop opportunities to build and strengthen partnerships with Third Level Institutes promoting cross-sectoral communication and cooperation in the pursuit and implementation of appropriate Energy / Emission Projects.	Ongoing	Work on projects ongoing.
To provide a fire and rescue service focused on protecting its personnel, the public, property and the environment.	Ensure effective response to all emergencies meeting KPI's in terms of "mobilisation" times and "in attendance"	Ongoing	Ongoing
	Ensure ongoing training of Fire Service personnel to keep up to date with new firefighting methodologies, and refresh skills on an ongoing basis.	Ongoing	Continuous training of service and new recruits
	Roll out Fire engineering training for firefighting personnel to give them a greater appreciation of building design and enable them better to understand how fire will develop and how best to halt that development	Ongoing	Continuous training of service and new recruits
To ensure that Major Emergencies can be safely and effectively dealt with in collaboration with our partner Principal Response Agencies (PRA).	Review County Council MEP, train key response personnel and review external emergency plans in accordance with the Framework for Major Emergency Management and the Control of Major Accident Hazards involving Dangerous Substances) Regulations 2015	Rolling cycle	Ongoing

Review and implement Fire and Emergency Operations Plan.	Develop new Fire and Emergency Operations Plan 2023 - 2027	Q2	Ongoing
Implement with stakeholders the Climate Adaption Strategy and develop the Climate Mitigation Strategy within the supports offered by the National Climate Action Plan, National Adaption Framework and Mitigation Plans, and EU funding in Europe 2020.	Investigate the procurement of low carbon emission tools, equipment and vehicles when replacing existing equipment of purchasing new equipment	Ongoing	Ongoing
Continue to pursue reductions in energy use through initiatives such as street lighting replacement, flood management and electric charging point provision.	Public Lighting Replacement programme - tender for P.L. retrofit. Facilitate Mayo Co Co as Lead Authority for the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project regional contract.	Tender award expected in 2024. Award has been delayed by legal challenge to procurement, court judgement awaited	Proceeding with public lighting retrofit under the maintenance contract with an accelerated programme
Minimise impact on the environment from Galway County Council activities including energy efficiency measures and reduced carbon emissions.			
Continue to implement an Energy Efficiency Strategy to deliver a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions to meet National and International obligations.			

Support Uisce Éireann in leak detection and promotion of water conservation to minimise wastage.	All of these supporting strategies are supported by the work of the Councils operations teams in conjunction with Uisce Éireann under the Master Co-operation Agreement and Support Services Agreement.	Ongoing	Ongoing
Protection and Improvement of Water Quality and Catchment Management.			
Secure the sustainable development of the county through the review and implementation of the County Development Plan.	<b>Planning &amp; Sustainable Development:</b> Provide an efficient, effective and equitable planning service.	NOAC Performance Indicator: P4 Cost per Capita	P4: Cost per Capita of the Planning €30
	<b>Planning &amp; Sustainable Development:</b> Ensure that decision-making is carried out in an open and transparent manner that supports public participation and confidence in the planning process.	Update online planning application system within 24 working hours of decision. Avail of the consult.ie platform for all public consultation during 2024.	Issue all planning decisions within the Statutory timeframe Consult.ie availed for public consultations
	<b>Planning &amp; Sustainable Development:</b> Operate a Development Management System in compliance with legislative and policy requirements including the processing of all planning applications, appeals, declarations, extension of duration applications and Part 8's within statutory timeframes.	NOAC Performance Indicator: P2: Number/% of Planning Decisions confirmed by An Bord Pleanála.	63%
	<b>Planning &amp; Sustainable Development:</b> Operate an enforcement system to monitor, investigate and take appropriate enforcement action.	NOAC Performance Indicator: P3: % of Planning Enforcement cases closed as resolved.	2% Legal Proceedings 17% Negotiations 81% Statute Barred trivial minor





Secure the sustainable development of the county through the review of the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) and support the preparation and finalisation of the Galway Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (GMATS).	<b>Planning and Sustainable Development:</b> Complete Local Area Plan for Loughrea Commence the preparation of Local Area Plan for Gort. Engage consultants for the Framework Plan or R2 lands in Caherroyan, Athenry.	Complete within statutory timeframes following commencement of the process. To commence Q2/Q3	Loughrea Local Area Plan adopted Q3 2024.  Review of Gort LAP currently underway. Anticipated to be completed in Q3 2025
	<b>Planning and Sustainable Development:</b> Liaise with National Transport Authority (NTA), Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and Galway City Council in the preparation of the Galway Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (GMATS)	In accordance with relevant timeframes as outlined by the National Transport Authority (NTA).	This work is ongoing.
	<b>Planning and Sustainable Development:</b> Promote awareness of historic buildings and places and the traditional skills and materials necessary to secure their survival into the future.  Apply for funding under the Historic Structures Fund and the Build Heritage Investment Scheme.	Up to 30 Number of funding applications submitted.	Complete 2024  Complete 2024
Protect and maintain the natural environment of the county and implement the actions of our Biodiversity Plan, supported by the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 and subsequent plans.	<b>Planning and Sustainable Development:</b> Place heritage and biodiversity at the heart of public life in the county. This will be achieved through increasing awareness, participation, enjoyment, knowledge and understanding of our shared heritage to lead to its proper conservation, management and protection and safeguarding it for future generations. This will be achieved through the commencement of Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2024 - 2030	Draft Plan completed by December 2024.	Galway County Heritage & Biodiversity Plan 2024 – 2030 adopted by the members of Galway County Council on 16 December 2024.
Protect and enhance the natural and built environment by implementation of our Heritage & Biodiversity Plan.	<b>Planning &amp; Sustainable Development:</b> Advise and promote the built, natural and cultural heritage of the county of Galway. Promote, awareness, knowledge and understanding of our diversity heritage resources with as many stakeholders as is possible. Apply for funding and deliver heritage and biodiversity projects in the county. Promote National Heritage Week and National Biodiversity Week 2024.	10 no. Projects to be undertaken in 2024.	<b>Heritage Projects undertaken:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Galway Community Archaeology</li> <li>2. Galway County Holy Wells Audit 2024</li> <li>3. Digital Mapping of Graveyards</li> </ol>

		<p>10 Project Applications for funding to various Agencies and Departments.</p>	<p>4. Athenry Walled Town Day</p> <p>5. Athenry Capital Works Programme</p> <p>6. Development of Heritage StoryMaps</p> <p>7. Townland Research</p> <p>8. Irish Community Archive Research Project</p> <p>9. BEO Schools Project</p> <p>10.Oral Heritage Training Course</p> <p>11.Oral Heritage Audit – Connemara</p> <p><b>Heritage Office Applications for funding:</b></p> <p>1. Holy Wells Audit – Heritage Council</p> <p>2. Digital Mapping of graveyards – Heritage Council</p> <p>3. Oral Heritage Audit of Connemara – Heritage Council</p> <p>4. Galway Community Archaeologist – Heritage Council</p> <p>5. Athenry Walled Town Day – Heritage Council</p> <p>6. Athenry Town Walls Capital Works Project- Heritage Council</p>
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Ensure provision of safe and sustainable buildings within the county through effective implementation and monitoring of Building Control Regulations.	<p><b>Planning &amp; Sustainable Development:</b></p> <p>To ensure safe and sustainable buildings by meeting the minimum target (12-15%) for inspections within statutory timeframes.</p>	NOAC Performance Indicator: P1: New Buildings Inspected	17.39%

To promote and support use of the Irish language and recognise its unique contribution to the cultural diversity of our county.	<b>Galway Public Libraries:</b> Continued commitment to the provision of services in the Irish language	Proactive purchasing of Irish language books for distribution within the library branch network. Provision of event programming throughout the year in the Irish language. Provision of class novels through the schools' library network.	Achieved
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## Annual Service Delivery Plan 2024

### STRATEGIC GOAL: QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICE

*"To ensure that quality customer service is at the centre of everything we do"*

SUPPORTING STRATEGY	SERVICE PLAN ACTION	TARGET	OUTCOMES
Support the introduction and implementation of ePlanning.	<b>Planning &amp; Sustainable Development:</b> Continue to promote ePlanning to agents and all customers in order to maximise the numbers of planning applications made electronically, providing a quality customer service and achieving operational efficiencies.	Minimum of 80% of relevant planning applications to be submitted via ePlanning during 2024.	83%
Optimise service delivery and customer care through the review and implementation of our Customer Charter and Code of Conduct.	Implement Customer Charter and Code of Conduct	Daily	Ongoing

Review and implement our Customer Services Action Plan.	Continue to implement the Customer Service Action Plan in line with targets as set out in Quality Customer Services Strategy.	Daily	Ongoing
Provide efficient services to our customers both internal and external in an equitable and courteous manner.	Sustain a consistent incoming call answer rate on our Main Phone Number (091) 509000 throughout the working day	Minimum 90% call answer of less than 25 seconds	Achieved
	Acknowledge all correspondence (letter and email)	Within 5 working days	Ongoing
	Endeavour to reply to all correspondence (letter and email)	Within 15 working days	Ongoing
	Number of complaints upheld by the Office of the Ombudsman	Less than 5	Achieved
	Number of followers on Twitter @GalwayCoCo	17,500	16,894
	Number of followers on Facebook (Galway County)	18,000	19,331
	Number of followers on Instagram (@galwaycountycouncil)	1,500	1,609
	Number of followers on LinkedIn	-	2,562
	Number of Website Page Views	1,500,000	1,492,480

# Community: 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 by the Department of Rural and Community Development in October 2023, 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 2024, 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:

- The Corporate Plan 2024-2029
- The Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2030
- Galway County Heritage & Biodiversity Plan 2024 – 2030
- Athenry Local Area Plan 2024-2030
- Climate Action Plan 2024-2029
- Information Leaflet - Oranmore to Train Station Active Travel Scheme
- Notice of Intention by Galway County Council to carry out Development at Parkmore Estate, Dublin Rd., Tuam
- Notice of Intention by Galway County Council to carry out Development at Hillcrest, Loughrea-
- Loughrea Local Area Plan 2024-2030 –
- Proposed Material Alterations Residential Zoned Land Tax Annual Map – 2024
- Ballinasloe R446 Bridge Street junction to Harris Road junction - Active Travel Scheme
- LA02/24 - Part 8 Application for Amenity and biodiversity park to be known as 'East Galway Eco Park
- LA03/24 - Part 8 application for No. 4 Cloonlyon Crescent, Ballygar, Co. Galway
- Junction enhancement schemes to improve safety, along the R446 with the R348 at Derrydonnell
- Install Junction enhancement schemes to improve safety, along the R446 at the junction of L-7107 and L-8101 at Oran Beg (Furey's Cross).
- Noise Action Plan 2024-2028
- LA04/24 Part 8 Application for Development at Barkhill, Woodford, Co. Galway
- Pre-Planning Public Consultation – Ballygaddy Road Park Enhancement, Tuam
- LA-E/03/24 Notice of Intention by Galway County Council to Carry out Development at Moylough, Co. Galway
- LA - E/04/24 Notice of Intention by Galway County Council to Carry out Development at Dunlo Hill, Ballinasloe
- Bus Shelter Enabling Works at Ballymoe, Mountbellew, Moylough, Headford, Craughwell & Moycullen
- Traffic calming at Lakeview Estate, Glennmaddy
- Safe Routes to School Scheme for St Pauls, Oughterard
- Pedestrian Crossing, L4103, Old Limerick Road (near LIDL), Oranmore
- Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) County Galway Bye-Laws No. 1 & No. 2 2024
- Application for Loughrea Fire Station

- Application for Leitir Móir Burial Ground
- Loughrea Long Point Amenity Enhancement Project - Part 10 Planning Application
- Application for Kilconieron Burial Ground Extension
- LA08/24 - Part VIII planning permission for construction of a residential project at Cosmona, Loughrea
- Clifden Public Realm Enhancement Scheme
- Ballinasloe R446 Bridge St junction to Harris Rd junction Active Travel Scheme
- Oranmore to the Train Station Active Travel Scheme
- Portumna Town Trail

## 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:

- The Local Economic and Community Plan was developed with the PPN as the primary engagement mechanism. To enable widespread community engagement, the PPN organised in-person consultation drop-in sessions in each Municipal District, which were supplemented by on-street pop-ups in 10 locations and 10 targeted focus groups sessions. A targeted social media campaign reached 27.1k while the online public survey achieved 540+ responses complemented by a targeted business survey with 139 responses.
- 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.
- 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. During the year, the City and County OPC's held a joint meeting to receive training from Age Friendly Ireland on the role of the OPC and the Age Friendly Programme, and to take part in a joint consultation event on emerging issues for the development of an Age Friendly Strategy for the City and County. The Older



People's Council were also one of the focus groups targeted for consultations on the Local Economic & Community Plan.



*Mary McGann, Age Friendly Programme Manager, addressing a joint meeting of the Galway City and County Older People's Councils on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024*

- 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 took part in national consultations on a LGBTQ+ Strategy, 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, Ukrainian Integration Workers, 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 2024 held in Council Chamber on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024.*

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 2024, 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
Joint Policing Committee	7
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 and supports, supports for Community Gardens, Men's & Women's Sheds, New Communities, etc.
- Empowering Communities Programme: measures included direct door-to-door engagement in areas with highest levels of deprivation, measures to combat anti-social behaviour, environmental awareness events, and 'Alternative Dispute Resolution' supports.

- Healthy Ireland Fund: measures included Health & Wellbeing events, Playground Stencils project, Active Parks and sporting equipment initiative, Community Garden Grant Scheme, and Men's Health and Women's Health Events.
- 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:

- Galway Sports Partnership play a central role in promoting participation in sport and physical activity among the residents of County Galway. Across National Play Day and Bike Week alone, approximately 4,000 people took part in physical activities.
- Our Heritage Office developed a range of training for Heritage Groups and Heritage Practitioners across the County including 6-week Oral Heritage Course, social media training, and smartphone filmmaking & video editing.
- Our Environment Department partnered with dog rescue charity MADRA on a pilot series, 'Talking Dog' Primary School Workshops, to provide a series of educational and fun, dog focused workshops to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class students in Galway County Schools. The workshops support the Department of Rural and Community Development's (DRCD) focus on promoting responsible dog ownership throughout Ireland and aim to educate children about responsible dog ownership and learn how to communicate effectively with dogs. The programme was piloted successfully in December 2024 in primary schools in Maree and Tuam and we plan to roll it out in conjunction with MADRA to more schools across the County in 2025.
- As part of the Anti-Dumping Initiative 2024, the Council initiated a pilot project around the reuse of school uniforms in a number of schools in Loughrea. The Environment Section worked with these schools to reduce the number of school uniforms that are disposed of unnecessarily, with support provided in the provision of clothing rails, storage means and cleaning costs. Another project that caught the public's attention was the Bikes for Africa project. The public donated bikes that they no longer required, and Galway County Council arranged for the bikes to be repaired and shipped to Africa for reuse.
- Galway County Council carried out two information evenings in conjunction with the Farmer's agriculture advisors regarding farm inspections carried out by the local authorities detailing farmers requirements, what to expect regarding a farm inspection, commons breaches found on farms. The information evenings also incorporated advice to house owners regarding septic tanks and issues regarding poorly maintained systems and the use of licenced contractors for de sludging.
- Our Community Department coordinated a Healthy Islands project where staff from the Community Department, Housing Grants Section, Library Service, Healthy Galway, Galway Sports Partnership, HSE Health & Wellbeing and the Irish Men's Shed Association, visited the 4 offshore islands to provide information on services and to engage with older people on the range of social & leisure activities available. This resulted in a targeted Social & Leisure Pack being made available to community facilities on each island, in addition to targeted

funding towards sports equipment and physical activity programmes, community gardening and other community activities which would sustain social & leisure activities in the future.

- The Age Friendly Programme partnered with the Irish Hospice Foundation and the Decision Support Service to provide “Putting Your House in Order” information sessions in Ballinasloe and Oughterard, providing information on Wills, Enduring Power of Attorney, and other arrangements to manage personal, medical and legal affairs into the future.
- Your Council Day 2024: Our Customer Services team on July 5<sup>th</sup> hosted ‘Your Council Day 2024’ 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!
- The Galway County Network of Tidy Towns Groups is established as a Linkage Group within the PPN which enables targeted information from a range of Departments to be forwarded to all Tidy Towns Groups. Cross-departmental engagement took place with all Tidy Towns Groups at a Networking Meeting held at the Burren Nature Sanctuary, Kinvara, on 9<sup>th</sup> March hosted by Kinvara Tidy Towns. The purpose of this meeting was to enable Tidy Towns Groups to network and consult on common issues and identify solutions of mutual benefit.
- The PPN worked with the Community and Rural Development Team to assist in roll out of series of Webinars regarding funding schemes throughout 2024 including how to transfer or use new on-line Grants Platform – hosted by Submit.com -as groups transition to making funding applications to Galway County Council On-Line.
- Our Roads Department engaged with local disability organisations and older people’s facilities and groups in identifying locations for Bus Shelters at Indreabhán and Casla. In addition to ensuring the best location to

promote accessibility, the bus shelters were also rotated 180 degrees to protect users against the prevailing south westerly winds, thereby maximizing user comfort at these facilities. This focus on social inclusion, connectivity and accessibility, resulted in this project winning the National Age Friendly Transport Award at the National Age Friendly Awards Ceremony held in November 2024.



*Galway County Council staff being presented with the National Age Friendly Transport Award by Department of Transport and Marty Whelan MC*



## Housing

### Community Engagement: Vacant Homes Information Events Jan – Dec 2024:

The Vacant Homes Officer attended information events across the five Municipal Districts in 2024. The information events were held in conjunction with Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), Galway Chamber of Commerce and the Public Participation Network (PPN) to promote the schemes available to bring vacant properties back in to use. Information was provided on the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, the Local Authority Home Loan scheme, the Disabled Persons Grant, the Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant and the Mobility Aids Grant. Information events were held in Clarinbridge, Tuam, Ballinderreen, Lawrencetown, Lackagh, St. Thomas' in Kilchreest, Clifden, Gort, Furbo, Inis Mór and Inis Meáin.



*Information event in Clifden hosted by Connemara Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with Galway County Council, SEAI, Local Enterprise Office (LEO) on the 22nd of April 2024.*

*The VHO attended the Cruinniú Chinn Bliana de Comharchumann Forbartha Árann, Inis Mór, held in the Ionad IT Eognacht on Inis Mór on the 10th of September 2024.*



*The VHO and a member of the Housing Grants team attended the Galway County Public Participation Network "PPN Plenary Winter Event" held on the 19th of November 2024 in the Connemara Coast Hotel (Furbo).*



*Information event held in Lackagh on the 05th of April 2024 in conjunction with the launch of the Energy Master Plan for County Galway and with the SEAI and the PPN. The information event was attended by the then Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform, Paschal Donohue.*





*Information event held in Ionad Pobail in Inis Meáin on the 16th of May and in the Co-Op Office/Comhar Caomhán in Inis Mór on the 23rd of May in conjunction with Age Friendly Ireland and HSE Health & Wellbeing as part of the Healthy Islands Project.*



*Information event held in Ballinderreen on the 04th of April 2024 in conjunction with the launch of the Energy Master Plan for County Galway and with the SEAI and the PPN.*



*Launch of the Gort Streetscape Scheme on the 25th June 2024*

## 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 2024, as follows:

No.	Location of social housing development	Description	Dates
1	Cloonlyon Crescent, Ballygar	1 residential unit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rebuild of fire damaged house</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part 8 lodged 07-06-2024</li> <li>Submissions end 22-07-2024</li> <li>Part 8 approved at Ballinasloe M.D.</li> </ul>
2	Barkhill, Woodford	2 residential units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part 8 lodged 19-07-2024</li> <li>Submissions end 02-09-2024</li> <li>Part 8 did not proceed.</li> </ul>
3	Cosmona, Loughrea	56 residential units <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>44 houses</li> <li>12 apartments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part 8 lodged 18-10-2024</li> <li>Submissions end 02-12-2024</li> <li>Part 8 approved at Loughrea M.D.</li> </ul>

## Community Engagement Libraries

### A.L.L. Strategy work

Adult Literacy for Life (ALL) is a 10 year, whole-of-government and society strategy dedicated to addressing the unmet literacy, numeracy and digital literacy needs for people across Ireland. Galway Public Libraries in association with GRETB are at the forefront of delivering the ALL strategy by providing access to drop-in digital skills sessions for those you may need them. Four libraries, Oranmore, Tuam, Athenry and Loughrea facilitated a tutor for one morning a week who worked with people and addressed their digital literacy needs. We provided access to a laptop or people can brought their own device for help. Sessions were busy and ran from Spring to Autumn inclusive. Feedback is universally positive, and tutors and library staff are dedicated to enabling people to fully engage with society through enhanced digital skills.



### Healthy Ireland at Your Library

Galway Public libraries delivered the nationwide Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme that has established libraries as a valuable source within the community for health information. Funding granted by Healthy Ireland has enhanced health and wellbeing book collections (digital and hardcopy), and provided for staff training, events, and promotion.



## Programming:

The Healthy Ireland at Your Library Programme for 2024 identified key themes for programme delivery and worked in conjunction with strategic partners to develop and deliver talks, workshops and events on the following themes:

- Bone and Pelvic Health
- Stroke and cardiac disease
- Healthy eating and eating habits for improved heart health
- Pilates for fall prevention
- Understanding Autism
- Exam stress and pressure on students
- Healthy Ageing
- Managing burn-out

The Spring programme launched with events in Leabharlann na Ceathrún Rua, Tuam Library and Gort Library. These events were delivered by Aoife Ní Eochaidh who was focusing on bone and pelvic health in both men and women. The workshops also provided opportunities to carry out exercises to strengthen core muscles and improve posture. Podiatrist Marie Hegarty spoke about all things foot-related over two Saturday sessions in Westside Library. The community outreach of the Spring programme of Healthy Ireland at Your Library included workshops and programmes in Moylough Library. Becca Dorsett from Croí delivered an interesting talk about how to manage life after a stroke or cardiac event. This was part of a suite of talks from Croí on stroke and cardiac disease.



Dietitian Aisling Harris hosted an information session on healthy eating and eating habits for improved heart health as well as addressing cholesterol. Sessions continued with Marie Hegarty; and Pilates classes focusing on fall prevention strategies.

Ballinasloe Library hosted a talk in April on "Understanding Autism: A guide for parents of a child who is waiting for a diagnosis or who has been diagnosed with autism".

Michael Ryan (MA/MIACP) delivered a presentation on "Supporting Students at Exam Times". He gave lots of helpful hints and ideas to keep calm and maintain focus for students and their parents/guardians.

## Spring Into Storytime

Spring into Storytime is a part of the Right to Read Initiative and aims to get children of preschool and range of primary school ages interested in books through interactive storytelling sessions. Developing an interest in reading is incredibly beneficial for children, with studies showing it can improve not only their literacy skills but also help them develop their imagination and creativity.





All libraries throughout Galway participate in events, story times and workshops. They also facilitate class visits and offer preschoolers opportunity to explore books, learning and fun.

Storytimes in Ballybane Library have developed into a cultural celebration with multilingual activities, stories and songs now taking place on a weekly basis. This is building on previous engagement within the community and now provides an opportunity for all the community to celebrate their heritage. Programming in the new MakerSpace also reflects the diversity of the community with everything from mask making to rock painting – there is something for everyone. Baby Rhyme Time in partnership with Music Generation Galway City continues to gather big numbers and these sessions run in the three city libraries as part of the Early Years Programme.



Teddy Bear's visit to Loughrea library with storytime and crafts for preschoolers, who brought their teddies to the library to hear stories and then make a "I visited the library today" badge and certificate for their teddies.



## Age Friendly Initiatives

As part of the ongoing Age Friendly Initiatives in our libraries, Westside Library trialled drop-in digital literacy sessions with the Age Friendly Ambassador. These one-to-one sessions allowed participants the chance to learn how to use our vast repertoire of online resources such as Borrow Box, Transparent Languages and Universal Class.

Galway City Library launched a new Scrabble event for older people. This is supported by Cope Galway.



## Positive Ageing Week

27 local heroes across Galway city and county shared their inspirational stories for this year's #PositiveAgeingWeek, which ran from September 30th to October 6th. This year's theme is 'Challenging Ageism – Reframing how we think, feel and act towards ageing and older persons.'

This Positive Ageing Week we celebrate and honour the older people in our lives and the amazing contribution they make to our communities.

Two of the local heroes from Galway County are friends and patrons of Galway Public Libraries. Mrs. Patricia Egan from Derrybrien provided cups of tea and refreshments to the mobile library staff over many years.



*Mrs. Mary Mannion is a great advocate for the library service and is very active in local community groups in Moylough.*



## Age Friendly Seating

Galway City Library opened its new Age-Friendly seating area, with Katie Fahy from Galway City Council and Joan Kavanagh from the Older Persons' Council. This new seating area was funded by the DRCD in conjunction with the Age Friendly Programme.



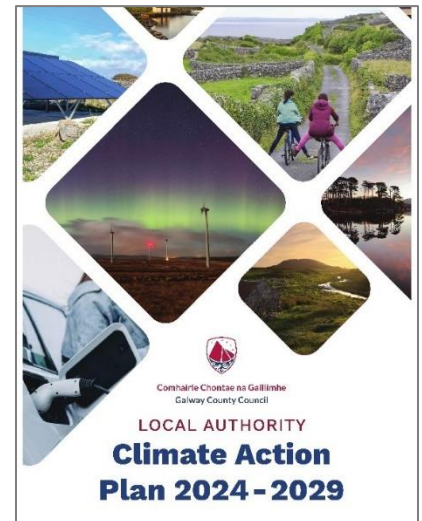
# Climate Action

## Governance and Staff Resources

The Climate Unit supports and coordinates the extensive Climate Action work ongoing across the organisation through the Climate Action Steering Group, Energy Team and Climate Action Team.

## Climate Action Plan

Following extensive consultation with staff, community groups, sectoral representatives and elected representatives, the Galway County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 was adopted in February 2024. It includes 107 actions to be implemented across the local authority.



## 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 2024, Galway County Council had retrofitted 364 homes, which equates to approximately 12% of our total stock. This work included the removal of fossil fuel heating systems and the installation of heat pumps and solar panels. This has resulted in increased comfort and reduced energy bills.



## Decarbonisation Zone – Oileáin Árann

The three islands of Oileáin Árann were identified as the Decarbonisation Zone for County Galway. Projects supported include:

- **Clean Energy for EU Islands:** This initiative provides a long-term framework to help islands generate their own sustainable, low-cost energy. Galway County Council supported successful applications for both the Aran Islands and Inishbofin under the *30 islands for 2030* programme. The secretariat is now providing significant technical and organisational support in relation to the clean energy transition.
- **Local Energy Agencies in Peripheral Regions LIFE funded project:** The Climate Unit are on the steering group for this project through which the GFI Local Energy Agency was established to support home retrofitting projects in Connemara and the Islands. Partners include Údaras, ATU and a number of Local Authorities.

## Community and Enterprise

*Community Climate Action Fund:* Following an extensive awareness and education campaign, 32 projects, to the value of €762,000, received funding under the Community Climate Action Fund 2024. Work is ongoing to complete the projects which include building upgrades, solar panels, bike repair stations, swap shops and community gardens.



*SEAI's Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) Program:* Under SEAI's Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) Program, the Climate Unit has engaged with several SECs to support the development of their Energy Master Plans (EMPs).

*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 participated in events throughout the county including Clifden, Tuam, Ballindereen, Laurencetown, Lackagh, Kinvara, Glenamaddy, Inis Oirr and Moycullen with inputs from SEAI, Housing Section, Planning Section, LEO and Community Section.



*Tidy Towns Network Meeting*

*Climate Action Conversations in the Community:* Jacinta Barrins, a former UN resident co-ordinator and CEO of the 60plus Climate Drive organisation, has developed a training programme for the over 60's age group which were rolled out at events across the county supported by Galway County Council.

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## Internal Energy use

Energy Consumption for Galway County Council is approximately 17GWh per annum with 42% for electricity, 37% for transport and 21% for thermal heating, equivalent to 4,679 tonnes greenhouse gas emissions.

Expenditure on energy is approximately €2.5 million per annum, which equates to approximately 2% of the Annual Budget. Work is ongoing to reduce energy use across the organisation and there is an overall downward trend in consumption. A significant project under this programme is the retrofitting of the public lighting system with low energy LED lighting. The % LED has increased from 35% in December 2021 to 77% in December 2024.

An Energy Management System is being developed with the aim of achieving ISO 50001 certification. An automated Data Collection System was put in place in Q4 2024 which will support analysis of energy use within the organisation.

## Adaptation

The Climate Unit were involved in developing and supporting the national Protect Our Dunes awareness campaign. Damage to sand dunes is evident all around the coast and the campaign aims to highlight the importance and fragility of these natural coastal protections and important habitats.

The Fire and Emergency Services Department continued to roll out the Severe Weather Management System with a view to developing a robust National System to respond to climate and other events.

## Green Public Procurement

The Climate Unit is involved in a collaboration with ATU as part of the Cities4Forests program, which seeks to establish mutually beneficial connections between European municipalities and tropical forest communities. The outcomes from the project have included the development of a draft Green Public Procurement Strategy for Galway County Council and the design and construction of outdoor furniture for Clifden Town by ATU students/apprentices using conservation timber from partner forests to raise awareness of the importance of the sustainable procurement of wood. A number of pieces were exhibited at Áras an Chontae to support awareness raising.



## Active Travel

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. Projects that are currently being progressed include:

- TA Bus Stop/Shelter Re-enhancement Programme
- NTA Bus Connects
- NTA Cycle Connects
- TII Greenways, Active Travel & National Cycle Network
- Ballinasloe R446 Bridge Street junction to Harris Road junction Active Travel Scheme
- Oranmore to the Train Station Active Travel Scheme
- Local Transport Plans and Community Transport Studies
- Safe Routes to Schools Projects

## 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 was carried out in 2024, which included:

- The Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2024 -2030 was adopted in December 2024.
- No Mow pilot plot in Rinvile Park
- 200 successful applications to the Hare's Corner Project
- Sustainable Gardening Workshops for Tidy Towns Groups

Projects totaling €161,624 were supported through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund and the County Biodiversity Plan Fund.



# Strategic Policy Committees & Municipal District Reports

## 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 2020-2024

During the period 2020-2024, 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 2020-2024	Elected Members	Sectoral Representations	Committee Total	Number of Meetings held Jan - June 2024	Items considered & progressed
Housing	7	4	11	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vacant Homes Action Plan 2024 to 2029</li> <li>Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 to 2029</li> <li>Affordable Housing</li> <li>Housing Delivery Action Plan</li> </ul>
Economic Development & Enterprise	6	4	10	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Local Economic &amp; Community Plan</li> <li>Update on the Development of a Tourism Strategy for Galway</li> </ul>
Planning, Environment, Agriculture & Emergency Services Community	7	4	11	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residential Zoned Land Tax</li> <li>Development Contribution Waiver</li> <li>Online PrePlanning system</li> <li>Galway Metropolitan Area Plan</li> </ul>
Transport & Infrastructure	7	4	11	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft Noise Action Plan, National Speed Limit Review</li> </ul>
Community & Cultural Development	6	4	10	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> </ul>



SPC Scheme 2020-2024	Elected Members	Sectoral Representations	Committee Total	Number of Meetings held Jan - June 2024	Items considered & progressed
Climate Change & Biodiversity	6	4	10	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Climate Action Funding, Consultation Draft Heritage and Biodiversity Plan</li> </ul>

### Strategic Policy Scheme for the period 2025-2029

SPC	Director	Meetings Administrator
Housing	Michael Owens	Brendan Kelly
Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning	Liam Hanrahan	Eileen Keaveney
Physical Development Transportation & Emergency	Uinsinn Finn	Geraldine Byrne
Community, Irish Language, Gaeltacht, Tourism & Integration	Jackie Carroll & Eileen Ruane	Mary McGann
Environment Protection & Agriculture	Jackie Carroll	Denise Feeney
Climate Action, Biodiversity & Heritage	Uinsinn Finn & Liam Hanrahan	Anne Power

In September 2024, following the Local Elections, the new Council developed and adopted a new Strategic Policy Scheme for the period 2025-2029. The new committees were formed in Quarter 4 2024, as outlined below:

## Housing

### Membership

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 met in November and December 2024 undertaking significant work on a number of areas and received several presentations and updates on various areas of work. These included the following:

- 'Housing for All' & Housing Delivery Action Plan
- Vacancy Activation Programme
- Disposal of Derelict Housing Stock – Review
- Differential Rent Review - Update
- Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 – 2029
- Housing Capital Programme - Borrowing Requirement

- Draft West Region Homelessness Action Plan 2025-2027
- Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and Disabled People
- Social Housing Supply & Demand Update incl. Summary Social Housing Assessments 2024
- Affordable Housing – Update

## Economic Development & Enterprise & Planning

### Membership

Title + Name	Sector
Chairperson Mary Hoade	Galway County Council
Cllr Shelly Herterich Quinn	Galway County Council
Cllr Michael Connolly	Galway County Council
Cllr Daithi O Cualain	Galway County Council
Cllr PJ Murphy	Galway County Council
Cllr Donagh Mark Killilea	Galway County Council
Cllr Michael Maher	Galway County Council
Mark Green	PPN
Aodán Mac Donnacha	PPN
Colm Ryan	Development/Construction
Stephen Canavan	Agriculture/Farming

### Summary of items considered and progressed

The Economic Development & Enterprise & Planning SPC met on two occasions 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
- Development Contribution Waiver Scheme
- Online Preplanning System
- Galway Metropolitan Area Plan
- County Development Plan Update
- Local Area Plan Update

## Physical Development, Transportation & Emergency Services

### Membership

Title + Name	Sector
Chairperson Pádraig Mac An Iomaire	Galway County Council
Cllr Peter Feeney	Galway County Council
Cllr Peter Roche	Galway County Council
Cllr Albert Dolan	Galway County Council
Cllr Michael Connolly	Galway County Council
Cllr Louis O'Hara	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 presentations on the Draft Noise Action Plan 2024–2028 and the ongoing Speed Limits Review. The Noise Action Plan had gone through public consultation and will be finalised in November 2024, with reporting to the EPA due in January 2025. Members raised concerns about noise thresholds, funding, and the impact of infrastructure such as the Moycullen Bypass. On speed limits, members discussed the implementation of 30 km/h zones, especially in urban and residential areas, with some concerns about practicality and enforcement. A work programme was circulated to guide future agenda planning, and a meeting calendar was agreed, with the next meeting scheduled for March 2025. Under AOB, members welcomed the Chief Fire Officer who provided an update on the fire service resources and capital upgrade of fire stations and appliances.

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## Community, Irish Language, Gaeltacht, Tourism & Integration

### Membership

Title + Name	Sector
Chairperson Cllr. Seamus Walsh	Galway County Council
Cllr Noel Thomas	Galway County Council
Cllr Alan Harney	Galway County Council
Cllr Evelyn Parsons	Galway County Council
Cllr Shane Curley	Galway County Council
Cllr Michael Leainde	Galway County Council
Cllr Máirtín Lee	Galway County Council
Paul Dillon	Community/Voluntary
Chika Onyia	Social Inclusion
Mr. Paul Carey	Development/Construction
Ms. Colleen Baxter	A Business/Commercial

## Summary of items considered and progressed

One meeting of the newly elected Community, Irish Language, Gaeltacht, Tourism & Integration SPC took place on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024. This was an introductory meeting for the new members. Much of the work undertaken in 2024 will contribute to the ongoing community and integration development of Galway and will continue to be priority actions over the coming years as per the newly agreed LECP.

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## Environment Protection & Agriculture

### Membership

Title + Name	Sector
Chairperson Cllr. James Charity	Galway County Council
Cllr. Andrew Reddington	Galway County Council
Cllr. Geraldine Donohue	Galway County Council
Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag	Galway County Council
Cllr. Cillian Keane	Galway County Council
Cllr. Dermot Connolly	Galway County Council
Mr. Henry Walsh,	Agriculture/Farming
Mr. Noel Finnegan,	Community/Voluntary

Mr. Kevin O’Crowley,	Environment/Conservation
Ms. Elaine Murphy,	Business/Commercial

## Summary of items considered and progressed

There was one meeting held post Local Elections on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

Summary of items considered at this meeting:

- Welcome and Introductions
- Receive presentation on overview of the Environment Protection and Agriculture functional areas.
- Work Programme 2025
- Schedule of Dates for Meetings 2025

## Climate Action, Biodiversity & Heritage

### Membership

Title + Name	Sector
Chairperson Cllr Martina Kinane	Galway County Council
Cllr Tomás Grealish	Galway County Council
Cllr. Paul Killilea	Galway County Council
Cllr. Ivan Canning	Galway County Council
Cllr. Ollie Turner	Galway County Council
Mr. Stephen Canavan	Agriculture / Farming
Ms. Justine Delaney	Business / Commercial
Mr. Vincent Lyons	Community / Voluntary – Replaced Nov 2024
Ms. Hazel Morrison	Community / Voluntary
Mr. Peter Butler	Environment / Conservation

## Summary of items considered and progressed

**Climate Action:** At the SPC meeting, it was highlighted the committee's key role in the adoption of the Climate Action Plan in early 2024 and emphasised the importance of meeting adaptation and mitigation targets by 2030, including reducing both council and public emissions. It was stressed the need for strong community engagement, particularly through the Community Climate Action Fund, and announced plans to develop green and wood public procurement policies. The Committee members also expressed interest in addressing coastal erosion.

# 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 2024 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 2024, Members approved the Declaration of several roads to be made Public Roads under Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 for the following:

- Tudor Vale, Oranmore
- Cluain Glas, Athenry
- Ard Esker, Athenry
- Hazel Court, Oranmore,
- Ash Haven, Oranmore
- Oran Island, Oranmore

At the March Meeting, the Municipal District Schedule of Works, which included the Roads Programme 2024, 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 25th of June 2024 and Cllr. Feeney was elected Cathaoirleach, for 2024-2025 Cllr. Dolan was elected as Leas Cathaoirleach.

The Municipal District Budget Meeting was held on the 15th of October 2024 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 Athenry Local Area Plan for 2024-2029 was approved at the January meeting.

Presentations were made on Active Travel and the Anti-Litter Ambassador programme during the year. There were two Deputations made to the Athenry MD Members, by Clonboo Tidy Towns Committee and Claregalway National School Management.

## The Municipal District of Ballinasloe

Municipal District	Director	Meeting Administrator
Ballinasloe	Jacqueline Carroll	Mary McGann



The Members of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held 13 meetings during 2024, including a Budget Meeting, Annual General Meeting, and a Special Meeting to consider the Annual Schedule of Works for the Ballinasloe Municipal District.

At the Special Meeting held on 5th March, the Schedule of Works for the Municipal District was approved by the Members in accordance with Section 103A of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended). The Members also considered and approved the Annual Roadworks Programme for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe with an annual allocation for restoration improvements and restoration maintenance.

At the Annual General Meeting held on 26th June, Cllr. Michael Connolly was elected as Cathaoirleach and Cllr. Dermot Connolly was elected Leas-Cathaoirleach.

At the Budget Meeting held on 16th October, the Members approved the draft budgetary plan for Ballinasloe Municipal District setting out how the General Municipal Allocation of €10,106,146 will be spent in 2025, in accordance with Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014. The Members also received a briefing on the new LPT Discretionary Capital Fund focused on leveraging funding for large-scale capital and infrastructural projects for the Municipal District.

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

- Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme
- Bus Stop and Shelter Upgrade Programme, National Speed Limit Review of Local Roads
- Housing Development at Dunlo Hill
- Kilconnell Eco Park
- County Galway Tourism Strategy
- Community Alert Programme, Seniors Alert Scheme
- Local Community Safety Partnership
- Local Authority Integration Team
- Local Economic and Community Plan consultation process
- Anti-Litter Ambassador Programme
- Funding Schemes such as THRIVE, Just Transition Fund, Community Recognition Fund, Community Support Schemes

During 2024, the Members received the following Deputations:

- Ballyforan Greenway Committee on development of a footpath linking the Greenway Carpark to the bridge on Ahascragh Road L3406
- Ballinasloe Social Services and Family Resource Centre on development of a Community & Family Resource Centre in Ballinasloe

During 2024, the Members held Civic Receptions for the following:

- Williamstown, to mark their achievement as Runner-Up of the 0-300 population category at the All-Island Pride of Place Competition.



- Nicola Ward, to mark her achievement in being named All Stars Player's Player of the Year 2024.

In accordance with the Roads Act 1993, the Municipal District of Ballinasloe declared 6 roads to be public roads. These roads were located at: Forest View Ballygar; Bovinion Mountbellew; Moylough More; Woodview Crescent Clonberne; Carrowntober East Glenamaddy; Glentaun Creagh Ballinasloe.

The Members considered and approved a report under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 for development of 1 no. house at Cloonlyon Crescent, Ballygar.

## The Municipal District of Conamara

Municipal District	Director	Meeting Administrator
Conamara	Uinsinn Finn	Ita Martyn



In 2024, the members of the Municipal District of Connemara held ten meetings, including an Annual Meeting and a Budget Meeting. On 5th March 2024, the members approved the Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2024, which encompasses the Roads Programme and the Environment, Housing, Recreation, and Amenity Schedule of repairs and maintenance for the district.

The Annual General Meeting took place on 25th June 2024, where Councillor Tom Welby was elected as Cathaoirleach and Councillor Gerry King was elected as Leas Cathaoirleach for the year 2024.

Additionally, Galway County Council was honoured with the Age Friendly Transport Award for the Cnoc (Indreabhán) and Casla Bus Shelters, recognising their commitment to enhancing transport facilities for older residents.

On 8th November 2024, Údaras na Gaeltachta delivered a presentation at An Crumpán Community Centre, Carraroe, outlining plans for the development of a town centre in Carraroe. This initiative is being undertaken in collaboration with the Galway County Council Regeneration Team.

In accordance with the Roads Act, 1993 the Municipal District of Connemara declared five roads to be public roads in 2024.

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

- Roads Programme 2024
- Flooding/Clifden Flood Relief Scheme
- Declaration of roads to be public roads
- Taking in Charge
- Water Quality
- Caravan Parking
- Draft Beach By-Laws/Lifeguards/Public Facilities
- Causeways
- Burial Grounds
- Piers & Harbours

- Road Safety/Hedge Trimming/Cold Weather response
- School Safety
- Connemara Greenway/Active Travel
- Coach Parking Oughterard/Bus Shelters
- Pedestrian Crossings

Members received presentations on the following:

- Connemara Greenways
- Coastal/Marine Projects
- Bus Stop Enhancement Programme
- Local Economic and Community Plan
- Clifden Flood Relief Scheme
- National Speed Limit Review
- Anti-Litter Ambassador Programme
- N59 Projects
- Provision of Bus Shelters
- A report on investment by Uisce Eireann in Connemara Area
- Bus Parking Oughterard
- Active Travel Programme
- Clifden Regeneration Scheme

## The Municipal District of Loughrea

Municipal District	Director	Meeting Administrator
Loughrea	Eileen Ruane	Denise Feeney

The Municipal District of Loughrea encompasses the towns of Loughrea, Portumna, Gort, and their surrounding areas. In 2024, the Municipal District held 11 monthly meetings (on the second Monday of each month, excluding August), 2 Special Meetings, 1 Annual General Meeting, and 1 Budget Meeting.



At the Special Meeting on March 5th, the Members approved the Schedule of Works for the Municipal District and considered the Annual Roadworks Programme.

During the Special Meeting on September 30th, the Members discussed the Strategic Infrastructure Development Report concerning the proposed development at Coolpowra.

At the Annual General Meeting on June 27th, Cllr. Martina Kinnane was elected as Cathaoirleach, and Cllr. Geraldine Donohue was elected as Leas Cathaoirleach.

At the Budget Meeting on October 14th, the Members reviewed and approved the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Loughrea under Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014. Additionally, the Members received a briefing on the new LPT Discretionary Capital Fund, which focuses on leveraging funding for large-scale capital and infrastructural projects within the Municipal District.

During 2024, 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 2024
- Roads Programme 2024
- Housing Capital Programme
- Flooding
- Declaration of roads to be public roads
- Taking in Charge
- Greenway
- Part 8 Planning Reports, Part 8 Loughrea Fire Station
- Illegal dumping / bring banks / Anti-Litter Ambassador Programme
- Burial Grounds
- Update on Litter Management Plan 2023-2025
- Speed Limit Reviews
- Town Hall Loughrea
- Active Travel
- Gort Town Team Presentation on Rural Regeneration Development Fund
- Local Link
- Revise Standing Orders of Hybrid meetings

During 2024, the Members received the following Deputations:

- St Brigid’s College, Loughrea - students presentation on Globe Traffic, “Our Idlying Campaign”.
- Fr. Paddy Callanan and Michael O’Grady - presentation in relation to Hennelly’s Junction, Gort.
- Disability Parking Bays in Loughrea
- Danesfort Resident
- Kinvara Community Council on Traffic Management in Kinvara

The members of the Municipal District of Loughrea agreed to take in charge the following roads during 2024:

- Gort na Ri, Gort
- The Orchard Gort
- An Gairdín Cuil Estate, Loughrea

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

- Planned Active Travel Development South of Ballinderry on the N67.
- The Loughrea Fire Station.

### The Municipal District of Tuam

Municipal District	Director	Meeting Administrator
Tuam	Michael Owens	Geraldine Byrne



The Municipal District of Tuam held 11 monthly meetings, (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month, excluding August), 3 Special

Meetings, 1 Annual General Meeting and 1 Budget Meeting during 2024.

At the Special Meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February, the Members discussed the Part 8 application for Shambles Car Park, Tuam.

The members approved the Schedule of Works for the Municipal District at the Special Meeting held on the 5th of March. The Members also considered and approved the Annual Roadworks Programme for the Municipal District of Tuam.

On the 15th of May, a special meeting was held to discuss the windfarm development at Laurclavagh.

At the Annual General Meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June, Cllr. Peter Roche was elected as Cathaoirleach and Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag was elected as Leas Cathaoirleach.

At the Budget Meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October, 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. The members also received a briefing on the new LPT Discretionary Capital Fund focused on leveraging funding for large-scale capital and infrastructural projects for the Municipal District.

During 2024, 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 2024
- Roads Programme 2024
- Housing Capital Programme
- Declaration of roads to be public roads
- Extinguishment and Abandonment
- Taking in Charge
- Part 8 Planning Reports:
- Anti-Litter Ambassador Programme
- Burial Grounds
- Road Safety/Hedge Trimming
- Update on Litter Management Plan 2023-2025
- Speed Limit Reviews
- Windfarms
- Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)
- Active Travel
- Revise Standing Orders of Hybrid meetings

During 2024, the Members received the following Deputations:

- Tuam Community Council
- Young Carer's – Family Cares Ireland
- Student Safety – Dublin Road
- Reimagine Tuam
- Palace Grounds – Dog park proposal

The members of the Municipal District of Tuam agreed to take in charge the following roads during 2024:

- Friars Walk Estate, Dunmore

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

- Proposal for the development of an extension to an existing Burial Ground at Kilbannon
- Active Travel development in Abbeyknockmoy

# 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 2024 exceeded €181million.

## Annual Financial Statement 2024

The Annual Financial Statement 2024 gives an overview of the financial position of Galway County Council at 31st December 2024. The 2024 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%. For the first time, Galway County Council has agreed to increase the LPT by 15% over 5 years. This will generate a cumulative amount of nearly €12 million in funding, with an impact of less than €1 per week for 90% of households. This modest increase will positively affect work programmes and projects across the County. The funding will enhance core services, support staffing numbers, and increase the availability of match funding for specific projects.

Table 1: Impact of LPT rate increase on households

Effect of 15% Adjustment		
% Household	Per Annum	Per Week
43% household	€13.50pa	€0.26pw
29% household	€33.75pa	€0.65pw
18% household	€47.25pa	€0.91pw
Average final 10% household	€65.50pa	€1.26pw

## Increased Cost of Business (ICOB) and Power Up Scheme Benefit

As part of Budget 2024, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment introduced an ICOB scheme for small and medium enterprises impacted by increased operating costs. Galway County Council staff worked closely with the commercial rate payers to ensure this grant reached as many qualifying businesses as possible. As a result, 1,808 businesses across County Galway received funding which totalled €6,034,168. The Power Up Grant Scheme was launched in October 2024 and a further €4,416,000 was paid to commercial businesses. These monies support local communities by sustaining businesses and employment.



## Annual Rate on Valuation

On 9 December 2024, the Elected Members approved a Rates Payment Incentive Scheme for local businesses. As a result, Commercial Rates will increase by €2 per week for 90% of rate customers, generating an additional €2.4 million annually for public projects and services across County Galway. This is the second-rate increase since 2009 and will support increased staffing and enhanced services in line with the Corporate Development Plan, demonstrating Galway County Council's commitment to expanding and improving core services for its citizens.

## Motor Taxation

The number of motor tax transactions carried out by Galway County Council motor tax offices in 2024 was 58,076. Over €9.5m was taken in by Galway Motor Tax Offices for this period.

Approximately 84.5% of total motor tax transactions for the Galway area were carried out online in 2024. 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 vehicles. Trade plates, trailer licences, replacement documents are also issued and Garda queries and other Local authority queries i.e., S103s and CT53s are also processed.

## 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 2024 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 €1.440 Million was collected under the Council's Section 48 Development Contribution scheme in 2024.

The Government introduced the Temporary Time-Limited Waiver in respect of Development Contributions for all residential developments that commence on or after 25th April 2023 and on/before the 31st of December 2024. The developments must be completed by 31st December 2026. A sum of €8.347 Million was claimed to date from the Department and paid to date is €5.868 Million.

## Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997

The Council operates to the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) Framework. In 2024 this area supported all sections as expenditure across all directorates reached a level in excess of €181m. Galway County Council abides by the

requirements of the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997. In excess of twenty-six thousand invoices were subject to PPI assessments, with less than 0.09% subject to PPI.

Every local authority can vary the basic rate of local property tax (LPT) by up to +/-15%. For the first time, Galway County Council has agreed to increase the LPT by 15% over 5 years. This will generate nearly €12 million in funding, with an impact of less than €1 per week for 90% of households. This modest increase will positively affect work programmes and projects across the County. The funding will enhance core services, support staffing numbers, and increase the availability of match funding for specific projects.

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18% household	€47.25pa	€0.91pw
Average final 10% household	€65.50pa	€1.26pw

# Risk Management

Galway County Council's Risk Management policy complies with statutory, governance, and accountability obligations and is endorsed by the CCMA. The policy provides a practical approach to risk management, aligning with ISO 31000:2018 principles and guidelines.

Galway County Council defines risk as "the possible loss or other adverse consequence that has the potential to impact on a local authority's ability to achieve its objectives and fulfil its mission." Our effective Risk Management System identifies and assesses risks, decides on appropriate responses, and provides assurance on the effectiveness of these responses.

Galway County Council is committed to identifying, assessing, and mitigating risks, ensuring ongoing review and improvement through quarterly reviews by the Management Team.

The Corporate (Strategic) Risk Register is the highest-level risk register for Galway County Council and lists the most serious risks affecting the Council, including significant risks from a legal and regulatory perspective that may prevent achieving strategic objectives. Risks identified in the Corporate (Strategic) Risk Register may also be included in unit risk registers to embed a strong corporate governance culture.

The following 9 risks were included in our Corporate (Strategic) Risk Register in 2024:

- Safety, Health, and Welfare at Work
- Information Security: Cyber Risk Management
- Data Protection: GDPR Compliance
- Child Safeguarding
- Public Sector Duty
- Budgetary Control, Compliance with Procurement Policy, Fraud Prevention
- Service Provision
- Local Government Funding
- Workforce Planning

During 2024, we successfully identified, procured, and implemented a comprehensive risk management system across the organisation. This system will bring several key benefits, including enhanced quarterly reviews, streamlined reporting, and improved decision-making processes. By providing a structured approach to risk management, we are better equipped to anticipate and mitigate potential risks. We will continue to embed and refine this system to ensure its effectiveness and alignment with our strategic goals.

# Conclusion

In conclusion, this annual report highlights our strategic objectives, major achievements, and overall performance throughout the 2024 year. We have made significant progress in various areas, thanks to the dedication and hard work of our staff, our members and the support of our community.

For more detailed insights into our operational effectiveness, please refer to the Monthly Management Reports to Plenary, available on our website at <https://www.galway.ie/en/services/yourcouncil/corpdocs/>. We remain committed to transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement as we move forward.

As we look ahead to 2025, our commitment to achieving our vision and mission remains steadfast and we aim to realise our goals through a series of interconnected objectives.



To support these goals, the Council will implement a variety of supporting strategies, guiding our functions as outlined in the Annual Service Delivery Plans and the schedule of Municipal District works.

Our overarching objective is to embark on a business transformation process. This transformation will drive us towards becoming an ambitious organisation, fully dedicated to achieving our vision and mission.

Together, we will strive to create a more efficient, effective, and forward-thinking Council, ready to meet the challenges and opportunities of the year ahead.

# Appendices



## Appendix 1: 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 2024, 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 Equivalent (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 NOAC Annual Performance Indicator Report for 2023 marks the tenth publication by the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC). This comprehensive report evaluates the performance of local authorities across Ireland based on 45 indicators under the 11 headings.

#### Key Highlights:

**Overall Performance:** The report provides an in-depth analysis of local authorities' performance in areas such as housing, roads, water services, waste/environment, and economic development.

**Improvements and Challenges:** It highlights both improvements and ongoing challenges faced by local authorities, aiming to enhance transparency and accountability.

Galway County Council's performance across the Performance Indicators (PIs) can be reviewed in the report available on NOAC's website at <https://cdn.noac.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/20240918-NOAC-PI-Report-2023-1.pdf>.

The 2024 Performance Indicators will be submitted to NOAC by Galway County Council in April 2025, with NOAC's Annual Performance Indicator Report for 2024 expected to be published in September 2025.

## Appendix 2 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
Cllr. Andrew Reddington	26.09.2022 to 21.06.2024

Northern & Western Regional Assembly Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Tim Broderick	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. David Collins	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. Joseph Sheridan	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. Mary Hoade	21.06.2024
Cllr. Eileen Mannion	21.06.2024
Cllr. Peter Feeney	21.06.2024

Athenry Heritage and Tourism Co. Ltd. Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. David Collins	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. Albert Dolan	21.06.2024 to 16.12.2024
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. Liam Carroll	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. Alan Harney	21.06.2024

Loughrea Heritage Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Michael 'Moegie' Maher	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. PJ Murphy	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024

<b>Local Authority Members Association (LAMA) Committee</b>	<b>Membership Date</b>
Cllr. Tim Broderick	23.10.2023 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. Shane Curley	21.06.2024

<b>Galway &amp; Roscommon Education &amp; Training Board (Formerly VEC) Committee</b>	<b>Membership Date</b>
Cllr. Shane Curley	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. Mary Hoade	28.02.2022
Cllr. Michael “Moegie” Maher	07.06.2019
Cllr. Dr. Evelyn Francis Parsons	25.09.23 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. Peter Roche	07.06.2019 to 16.12.2024
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

<b>Western Inter-County Rail Committee</b>	<b>Membership Date</b>
Cllr. Michael Connolly	07.06.2019
Cllr. Eileen Mannion	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. Alastair McKinstry	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. PJ Murphy	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. Joseph Sheridan	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. PJ. Murphy	21.06.2024
Cllr. Cillian Keane	21.06.2024
Cllr. Peter Feeney	21.06.2024
Cllr. Louis O’ Hara	21.06.2024 to 16.12.2024
Cllr. Martin Mc Namara	16.12.2024

<b>Regional Health Forum Representation, West Committee</b>	<b>Membership Date</b>
Cllr. Liam Carroll	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. Dr. Evelyn Francis Parsons	27.07.2020
Cllr. Donagh Killilea	07.06.2019
Comh. Dáithí Ó Cualáin	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. Peter Roche	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe	21.06.2024
Cllr. Eileen Mannion	21.06.2024
Cllr. Alan Harney	21.06.2024

<b>Joint Policing Committee</b>	<b>Membership Date</b>
Cllr. Jim Cuddy	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. Joe Byrne	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. Liam Carroll	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. James Charity	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. Shelly Herterich Quinn	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. Mary Hoade	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024

Cllr. Colm Keaveney	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. Gerry King	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Comh. Pádraig Mac an Iomaire	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. Michael “Moegie” Maher	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag	13.02.2024 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. Steven Mc Hugh	25.09.2023 to 13.02.2024
Cllr. PJ Murphy	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. Declan Geraghty	27.03.2023 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. Andrew Reddington	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. Peter Roche	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024

<b>Galway Rural Development Company Committee</b>	<b>Membership Date</b>
Cllr. Martina Kinane	26.06.2017 to 22.07.2024
Cllr. Peter Roche	26.06.2017 to 16.12.2024
Cllr. Michael Connolly	22.07.2024
Cllr. Andrew Reddington	16.12.2024

<b>Forum Conamara Ltd. Committee</b>	<b>Membership Date</b>
Cllr. Seamus Walsh	21.10.2019
Cllr. Eileen Mannion	29.06.2020
Cllr. Thomas Welby	28.05.2018

<b>Comhar na nOileán Teoranta Committee</b>	<b>Membership Date</b>
Comh. Pádraig Mac an Iomaire	21.10.2019

<b>Governing Authority of National University of Ireland, Galway Committee</b>	<b>Membership Date</b>
Cllr. Eileen Mannion	25.01.2021 to 21.06.2024

<b>Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee</b>	<b>Membership Date</b>
Cllr. Shelly Herterich Quinn	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. Gerry Finnerty	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. Shane Curley	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. Michael “Moegie” Maher	07.06.2019
Cllr. Peter Roche	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. Liam Carroll	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. Tim Broderick	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
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. Gerry King	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. Joe Byrne	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. Tim Broderick	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
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. Gabriel Cronnelly	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. Thomas Welby	21.06.2024

Local Community Development Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Noel Thomas	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Comh. Pádraig Mac an Iomaire	07.06.2019
Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly	28.02.2022 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. James Charity	21.06.2024
Cllr. Michael Connolly	21.06.2024

Audit Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Liam Carroll	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. James Charity	07.06.2019 to 21.06.2024
Cllr. Mary Hoade	21.06.2024
Cllr. Ollie Turner	21.06.2024

Road Safety Together Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Shelly Herterich Quinn	25.11.2019 to 21.06.2024
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
Comh. Pádraig Mac an Iomaire	28.11.2022 to 16.12.2024
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	The Finance Act 2023	Celtic Conferences	12 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 in Carlingford, Co. Louth	1
2	The First Home Scheme – Helping Homeowners get on to the property ladder	Celtic Conferences	23 <sup>rd</sup> - 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 in Carlingford, Co. Louth	1
3	A Practical Guide to Personal Taxation in Ireland	Celtic Conferences	1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2024 in Cork	2
4	Suck Valley Way Conference 2024	Suck Valley Way	13 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2024 in Roscommon	3
5	La Touche Legacy Seminar	Greystones Golf Club	20 <sup>th</sup> - 21 <sup>st</sup> September 2024 in Wicklow	1
6	Budget 2025	Celtic Conferences	11 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> October 2024 in Carlingford, Co. Louth	2
7	Corporate Governance	Celtic Conferences	23 <sup>rd</sup> - 24 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 in Clonakilty, Co. Cork	1
8	Health Services Entitlements	Celtic Conferences	12 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2024 in Clonakilty, Co. Cork	1

### Training Events attended by Elected Members

	Training Event	Organised By	Venue & Date	Attendees
1	LAMA Spring Seminar	LAMA	19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 in Donegal	6
2	AILG Module 1 – Elected Members Briefing – Annual Declarations, Donations, Code of Conduct & Local Representation Allowance Update	AILG	25 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 in Dundalk	5
3	Women’s Caucus	AILG	30 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 in Sligo 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2024 in Sligo	3
4	Association of Irish Regions Training (AIR)	AIR	7 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 in Limerick	3
5	Annual Training Conference	AILG	14 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 in Wicklow	7
6	Women’s Caucus	AILG	5 <sup>th</sup> March 2024 in Dublin	2



<b>7</b>	Module 2 – Local Election 2024 Preparation – A Briefing from the Electoral Commission	AILG	21 <sup>st</sup> March 2024 in Kilkenny 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2024 in Athlone	2 2
<b>8</b>	Bachelor of Science in Quality	ATU	Sept. 2023 – May 2024 in Galway	1
<b>9</b>	AILG Elected Member General Induction Training	AILG	11 <sup>th</sup> July 2024 in Mullingar 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2024 in Cork	8 2
<b>10</b>	AILG Autumn Training Seminar	AILG	11 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> September 2024 in Monaghan	10
<b>11</b>	AILG Module 4 – Overview of the Planning System	AILG	28 <sup>th</sup> September 2024 in Tullamore	7
<b>12</b>	Women’s Caucus	AILG	15 <sup>th</sup> October 2024 in Sligo	2
<b>13</b>	LAMA Autumn Training Seminar	LAMA	17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2024 in Navan	8

## Elected Members Expenses

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.	Total
Broderick Tim	14,176.03	3,290.04	400.00					393.50			18,259.57
Byrne Joe	14,176.03	2,348.42	296.80			2,884.63					19,705.88
Canning Ivan	29,725.10	5,580.96	960.00								36,266.06
Carroll Liam	14,176.03	1,533.67	400.00	11,954.08							28,063.78
Charity James	29,725.10	2,473.89	960.00			3,000.01	3,000.01				39,159.01
Collins David	29,725.10	3,881.61	2,316.11					816.42			36,739.24
Connolly Dermot	29,725.10	7,003.50	960.00			2,976.93					40,665.53
Connolly Michael	29,725.10	4,997.85	960.00				3,000.01				38,682.96
Cronnelly Gabriel	14,176.03	2,396.42	400.00								16,972.45
Cualáin Dáithí Ó	14,176.03	2,476.39	2,017.83					287.31			18,957.56
Cuddy Jim	14,176.03	1,408.42	400.00								15,984.45

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.	Total
Cunniffe Shaun	15,667.07	2,736.59	560.00								18,963.66
Curley Shane	29,725.10	5,389.33	1,338.33					2,122.51			38,575.27
Curraoin Tomás Ó	29,725.10	3,014.25	960.00					911.94			34,611.29
Dolan Albert	28,564.73	4,116.04	4,119.61	11,146.21							47,946.59
Donohue Geraldine	29,725.10	7,117.30	2,993.55								39,835.95
Feeney Peter	15,667.07	2,183.75	560.00				3,000.01				21,410.83
Finnerty Gerry	29,725.10	4,353.56	2,492.74								36,571.40
Geraghty Declan	29,725.10	7,505.75	-511.82 <sup>1</sup>				3,000.01				39,719.04
Grealish Tomás	15,667.07	1,196.32	560.00								17,423.39
Harney Alan	15,667.07	3,900.48	2,538.00								22,105.55
Herterich Quinn Shelly	14,176.03	2,012.92	400.00					525.24			17,114.19
Hoade Mary	29,725.10	4,998.31	770.67			2,976.93		3,029.56	255.46	2,450.00	44,206.03
Keane Cillian	15,667.07	1,766.64	560.00					721.15			18,714.86
Keaveney Colm	14,176.03	2,108.24									16,284.27

<sup>1</sup> Overpayment for 2023

<sup>2</sup> Top up payment for 2023

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 Allowance	Total
Keaveney Peter	29,725.10	7,462.59	960.00								<b>38,147.69</b>
Kelly, Declan	29,725.10	7,634.97	1,794.60								<b>39,154.67</b>
Killilea Donagh Mark	29,725.10	5,277.29	264.04			3,000.01	3,000.01	733.76			<b>42,000.21</b>
Killilea Paul	15,667.07	2,460.24	560.00								<b>18,687.31</b>
Kinane Martina	29,725.10	2,765.35	2,862.30			3,000.01	3,000.01	501.52			<b>41,854.29</b>
King Gerry	28,588.66	7,408.43	960.00					758.82			<b>37,715.91</b>
Lea inde Michael	15,667.07	2,913.94	2,256.99								<b>20,838.00</b>
Lee Máirtín	15,667.07	3,652.14	560.00								<b>19,879.21</b>
Mac An Iomaire Padraig	29,725.10	5,636.35	960.00			3,000.01					<b>39,321.46</b>
Maher “Moegie” Michael	29,725.10	3,887.30	764.65			3,000.01		1,213.03	2,322.97		<b>40,913.06</b>
Mannion Eileen	29,725.10	8,018.99	776.55								<b>38,520.64</b>
McClearn Jimmy	29,725.10	7,043.99	1,697.82				3,000.01	2,100.72			<b>43,567.64</b>

<sup>1</sup> Overpayment for 2023

<sup>2</sup> Top up payment for 2023

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 Allowance	Total
McHugh Farag Karey	29,725.10	3,854.59	1,074.16			2976.93		1,500.00			<b>39,130.78</b>
McHugh Steven	4,066.58	686.58	400.00			830.77					<b>5,983.93</b>
McKinstry Alastair	14,176.03	1,581.68	400.00			2,884.63					<b>19,042.34</b>
Murphy PJ	29,725.10	4,176.56	3,920.00								<b>37,821.66</b>
O'Hara Louis	14,506.70	1,685.00	560.00								<b>16,751.70</b>
Parsons, Evelyn Dr.	29,725.10	7,203.63	960.00		2,769.24						<b>40,657.97</b>
Reddington Andrew	29,725.10	5,935.35	6,461.50 <sup>2</sup>					338.54			<b>42,460.49</b>
Roche Peter	28,564.73	5,419.79	960.00			2,976.93	2,769.24	1,282.82	461.40		<b>42,434.91</b>
Sheridan Joseph	14,176.03	3,258.92	400.00					304.73			<b>18,139.68</b>
Thomas Noel	29,725.10	3,482.77	1,522.29				3,000.01				<b>37,730.17</b>
Turner Ollie	15,667.07	3,435.36	560.00		3,138.48			424.44			<b>23,225.35</b>
Walsh Séamus	29,725.10	3,770.64	960.00			3,000.01					<b>37,455.75</b>
Welby, Thomas	29,725.10	4,519.65	1,263.65				3,000.01	1,999.85			<b>40,508.26</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,159,907.93</b>	<b>202,962.75</b>	<b>61,270.37</b>	<b>23,100.29</b>	<b>5,907.72</b>	<b>36,507.81</b>	<b>29,769.33</b>	<b>19,965.86</b>	<b>3,039.83</b>	<b>2,450.00</b>	<b>1,544,881.90</b>

<sup>1</sup> Overpayment for 2023

<sup>2</sup> Top up payment for 2023

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**Payments made to non-Elected Members of Local Authority Committees**

Committee	Amount paid
Joint Policing Committee	€78.25

## Appendix 3: 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 <b>enable</b> implementation of the Duty:
Corporate Plan 2025 – 2029	None to report yet	The Duty's implementation is integrated into the Council's planning cycle. The Annual Service Delivery Plan from 2025 on will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tags plans, policies, programmes, and strategies for equality and human rights impact</li> </ul>	None	-	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidance: was issued to all staff on their obligations under the Duty</li> <li>Mentoring: for 10 Staff involved in the Corporate Plan process on</li> </ul>



		assessments under Section 42(1). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifies plans, policies, and actions addressing equality and human rights issues under Section 42(2).</li> </ul>				implementing the Duty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tools Developed and issued to staff: 1 - Public Sector Duty Impact Assessment Template was developed and provided to units to assist them in meeting their obligations.</li> </ul>
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### 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 <b>under Section 42(1):</b>	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, <b>under Section 42(2):</b>	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?
None	-	-	Age Friendly Initiatives	Due to improved access and the introduction of mobility aids and adjustable seating	Increased participation

				Social clubs for older people	Scrabble clubs in city locations
			Healthy Ireland Programming / older persons	Utilizing community profiles and feedback: Focus on bone health, Falls and prevention, cardiac disease and stroke, chair yoga	Improved attendance with many waiting to participate in workshops
			A.L.L. Strategy programming to address digital literacy	Provision of drop-in digital skills sessions in four main libraries. Equipment was provided and expert training offered on a one-to-one basis	Positive Engagement from communities showcasing a community need and interest in additional supports.
<b>Planning Unit</b>					
<b>Section 42(1) Developments and Achievements</b>			<b>Section 42(2) Developments and Achievements</b>		
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 <b>under Section 42(1):</b>	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, <b>under Section 42(2):</b>	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?
Galway County Council Heritage & Biodiversity Plan 2024 - 2030	Policies were shaped to better reflect the needs and perspectives of	<b>Broader Participation:</b> Successfully engaged a broader range of	This plan was developed, drafted and adopted by Galway County Council on the 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2024.	Enhanced Participation and Representation:	This plan was developed using a new inclusive approach regards to

	diverse groups within the county	groups and individuals resulting in the development of a more inclusive plan.		Increased Involvement of marginalised and underrepresented groups have been actively involved in the planning and decision-making processes, ensuring their voices are heard and considered. Diverse Perspectives: The inclusion of diverse perspectives has enriched the planning process, leading to more comprehensive and inclusive policies	public consultation, some which was done through innovative art workshops. Specific engagement was held with the following: Members of the Traveller Community, Primary and Secondary School students, members of the Gaeltacht Community, the Ukrainian Community, people with intellectual disabilities, an active retire group and an island community.
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## Housing

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 <b>under Section 42(1):</b>	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, <b>under Section 42(2):</b>	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?
Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 -2029	The establishment and inclusion of additional shared values in	A set of structural, process and outcome indicators were	Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Twice yearly information sessions with</li> </ul>

	<p>motivating the work of the Galway County Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee included in the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 -2029.</p>	<p>developed and agreed in relation to the Equality and Human Rights Statement included in the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 - 2029.</p>	<p>The Public Sector Duty is integrated into the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 –2029. The review and development of an updated Equality and Human Rights Statement and Public Sector Duty was completed in collaboration with the members of the Local Traveller Consultative Committee and was facilitated by Dr Padraic Kenna, Director of Centre of Housing Law, Rights &amp; Policy, School of Law, University of Galway.</p>	<p>The review and development of Equality and Human Rights Statement and review of Public Sector Duty was completed in collaboration with the members of the Local Traveller Consultative Committee and was facilitated by Dr Padraic Kenna, Director of Centre of Housing Law, Rights &amp; Policy, School of Law, University of Galway.</p>	<p>Traveller primary care workers on social housing applications and reviews.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual training for Galway County Council staff delivered in collaboration with the Traveller representative organisations.</li> <li>• Feedback form developed to ascertain the experience of Travellers who have taken up tenancies in Traveller specific accommodation.</li> </ul>
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## 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 <b>under Section 42(1):</b>	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, <b>under Section 42(2):</b>	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?

None	-	-	Age Friendly Transport Award for the Cnoc (Indreabhán) and Casla Bus Shelters – joint project between Community & Rural Development & Physical Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Improved Accessibility:</b> More comfortable and accessible bus shelters.</li> <li>• <b>Enhanced Mobility:</b> Safer and convenient transport access for older adults.</li> <li>• <b>Community Inclusion:</b> Increased sense of inclusion and respect</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Collaborative Planning:</b> Emphasis on stakeholder collaboration</li> <li>• <b>Sustainable Development:</b> Integration of inclusive principles in projects</li> </ul>
			Galway County Council Arts Programme 2024 committed to promoting equality and human rights through various initiatives. Professional development opportunities for artists with disabilities and Traveller artists. Multiple arts participation projects led by professional artists collaborating with members of the public focused on supporting people with disabilities, older people, Travellers and refugees to engage in meaningful arts experiences.	Enhanced opportunities for creative expression, cultural exchange, and professional development among the identified groups.	Improved support and engagement in arts programs, fostering inclusivity and community collaboration. Further research and potential programming in arts participation and disability.

## 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 <b>under Section 42(1):</b>	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, <b>under Section 42(2):</b>	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?
None	-	-	Age Friendly Transport Award for the Cnoc (Indreabhán) and Casla Bus Shelters – joint project between Community & Rural Development & Physical Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Improved Accessibility:</b> More comfortable and accessible bus shelters.</li> <li>• <b>Enhanced Mobility:</b> Safer and convenient transport access for older adults.</li> <li>• <b>Community Inclusion:</b> Increased sense of inclusion and respect</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Collaborative Planning:</b> Emphasis on stakeholder collaboration</li> <li>• <b>Sustainable Development:</b> Integration of inclusive principles in projects</li> </ul>

## Appendix 4: Principal Officers/Council Offices

<b>Chief Executive:</b>	<b>Liam Conneally</b>
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### Housing

<b>Director of Services:</b>	<b>Michael Owens</b>
Senior Executive Officers, Housing:	Ger Scully Karen O'Donnell
Administrative Officer, Housing:	Angela Spelman Nuala Heffernan John Waters
Senior Social Worker:	Kieran Keon
Senior Engineer:	Damien Mitchell
Senior Executive Engineers:	Kevin Murphy Eithne Murphy Daithi Flood

### Physical Infrastructure, Fire & Emergency Services and Climate Change

<b>Director of Services:</b>	<b>Uinsinn Finn</b>
Administrative Officers, Roads:	Edel Hourigan Geraldine Byrne
Climate Change Co-Ordinator:	Christina Ryan
Administrative Officer, Climate Change:	Denise Feeney
Administrative Officer, Fire Services/Civil Defence:	Maurice Headd
Senior Engineers:	Sean Devaney (acting) Rachel Lowe Tom Prendergast
Senior Executive Engineers:	Sean Breathnach Aengus Breathnach Enda Gallagher Derek Troy Gerard Haugh Paraic Breathnach John Coyle Paula Higgins Sean Whelan Stephen Lally (Acting) TJ Redmond (Acting)
Chief Technician:	Enda Thompson John Maloney
Senior Engineer, Water Services:	Fergal O'Sullivan (Acting) Eoin McHugh (Acting)



	Martina Connaughton Mike Sheil Anne Marie Johnston
Safety Advisor/Health & Safety Officer:	Joanne King (Acting)

## Area Engineers

Municipal District Ballinasloe:	Paul Batty Philip McLynn
Municipal District Loughrea/Portumna:	Gerard Haugh
Municipal District Loughrea (Gort):	Niall Kennedy
Municipal District Athenry/Oranmore:	Peter Gavin
Municipal District Tuam:	John Coyle
Municipal District Conamara:	T.J. Redmond
Civil Defence Officer:	Brendan Qualter

## Fire Services

Chief Fire Officer:	Gerry O'Malley
Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officers:	Gearoid Blake Antony Travers Joseph Kelly Paul G. Duffy

## Planning & Economic Development

<b>Director of Services:</b>	<b>Liam Hanrahan</b>
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
Senior Executive Engineer, Urban & Rural Regeneration:	Ronan Conway

## Rural & Community Development, Integration & Environment

<b>Director of Services:</b>	<b>Jackie Carroll</b>
A/Senior Executive Officer:	Kieran Coyne

Administrative Officer, Environment:	Maria Flynn
Administrative Officer, Rural, Community Dev & Integration:	Eimear Dolan Mary McGann Theresa Donohue
Senior Executive Engineer, Environment:	Mike Melody
Arts Officer:	Sharon O'Grady
Sports Co-Ordinator:	Andrew McBride
County Veterinary Inspector:	Joanne Perry Darragh Kavanagh

## Finance, Motor Tax, ICT & Digital Transformation

<b>Director of Finance:</b>	<b>Katie O'Connor</b>
Head of Information Systems:	Michael Martyn
Financial Accountant:	Áine Fenton
Management Accountant:	Michael McGovern
Administrative Officers Finance:	Martha Duddy Margaret Jordan
Administrative Officer Motor Tax:	Ita Martyn

## Corporate Services, Human Resources, City & County Libraries

<b>Director of Services:</b>	<b>Eileen Ruane</b>
Senior Executive Officer Corporate Services:	Jean Brann
A/Senior Executive Officer Corporate Services:	Liadhan Keady
Senior Executive Officer, Human Resources:	Niamh Farrell
Administrative Officer, Human Resources:	Sinead Monaghan
Administrative Officer, Corporate Services:	Breege Lynn
Administrative Officer, Corporate Services:	Sharon Lawless
County Librarian:	Elizabeth Keane
Senior Executive Librarians:	Josephine Vahey Meliosa McIntyre Siobhan Arkins
Buildings & Facilities Manager:	Kevin Finn
Law Agent:	Robert Meehan
Senior Executive Solicitors:	Angela Casey Anne McCormack Dermot Caslin
Executive Solicitors:	Michael O'Doherty
Internal Auditor:	Eibhlin Curran



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

# Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe

## Galway County Council

www.galway.ie/www.gaillimh.ie \* www.twitter.com/galwaycoco \* www.facebook.com/galwaycounty  
email: customerservices@galwaycoco.ie

<p><b>OPENING HOURS</b> Monday to Friday 9:00am – 4:00pm</p> <p><b>OFFICE LOCATION</b> <b>Headquarters</b> <b>Áras an Chontae,</b> <b>Prospect Hill,</b> 091509000 <b>Galway</b> <i>The following offices are located in Áras an Chontae</i></p> <p>Housing Applications .....091 509200 Housing Loans &amp; Grants .....091 509301 Human Resources .....091 509303 Motor Taxation .....091 509099 Planning .....091 509343 Roads, Transportation &amp; Marine .....091 509309 Rates .....091 509171 Register of Elector .....091 509310 Freedom of information &amp; Access to Information on the Environment .....091 509319 Casual Trading .....091 509225 Local Enterprise Office .....091 509090</p>	<p><i>The following offices are located at Centrepont, Liosbaun, Tuam Road Galway</i></p> <p>Environment .....091 509510 Water Services .....091 509505 Community &amp; Enterprise .....091 509521 Business Response Unit .....091 509521 Arts Office .....091 509521 Social Inclusion .....091 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><b>AREA OFFICES</b> Athenry/Oranmore .....091 509088 Ballinasloe .....091 509074 Conamara South .....091509060</p>	<p>Conamara North .....091 509095 Tuam 091 509011 Gort 091 509065 Portumna .....090 9741019 Loughrea .....091509166</p> <p><b>FIRE BRIGADES</b> Athenry, Ballinasloe, Clifden, Galway City, Gort, Inis Mór, Loughrea, 999 or 112 Mountbellew, Portumna and Tuam Civil Defence Officer .....091 570940</p> <p><b>LIBRARIES</b> Headquarters, Galway .....091 509388 Galway City Branch .....091 509594 Ballybane..... 091 509244 Westside .....091 509091 An Cheathrú Rua .....091 595733 Athenry .....091 845592 Ballinasloe .....090 9643464 Ballygar .....090 66249199 Clifden .....095 21092 Dunmore .....093 38923 Eyrecourt .....090 9675056</p>	<p>Glenamaddy .....094 9659734 Gort .....091 631224 Headford .....093 36406 Inis Meáin .....099 73126 Inis Oírr.....099 75154 Inishbofin .....095 45891 Killimor .....090 9676062 Kilronan .....099 20937 Leenane .....095 42920 Letterfrack .....091 742666 Loughrea .....091 847220 Moylough .....090 9679072 Oranmore .....091 792117 Oughterard .....091 557002 Portumna .....090 9741261 Roundstone .....095 35518 An Spidéal .....091 504028 Tuam .....093 24287 Woodford .....090 9749887</p>
<p>Tá míle fáilte roimh chomhfhreagras agus ghnó l nGaeilge gaeilge@cocogaillimh.ie</p>			

## Appendix 5: Acronym's list

Acronym	Meaning
ABP	An Bord Pleanála
AC	Audit Committee
ACA	Architectural Conservation Area
ADI	Anti-Dumping Initiative
AEC	Atlantic Economic Corridor
AECO	Atlantic Economic Corridor Officers
AFS	Annual Financial Statement
AGS	An Garda Síochána
AHBs	Approved Housing Bodies
AIE	Access to Information on the Environment
AILG	Association of Irish Local Government
AIR	Association of Irish Regions
ALL	Adult Literacy for Life
AOB	Any Other Business
ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
ATU	Atlantic Technological University
AV	AudioVisual
BCP	Broadband Connection Point
BEO	Beo (alive)
BER	Building Energy Rating
BIA	Bia (food)
BMS	Building Management System
C&D	Construction and Demolition
CALF	Capital Advance Leasing Facility
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CARO	Climate Action Regional Office
CAS	Capital Assistance Scheme
CAS	Civic Amenity Site
CBH	Community Based Housing
CBRN	Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear
CCMA	County and City Management Association
CCTV	Closed-Circuit TeleVision
CE	Chief Executive
CEP	Community Enhancement
CLÁR	Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais
CLG	Company Limited by Guarantee
ClIr	Councillor
CMS	Collections Management System
CNN	Comhairle na nOg
CPG	Corporate Policy Group
CPOs	Compulsory Purchase Orders
CSS	Community Support Scheme
DAC	Designated Activity Company

DAFM	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
DBE	Dog Breeding Establishment
DEC	Display Energy Certificate
DECC	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
DECO	Deco Paint Regulation Certification (Paints, Varnishes, Vehicle Refinishing Products and Activities)
Dept	Department
DoHLGH	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
DoT	Department of Transport
DPIA	Data Protection Impact Assessment
DRCD	Department of Rural and Community Development
DTTAS	Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport
EAS	Employee Assistance Service
EEPs	Emergency Exercise (or Evacuation) Plans
EI	Enterprise Ireland
ELVs	Emission Limit Values
EMPs	Energy Master Plans
EOI	Expression Of Interest
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESRI	Economic and Social Research Institute
EU	European Union
EV	Electric Vehicle
EVAC	Evaluation and Approvals Committee
FH	Family Housing
FI	Further Information
FLAG	Fisheries Local Action Group
FMS	Financial Management System
FOI	Freedom Of Information
FRS	Flood Relief Scheme
FSAI	Food Safety Authority of Ireland
GCC	Galway County Council
GCRR	Galway City Ring Road
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
GMATS	Galway Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy
GRETB	Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board
GSP	Galway Sports Partnership
GTS	Galway Transport Strategy
H&S	Health and Safety
HAP	Housing Assistance Payment
HIF	Housing Infrastructure Fund
HQ	Headquarters
HR	Human Resources
HSE	Health Service Executive
IA	Intelligence Artificielle
ICOB	Increased Cost Of Business
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDA	Industrial Development Agency

IPA	Institute of Public Administration
IPAS	International Protection Accommodation Services
IPB	Irish Public Bodies
IS	Information Systems
JPC	Joint Policing Committee
KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
LA	Local Authority
LAMA	Local Authority Members Association
LAP	Local Area Plan
LAVS	Local Authority Veterinary Service
LAWPRO	Local Authority Waters Programme
LCC	Local Coordination Centre
LCDC	Local Community Development Committees
LECP	Local Economic and Community Plan
LED	Light Emitting Diodes
LEO	Local Enterprise Office
LGBTQ+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, and others
LGMA	Local Government Management Agency
LMS	Library Management System
LPT	Local Property Tax
MA	Master of Arts
MADRA	Mutts Anonymous Dog Rescue and Adoption
MD	Municipal District
MEDC	Major Emergency Development Committee
MEM	Major Emergency Management
MEP	Major Emergency Plan
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MTR	Mortgage To Rent
NBI	National Broadband Ireland
NDFEM	National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management
NIS	Natura Impact Statement
NLMPS	National Litter Pollution Monitoring System
No	Number
NOAC	National Oversight and Audit Commission
NPF	National Planning Framework
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
NSAI	National Standards Authority of Ireland
NSC	National Spring Clean
NTA	National Transport Authority
NTFSO	National TransFrontier Shipment Office
OAPI	Official Agency Premises Inspection
OGP	Office of Government Procurement
OPC	Older People's Council
OPW	Office of Public Work
ORIS	Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme
p.a	Per Annum

PAT	Portable Appliance Testing
PE	Population Equivalent
PMG	Project Management Guidelines
PMP	Preventive Maintenance Programme
PPI	Prompt Payment Interest
PPN	Public Participation Network
PRA	Principal Response Agencies
PRI	Producer Responsibility Initiative
PV	PhotoVoltaic
Q	Quarter
RAS	Rental Accomodation Schemes
RBCs	Rotating Biological Contractors
RCT	Relevant Contracts Tax
REP	Regional Enterprise Plan
RFT	Request For Tender
RMO	Road Management Office
RRDF	Rural Regeneration and Development Fund
RTB	Residential Tenancies Board
RW	Roads and Works
SEAI	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
SEC	Sustainable Energy Communities
SEU	Significant Energy Users
SHCEP	Social Housing Current Expenditure Programme
SI	Social Inclusion
SICAP	Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme
SIFC	Statement of Internal Financial Control
SOG	Standard Operational Guidance
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SPC	Strategic Policy Committee
SSHA	Summary of Social Housing Assessments
SWEMS	Severe Weather Event Management System
T&V	Town and Village
TA	Transportation and Active travel
TCF	Town Centre First
TD	Teachta Dála
TFS	TransFrontier Shipments Office
TIG	Traveller Interagency Group
TII	Transport Infrastructure Ireland
TP	Tenant Purchase
TRO	Town Regeneration Officer
TVI	Temporary Veterinary Inspector
TVRS	Town and Village Renewal Scheme
URDF	Urban Regeneration and Development Fund
US	United-States
VDU	Visual Display Unit
VFM	Value for Money



VHO	Vacant Home Officer
Vis	Veterinary Inspectors
VRU	Vehicle Registration Unit
WDC	Western Development Commission
WEEE	Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment
WERLA	Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities
WG	Working Group
WP	Work Programme
WRAP	Western Region Audiovisual Producers
WTE	Whole Time Equivalent
YH	Youth Housing



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# Galway County Council Annual Report 2024