



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

# CANDIDATE INFORMATION BOOKLET

**RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION CAMPAIGN  
FOR THE POSITION**

**OF**

**GENERAL OPERATIVE**

**CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS:**

**4.00PM ON THURSDAY 01<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2024**

**Important Notes:**

- Please submit your *application form inclusive of all other required documentation* to [hr@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:hr@galwaycoco.ie) as **ONE SINGLE document** (not individual scanned documents) before the closing date and time.
- Candidates must submit a copy of all declared qualifications and a copy of driving licence with their application forms.
- Application forms must be fully completed. CVs will not be considered.

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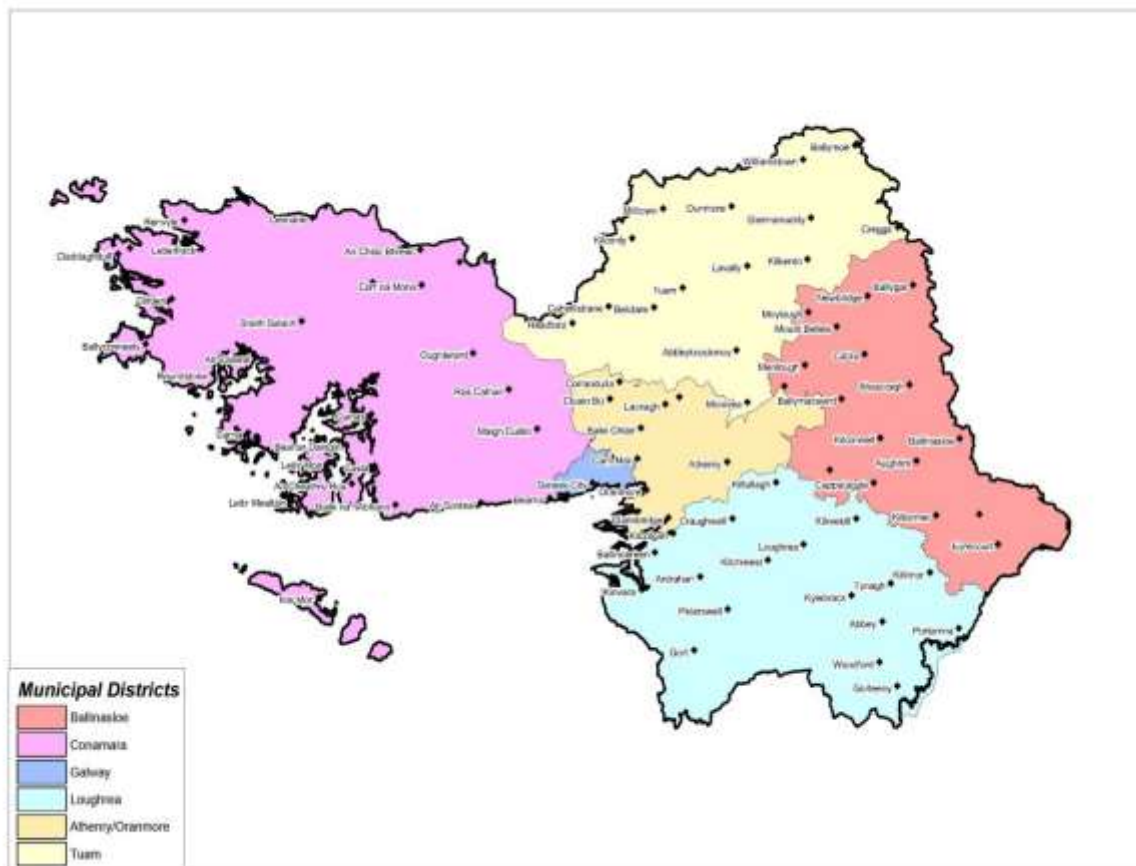
## THE COMPETITION:

The purpose of this recruitment campaign is to form panels from which full-time, permanent, temporary and temporary seasonal posts may be filled at **General Operative** grade. The General Operative grade is an entry-level outdoor grade within Galway County Council and is a critical post in terms of ensuring quality service delivery to the public. The duties will be of a general, manual or related nature and as may be determined by the local authority. Positions may arise in any area of the Council's functions which include Roads, Environment, Water Services, and Housing. A panel of General Operatives will be formed for each of Galway County Council's 5 Municipal Districts outlined in the map below. Candidates will be asked to select which panels they wish to apply for from the list below.

**Please note that while the panels are being formed by municipal district, successful candidates can be assigned/reassigned to carry out General Operative duties in any department, area or Municipal District within County Galway Council as required. Flexibility and adaptability are essential in terms of work location and nature of role.**

**When completing your application form you will be requested to select 2 of the options below for which you would like to be considered.**

- Panel A - Ballinasloe Municipal District**
- Panel B - Loughrea Municipal District**
- Panel C - Athenry-Oranmore Municipal District**
- Panel D - Conamara Municipal District**
- Panel E - Tuam Municipal District**



# QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE POST

## 1. CHARACTER

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Candidates must be of good character.

## 2. HEALTH

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Candidates shall be in a state of health such as would indicate a reasonable prospect of ability to render regular and efficient service.

## 3. EDUCATIONAL STANDARD

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**Each candidate must, on the latest date for receipt of completed application forms:**

1. Have reached a standard of education sufficient to enable him/her to carry out the duties assigned to him/her satisfactorily
2. Have previous experience in such areas as road maintenance, pipe laying and drainage work, etc. to the satisfaction of the Council
3. Hold a valid Safe Pass Card **by the closing date for receipt of applications.**
4. Hold a full current Driving Licence in respect of Category "B" Vehicles or equivalent in the E.U. Model Driving Licence **by the closing date for receipt of applications.**

## 4. DESIREABLE BUT NOT ESSENTIAL

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It would be desirable but not essential for candidate to have:

- Previous relevant General Operative experience
- Experience in working on roads with live traffic
- Selected CSCS Qualifications
- Evidence of towing license (Category EB)
- Heavy Goods Driving licence (Category CI, ECI, C EC)

- Experience in handling tarmacadam and concrete
- Experience in pipelaying, block laying, benching, Craftsman qualification, Plumber, Electrician, Fitter, Bricklayer etc. or other relevant qualification
- Experience in operating under a Health & Safety Management System e.g. Tool Box talks etc.
- Supervisory experience
- Experience in Driving Heavy Goods Vehicles, Diggers, Loaders, Forklifts etc and ability to use a wide range of tools would be an advantage.

## **ROLE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

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### **General Operative's duties may include, but will not be limited to;**

- Carrying out road maintenance work, for example, road repairs and general road maintenance/etc.
- Assisting road construction works, for example, pipe laying/minor block and mortar work/road strengthening/road construction, surface dressing, etc.
- Assisting in setting out of roadworks.
- Carry out works in parks, recreational areas and other areas including maintenance, improvements and construction works.
- General maintenance duties in relation to roads and footpaths including opening water inlets, drainage work and tar patching etc.
- Street cleaning
- Pipe laying
- Carry out road reinstatement and footpath repairs and general concrete works.
- Operate all equipment provided, including any new technology such as handheld units which may be introduced in the future;
- Concrete work
- Laying blocks
- Erecting fencing and netting
- Grass cutting
- Planting and other gardening duties
- Power washing
- Flagman duties
- Chemical spraying and weed control
- Cutting and removal of vegetation
- Carrying out any other maintenance, installation, construction and repair work as may be required from time to time
- Driving plant and machinery as required
- Attend to emergency work outside of normal working hours
- Being available as part of the call out systems of the Council
- Compliance with all organisational policies, procedures and legislation
- Such other duties may be assigned to him/her from time to time

## SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES.

Candidates must have the following skills and competencies:

<b>Motivation and Interest</b>	- Shows enthusiasm and interest in the job.
	- Has a sense of pride in completing a job well and can be relied on to do their job
	- Can be trusted to work independently and unsupervised
	- Is willing to listen to and carry out instructions
	- Works hard and does a good job whatever the task and in all conditions.
	- Is honest in approach.
	- Is comfortable doing routine work when the need arises.
<b>Teamwork</b>	- Gets on well with colleagues and others within the organisation
	- Works co-operatively and communicates effectively with others both from inside and outside the organisation.
	- Lends a hand when required.
	- Is supportive and helpful to others.
	- Takes direction from line managers.
<b>Awareness of Health and Safety</b>	- Understands the importance of health and safety in the workplace and follows safety guidelines
	- Is aware of the surrounding environment and can identify potential risks;
	- Is alert to possible dangers in situations.
	- Pays due care and attention to both own and others safety.
<b>Openness to Learning</b>	- Demonstrates a willingness to listen and learn
	- Participates in relevant training, both on the job and formal training
	- Picks things up quickly
	- Is willing to try new ways of doing things and evaluates the results.
<b>Initiative and Problem Solving</b>	- Is willing to take responsibility for solving problems rather than passing the problem on to others.
	- Finds different ways to address a situation.
	- Anticipates what is required for the particular job and prepares accordingly.
	- Is willing to use initiative should the need arise.
	- Suggests new ways of doing things better and more efficiently
<b>Dealing with People</b>	- Is respectful to colleagues, line managers and members of the public
	- Treats others with respect.
	- Tries to create a positive impression of the organisation with members of the public.
	- Demonstrates good manners and politeness even in potentially difficult situations.
	- Is able to calm down and diffuse difficult situations.
	- Is comfortable liaising with people outside the team and the organisation

## DETAILS AND PARTICULARS

### PROBATION

Where a person is appointed to a Local Authority, the following provisions shall apply –

- a) there shall be a period after appointment takes effect, during which such a person shall hold the position on probation;
- b) such period shall be one year but the Chief Executive may, at his discretion, extend such period;
- c) such a person shall cease to hold the position at the end of the period of probation, unless during this period the Chief Executive has certified that the service is satisfactory;
- d) the period at (a) above may be terminated on giving one weeks' notice as per the Minimum Notice and Terms of Employment Acts;
- e) there will be assessments during the probationary period.

### REMUNERATION:

Starting pay for new entrants will be at the minimum of the scale. The rate of remuneration may be adjusted from time to time in line with Government pay policy.

Point 1	<b>€648.74</b>
after 0.5 years	<b>€662.85</b>
after 1.5 years	<b>€705.60</b>
after 2.5 years	<b>€709.10</b>
after 3.5 years	<b>€712.46</b>
after 4.5 years	<b>€714.35</b>
after 5.5 years	<b>€716.29</b>
after 6.5 years	<b>€718.19</b>
after 7.5 years	<b>€720.07</b>
after 8.5 years	<b>€722.07</b>
after 9.5 years	<b>€724.05</b>
after 10.5 years	<b>€726.13</b>
after 11.5 years	<b>€728.19</b>
after 12.5 years	<b>€728.19</b>
after 13.5 years	<b>€728.97</b>

## **WORKING HOURS**

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39 Hours per week. General Operatives may be required to work outside normal hours from time to time.

## **ANNUAL LEAVE:**

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24 Days per Annum

## **RESIDENCE:**

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The person holding the office must reside in, or at an address convenient to the Local Authority, as approved by the Chief Executive.

## **GARDA VETTING:**

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Garda vetting may be sought in respect of individuals who come under consideration for appointment.

## **OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT**

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The position is whole-time and the officer may not engage in private practice or be connected with any outside business which would interfere with the performance of official duties.

## **SUPERANNUATION CONTRIBUTION**

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A person who becomes a pensionable employee of a local authority who is liable to pay the Class A rate of PRSI contribution will be required in respect of superannuation to contribute to the local authority at the rate of 1.5% of pensionable remuneration plus 3.5% of net pensionable remuneration (i.e. pensionable remuneration less twice the annual rate of social insurance old age contributory pension payable at the maximum rate to a person with no adult dependant or qualified children).



A person who becomes a pensionable employee of a local authority who is liable to pay the Class D rate of PRSI contribution will be required in respect of his/her superannuation to contribute to the local authority at the rate of 5% of pensionable remuneration.

A person paying Class D rate of PRSI who becomes a pensionable employee of a local authority will be required in respect of the Local Government (Spouses and Children's Contributory Pension) Scheme to contribute to the local authority at the rate of 1.5% of pensionable remuneration in accordance with the terms of the scheme.

A person paying Class A rate of PRSI who becomes a pensionable employee of a local authority will be required in respect of the Local Government (Spouses and Children's Contributory Pension) Scheme to contribute to the local authority at the rate of 1.5% of net pensionable remuneration (i.e. pensionable remuneration less twice the annual rate of social insurance old age contributory pension payable at the maximum rate to a person with no adult dependant or qualified children).

Employees are admitted to the Superannuation Scheme in accordance with the terms of the Local Government Superannuation (Consolidation) Act, 1998 and the Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2004, with effect from date of appointment. This scheme is contributory and provides pension, retirement and death gratuities.

In order for a new entrant to the scheme to qualify for a pension, he/she must have served a minimum of two years employment in a local authority.

For new entrants under the Single Public Service Pension Scheme, effective from 1st January 2013, superannuation contributions are as follows: 3.5% of net pensionable remuneration and 3% of pensionable remuneration. Pension and retirement lump sum will be based on career-average pay; pensions will be co-ordinated with the State Pension Contributor

## -STAGE 1- CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FORM

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- Applications may be submitted to [hr@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:hr@galwaycoco.ie) or posted to Galway County Council, Human Resources Department, County Hall, Prospect Hill, Galway. Please ensure that applications are posted in sufficient time so as to be received by **the closing date and time.**
- Failure to submit all of the required documentation with your application (Driving Licence and declared Qualification Documents) will result in your application being invalid and you will not be permitted to proceed any further in the selection process.
- Application forms, once submitted, will be checked to ensure that they meet the required minimum criteria for the position.

- If your application form does not meet the minimum qualifications for the post as set out in this booklet then your application will be deemed invalid and you will not be permitted to proceed any further in the selection process.

**The onus rests with the applicant to ensure that his/her application form and all required documentation is received by the Human Resources prior to the competition closing date.**

## **STAGE 2 - SHORTLISTING**

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Galway County Council reserves the right to shortlist applications. The shortlisting process may take the form of either a desktop shortlisting process based on the information contained in the application forms or a shortlisting interview or other written, oral or practical tests appropriate to the position. You will be contacted in relation to any interview dates and times. The onus is on you to attend for interview on the dates and times allocated. Alternative dates and times cannot be facilitated. When attending for interview you must produce photographic identification when registering your attendance at the Human Resources Department.

## **STAGE 3 - FINAL INTERVIEW**

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### **Final Interview Process**

The interview is your opportunity to give evidence of your knowledge, skills and experience and the Local Authority's opportunity to assess your suitability for the role of General Operative. The admission of a person to a competition, or invitation to attend an interview, is not to be taken as implying that Galway County Council is satisfied that such person fulfils the requirements of the Regulations or is not disqualified by law from holding the position and does not carry a guarantee that your application will receive further consideration. It is important therefore, for you to note the onus is on you to ensure that you meet the eligibility requirements for the competition before attending for interview. If you do not meet these essential entry requirements but nevertheless attend for interview you will be putting yourself to unnecessary expense, as Galway County Council will not be responsible for refunding any expenses incurred.

Interviews shall be conducted by Board(s) set up by Galway County Council. The Board(s) will assess the merits of candidates (except insofar as they are assessed otherwise) in respect of matters referred to in the prescribed Qualifications and any other relevant matters. Only candidates who reach such a standard as Galway County Council consider satisfactory in the competitive interview shall be considered for selection and placed on a panel. The onus is on all applicants to make themselves available for the obligatory test(s) on the date(s) specified by Galway County Council and to make whatever arrangements

are necessary to ensure that they receive communications sent to them at the postal or email address specified on their application form.

Candidates on the panel, who satisfy all the requirements for the post may be offered employment subject to:

- (i) their place, in order of merit, on the panel.
- (ii) the requirements of Galway County Council

## THE FINE PRINT

### GENERAL INFORMATION

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1. Galway County Council reserves the right to vary the number and sequence of each stage of the selection process as the competition progresses
2. Galway County Council will not be responsible for refunding any expenses incurred by candidates.
3. The admission of a person to the competition, or invitation to partake or attend any element of the selection process, or a successful result letter, is not to be taken as implying that Galway County Council is satisfied that such a person fulfils the requirements.
4. Placement on any panel from this competition is not a guarantee that a position will be offered.
5. **The Importance of Confidentiality**  
Candidates can expect that all enquiries, applications and all aspects of the proceedings to the extent that they are managed by Galway County Council are treated as strictly confidential subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 & 2003.
6. **Deeming of candidature to be withdrawn**  
Candidates who do not complete and submit any assessments before the specified date; or do not attend/ undertake any stage of the selection process as requested or do not furnish such evidence as requested in regard to any matter relevant to their candidature, will have no further claim to consideration.
7. **Data Protection**  
When your application is received, Galway County Council creates a record in your name, which contains much of the personal information you have supplied. This personal record is used solely in processing your candidature. Such information held is subject to the rights and obligations set out in the General Data Protection Regulation.
8. **Candidates should note that canvassing will disqualify.**

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION-TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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### ***Your attention is drawn to this important information.***

*By submitting an application, accessing or attempting any assessment / test materials you are agreeing to be bound by the terms set out below:*

1. All test and assessment materials are subject to copyright and all rights are reserved. No part of the tests/ assessment materials (including any text, questions and/or potential answer options) or associated materials (including practice and/ or familiarisation materials) may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means including electronic, mechanical, photocopying, printing, photographing, recording, written or otherwise, at any stage. To do so is an offence and may result in you being excluded from the selection process.
2. Canvassing - Candidates should note that canvassing to enhance their candidature or encouraging others to do so will disqualify them and will result in their exclusion from the recruitment campaign.
3. Candidates in the recruitment process must not:
  - Knowingly or recklessly provide false information
  - Canvass any person, with or without inducements
  - Interfere with or compromise the process in any way.
4. A third party must not impersonate a candidate at any stage of the process.  
If a person found guilty of such an offence was or is a candidate in a recruitment process, then:
  - Where s/he has not been appointed to a post, s/he will be disqualified as a candidate
  - Where s/he has been appointed subsequent to the recruitment process in question, s/he shall forfeit that appointment.
5. The admission of a person to the competition, or invitation to undertake any element of the selection process is not to be taken as implying that Galway County Council is satisfied that such a person fulfils the essential requirements.

# ***CODE OF PRACTICE ON RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION PROCEDURES***

## **GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

This Code of Practice sets out the commitment by Galway County Council to comply with standards of best practice and integrity in its recruitment and selection procedures. It also outlines the obligations and responsibilities of persons who apply for employment with the Council, as well as their rights. It is based on the general principles of fairness and consistency in approach to all candidates, through competency-based selection procedures which are conducted in an open and transparent manner.

## **ADVERTISING**

The Council is committed to ensuring that vacancies are communicated openly to afford equality of opportunity. Advertising mechanisms are selected which offer value for money and are appropriate to the vacancy under consideration. In general, vacancies are normally advertised in the national and local newspaper's, as well as the Council's website at [www.galway.ie](http://www.galway.ie) and the national website [www.localgovernmentjobs.ie](http://www.localgovernmentjobs.ie)

## **LEGISLATION**

The Council has regard to all relevant legislative requirements and considerations in its recruitment and selection processes, including;

- *Official Languages Act* – in accordance with government policy and having regard to our county's cultural identity, the Council conducts optional oral Irish interviews as part of its recruitment process, which awards an additional 3% / 6% of marks attained at main interview, to candidates who demonstrate a reasonable / very good knowledge of the Irish language. The Council is committed to achieving its obligations under the Official Languages Act on a planned basis.
- *Freedom Of Information* – all information received and processed by the Council is treated in confidence subject to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act.
- *Data Protection Acts* – the information submitted with your application is used solely in processing your candidature, and such information is held subject to the rights and obligations of the Data Protection Acts. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018, replacing the existing data protection framework under the EU Data Protection Directive. When your application is received, Galway County Council creates a record in your name, which contains much of the personal information you have supplied. This personal record is used solely in processing your candidature. Such information held is subject to the rights and obligations set out in the Data Protection Acts, 1988 & 2018. Our general retention period for applications and

interview notes is 2 years and documents are then securely destroyed. The Personnel Department may use external selection board members and these board members may receive, or have access to, candidate application data in order to assist in the determination of suitability for a specific role; selection board members have a duty to keep such information confidential and secure and selection board members are aware of this duty. To make a request to access your personal data please submit your request by email to: [dpo@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:dpo@galwaycoco.ie) ensuring that you describe the records you seek in the greatest possible detail to enable us to identify the relevant record(s).

- *Equality Acts* – the interview process and Interview Boards have regard to all equality considerations. Employment opportunities are accessible to all potentially qualified applicants, including people with disabilities, for whom all appropriate facilities are provided to ensure that they have the opportunity to perform to their optimum at interview.

## **WHAT ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES?**

- *Full Completion of Application Form* – applications must be made on the official application form and all sections of the form must be fully completed. When completing the form, it is essential that full details (e.g. Employment dates & duties) are given, as you may be shortlisted on the basis of information supplied.
- *Submission Prior to the Closing Date* – the completed application form must be forwarded to reach Galway County Council in hard or electronic copy, not later than the closing time and date for receipt of applications. An application form sent by post should be posted in sufficient time to ensure delivery by the deadline. Allegations of loss or delay will not be considered unless supported by a Certificate of Postage.
- *Attendance at Interview* – candidates who do not attend at interview or tests as required, or who do not, when requested, furnish evidence in relation to their candidature, will have no further claim for consideration in the recruitment process for that vacancy.
- *Integrity and Fairness* – this comprises four main issues:
  - Any attempt by a candidate, or by any person(s) acting on his/her instigation, directly or indirectly by means of written communication or otherwise, to canvass or otherwise influence in the candidate's favour, any member of staff of the County Council or person nominated by the Council to interview or examine applicants, will automatically disqualify the candidate for the position he/she is seeking.
  - Candidates must not knowingly provide false information on their application.

- No other person may impersonate or represent a candidate at any stage of a selection process.
- Candidates must not interfere with or compromise the process in any way.
- Any candidate found to carry out any of the above and who was/is a candidate in the recruitment process, may be disqualified as a candidate or if appointed, may forfeit the appointment.

## **APPOINTMENT ON MERIT**

- *Eligibility* – specific requirements for posts may be set down by the appropriate Minister/Body, such as academic/professional qualifications, minimum amount and type of experience and/or knowledge, and in some cases, other factors such as health/fitness, security clearance considerations, etc. Candidates are advised as soon as possible after the closing date of the decision regarding their eligibility for the post. However, admission to a competition or invitation to interview is not to be taken as implying that the Council is satisfied that the candidate fulfils all requirements or is not disqualified by law from holding the position, and does not carry a guarantee that your application will receive further consideration. Therefore, the onus is on the candidate to ensure that they meet the eligibility requirements before attending for interview, as candidates attend for interview at their own expense.
- *Shortlisting* – where a large number of persons apply for a post, the Council reserve the right to admit to the competition, only candidates who appear to be likely to possess a standard sufficient for appointment. The shortlisting process can take the form of:-
  - Shortlisting of candidates on the basis of information contained in their application form;
  - Other written, oral or practical tests appropriate to the position;
  - Preliminary interviews to reduce the number of candidates to a more manageable number for the final Interview Board *or*
  - Preliminary interviews to determine qualified candidates, after which a selected number of the qualified candidates are called back for final interview.
- *Main Interview* – the Council is committed to a process of selection on merit, based on fair and open competition. The criteria for judging suitability and ranking will be related directly to the qualification, attributes and skills required to undertake the duties and responsibilities to the standard required in the post.

- *Interview Board* – the Interview Board are selected and convened having regard to their training, experience and expertise in the particular functional area. Gender representation is also taken into consideration when constituting a board, subject to availability. Interview Board Members have regard to their responsibilities under Equality and Freedom of Information legislation in the conducting of interviews.
- *Panel* – following completion of interviews, a panel may be formed, the duration of which is at the discretion of the Council. While a panel remains in force, offers of temporary or permanent employment may be made subject to confirmation of qualifications and satisfying clauses in relation to health, character or other requirements of the particular post. Persons to whom an offer of employment is made must take up duty within 1 month from the date of offer, or such extended period as the Council may agree, otherwise, the Council may decide not to appoint them.

## **YOUR RIGHT TO INFORMATION AND TO APPEAL**

The Council is committed to offering meaningful feedback to candidates who request it, and to dealing with such requests in a timely and efficient manner. A request for marks awarded at interview and comments made by the Interview Board, may be made in writing to the Freedom of Information Officer, under the Freedom of Information Act.

The Council will consider appeals in relation to eligibility and shortlisting decisions. Such appeals must be made by candidates in writing within 5 working days of notification of the relevant decision. On receipt of appeal, the selection decisions will be re-visited and the candidate will be informed of the outcome of this review.

***GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER***



## Application Form Checklist

- ✓ All application forms must be submitted fully completed and inclusive of all the requested documentation (Educational Qualification Documents, Safe Pass and Driving Licence) by the closing date. All **incomplete applications** will be returned as **invalid** after the closing date and will not be included in the competition.
- ✓ Please submit *your application form inclusive of all other required documentation* to [hr@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:hr@galwaycoco.ie) as **ONE SINGLE document** (not individual scanned documents) before the closing date and time.
- ✓ All information must only be provided on the formal application form. Additional information via Curriculum Vitae **will not** be considered.
- ✓ Ensure that you have answered all questions fully.
- ✓ Copies of Educational qualifications & driving licence (not originals), i.e. Leaving Certificate, degree etc., whichever is applicable in your case, must be submitted with your application. Original certificates will be required prior to any appointment.
- ✓ Applications may be submitted by email to [hr@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:hr@galwaycoco.ie) providing all required information is included on the application (i.e. scanned copy of educational qualifications, driving licence etc.)
- ✓ Applications will be short-listed on the basis of the information provided on the application form and therefore you should ensure that you have fully completed your application and all documentation requested is submitted.
- ✓ Candidates who send their applications by post should allow sufficient time to ensure delivery not later than the latest time for acceptance. The responsibility rests with the applicant to ensure the application form, in full, along with all requested documentation is **received** on time by the Human Resources Department, Galway County Council.
- ✓ Claims that any application form or letter relating to it has been lost or delayed in the post will not be considered unless a Post Office Certificate of posting is produced in support of such claims. The responsibility to make contact with An Post regarding any delays rests with the applicant.
- ✓ Please notify the Human Resources Department of any change of address, telephone number or email address.