



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

CUNTAS BUISÉADACHTA 2020

DRAFT BUDGET 2020

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**CHUIG GACH BALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE
DRAFT BUDGET FOR FINANCIAL YEAR
ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

To: The Cathaoirleach and each Member of Galway County Council
Re: Draft Budget for financial year ending 31st December 2020

Submitted in accordance with Section 103, Local Government Act 2001 (as amended)

Dear Member,

I enclose, for your consideration, the Draft Budget for 2020, together with a report detailing the main provisions outlined therein and a summary report from the Directors of Service in respect of activities in their respective functional areas which is submitted as an annual progress report in respect of the Corporate Plan.

In accordance with the statutory requirement issues relating to the preparation of the Draft Budget were considered at meetings of the Corporate Policy Group held on 16th September 2019 and 12th November 2019.

The Council considered and made its determination on the Local Property Tax adjustment at its meeting held on 23rd September 2019 and each of the Municipal Districts considered the Budgetary Plan for each Municipal District at a series of meetings held between the 22nd October 2019 and the 24th October 2019.

The Council may by resolution amend the Draft Budget but shall adopt the Draft Budget, with or without amendment, and determine, in accordance with the Budget so adopted, the annual rate on valuation to be levied and where appropriate have regard to the base year adjustment – determined in accordance with Section 29 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

The Council is required to complete the statutory process within a period of 14 days. This allows, for the adjournment, if necessary of the statutory meeting which is scheduled for 25th November 2019, provided the process is completed by 9th December 2019.

General

The Members will be aware that much of the budget in any year is comprised of non-discretionary costs such as loan charges, payroll, statutory demands, insurances, pensions etc or is comprised of expenditure that is assigned to the delivery of particular services. The financial position of the Council has been discussed in detail by the Finance Committee by the Corporate Policy Group and by the full Council over a period of time and the revenue funding available to Galway County Council remains a critical issue. There is a requirement for additional funding in almost every area of Council activity including housing, property maintenance, road maintenance, fleet replacement, street cleaning, verge trimming, public lighting, economic and tourism development, ICT Development as well as the requirement for additional staffing in key areas and for new programmes. Keeping within budget in 2020 will require continued careful financial monitoring by all units throughout the year and no contingencies have been provided for in the budget for 2020.

There are a number of aspects of budget 2020 which are similar to those raised in respect of 2019

- Additional costs arising from payroll/ National Pay Agreements (€300,000 net)
- Increased costs in respect of housing services including homeless services and housing maintenance (€275,000 net)
- Increased rateable valuations (€1,300,000)
- Continued partial offset of insurance costs from IPB retained funds distribution (€500,000)
- Increased Government Grants for Roads (€4,300,000)

Overall while the total gross expenditure budget shows an increase of €9.5M the net increase over the estimated outturn for 2019 as outlined in Table A is €3.12M (page 1 of the Statutory Tables).

Local Property Tax

The funding previously derived from the Local Government Fund has been replaced by the proceeds from the Local Property Tax / Pension Related Deductions. The base funding from this source in 2020 is estimated to be the same as the amount received each year since 2014.

The funding from the Local Property Tax/Pension Related Deduction has been estimated to produce income of €14.5m in 2020.

	2015	2020
LPT Raised in County Galway	14,967,018	14,683,412
20% to Equalisation Fund	2,993,404	2,936,682
80% Retained	11,973,614	11,746,730
Received from Equalisation Fund	532,767	2,771,161
Total LPT received	12,506,381	14,517,890
PRD as per AFS	1,985,695	
Total LPT plus PRD	14,492,076	14,517,890

(Pension Related Deduction included as part of LPT 2018 based on Actual PRD received in 2014).

Commercial Rates

As outlined previously the commercial rate for the County of Galway can only be increased once the rate for the former Ballinasloe Town Council area has achieved parity. The County rate currently stands at €66.59 which is unchanged since 2009 and the Ballinasloe rate in 2019 is €64.00 which is being merged since 2016 but prior to that had been unchanged since 2008. The following table shows a comparison of the rate on valuation with the other Local Authorities in the region in 2018/2019 which is reflected in lower income from commercial rates in County Galway.

Ballinasloe	(2019)	€64.00
Galway County	(2019)	€66.59
Roscommon	(2018)	€71.44
Mayo	(2019)	€76.88
Clare	(2018)	72.99

I have drafted the budget on the basis of a 6% rates adjustment but have also introduced a complementary Rates Payment Incentive Scheme as an assistance to smaller businesses. The issue of refunding 100% of commercial rates on vacant properties has been discussed as being a disincentive to the economic use of such properties. Section 31 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 provides that a local authority may determine the proportion of a refund of commercial rates on vacant properties that would apply to each electoral area. No provision for income from this change has been made in respect of the draft budget for 2020 pending further consideration of how best to tackle vacant properties in our towns and villages and I have made separate budgetary provision in this regard.

Rates Payment Incentive Scheme

As referenced above it is proposed to introduce a Rates Payment Incentive Scheme targeted at small businesses (other than vacant properties) whose current rate demand is no greater than €10,000. The scheme would apply a financial support to occupiers of commercial properties in Galway at a level of 6% of their 2020 rate demand. Among the terms of the scheme would be the following

- The commercial rate demand for 2019 must amount to a maximum of €10,000
- The scheme applies to the rated occupier
- The commercial rates for 2020 and all arrears of commercial rates must be paid in full by 31st July 2020 except
- If payment is by direct debit, there must be arrangements in place to discharge the commercial rate account (including arrears) in full by 31st December 2020
- The fully completed application form must be submitted no later than 31st July 2020

Therefore if a business has a rate demand of €5,000 in 2019 the demand would increase to €5,300 following the application of the proposed 6% Rate increase. However on payment of the full rates in accordance with the scheme the occupier would qualify for a discount of 6% of €5,300 totalling €318.00. The ratepayer would therefore pay €18.00 less in 2020 than they did in 2019 reflecting an overall reduction in their rate demand.

It is intended that the rate of support would be adjusted downwards in future draft budget proposals and in 2021 the general revaluation will be in operation.

Budget Adjustments

The following are a list of some of the main changes and specific/additional provisions in the draft budget for 2020 compared to the adjusted budget for 2019 and which include the additional activity made possible by the proposed rates increase.

Reduction in Insurance Costs	(€50,000)
Increase in Rates Valuation	€1,300,000
National Pay Agreement/Payroll Cost	€300,000 (net)
Additional Homeless Cost	€25,000 net (90% recouped)
Rates Increase (Net)	€1,000,000
Burial Ground Provision	€75,000 (increase)
Vacant /Underutilised Sites Initiatives	€75,000
Tidy Towns Initiatives	€150,000
Housing Maintenance	€250,000 (increase)
Unfinished Estates	€100,000 (restored)
Traffic Management Plans	€100,000 (€80,000 increase)
Climate Change	€125,000 (€65,000 increase)

Communications/Customer Service/ICT	€75,000
Tourism Officer and Initiatives	€175,000 (€75,000 increase)
Library Book Fund	€25,000 (increase)
Road Maintenance	€250,000 (increase)
Fleet Management	€50,000 (increase)
Art/ Culture	€50,000 (increase)
Public Lighting	€150,000 (increase)

Additional Funding

The case for additional funding for Galway County Council continued to be pressed during 2019. On 11th October Minister John Paul Phelan visited our council and made an amount of €1m available. Previous discussions with the Department centred on the importance of having in place a strong municipal district structure and a case was submitted to the Department seeking funding to start a process of addressing a number of issues pertaining to municipal districts. While welcome it is important that this limited funding is applied strategically to make a positive impact on each municipal district and I propose that there will be consideration by the Corporate Policy Group (which is representative of all Municipal Districts) in the first instance on the approach to be taken which will meet the objectives of the allocation and commence a process to strengthen Municipal Districts. It is recognised that there will be varying views and competing demands but it is essential that rather than being simply project led this funding is used to ensure the functioning of municipal districts and the delivery of services into the future including ensuring that we have capacity to compete for and deliver under various national funding initiatives. Other actions such as the carrying out of more functions at Municipal District level will support this process. The submission made to the Department is currently being considered and it is likely to be subject of further correspondence and discussion prior to approval of the approach.

Work Programme

In addition to routine service delivery there are many projects that Galway County Council is currently leading, will lead, or is otherwise engaged in. These include the resolution of flooding problems in South Galway, Ballinasloe and elsewhere, the development of the harbour at Inis Oirr and similar projects, collaboration on the rollout of Broadband, implementing Government Policy and initiatives in respect of Housing delivery and maintenance, the delivery of the Galway City Ring Road, the construction of the Ballinasloe Town Enhancement

Scheme, the operation and remediation of the East Galway Landfill, the construction of the Bia Innovator Food Hub in Athenry, the improvement of the N59 and the Moycullen bypass,

the advancement of Greenway proposals, the preparation of Masterplans for the former Galway Airport Site and the lands adjacent to the railway station at Garraun, the implementation of our Climate Change Strategy, the advancement of initiatives in respect of Tourism, the development of a Digital Strategy, the development and delivery of projects under RRDF/ URDF and many other initiatives across the organisation.

Funding under National Grant Schemes

Galway County Council has continued to avail of opportunities to compete for national funding streams. The Members will be aware that a total of €2,646,048 was secured under the Regional Enterprise Development Fund and the Rural Regeneration Development Fund for the development of the Food Innovation Hub at the Teagasc campus in Athenry and construction is due to commence shortly. Further funding in the sum of €3,554,435 was granted under RRDF for Athenry relating to the Bia Innovator campus and town center enhancement work.

Funding in the amounts of €969,909, €175,000 and €124,781 was awarded under RRDF in respect of projects in Dunmore, Tuam, and Kinvara respectively.

More recently an amount of €1,628,879 was secured under the RRDF in respect of the redevelopment of Loughrea Town Hall.

Over €750,000 was secured for 7 projects under the 2019 Town & Village Renewal Scheme which is so valuable to our towns and villages while €265,000 was secured under measure 1 of the CLÁR scheme for schools and community safety measures.

An amount of €165,652 was allocated to Galway County LCDC under the Community Enhancement Programme 2019, of which €22,251 was ringfenced for Men's Sheds throughout the County. A total of €38,401 was allocated to small-scale grants for equipment and grassroots projects, and €105,000 was allocated for medium-scale grants to refurbish community facilities and improve connectivity within communities.

A total of €255,730 was allocated under the Community Support Schemes for 2019, for a wide range of economic, community and cultural events and projects which were of benefit to the wider community and were supplemented by our other funding programmes aimed at promoting economic, rural and community development.

An allocation of €856,959 was received by Galway County Council from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Local Improvement Scheme in February 2019

which enabled the Council to proceed with works on 36 schemes which were completed by August 2019.

The Council also received an allocation of €546,040 under the Community Involvement in Roadworks Scheme from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in February 2019 which facilitated completion of works on 55 projects under the CIS2018/2019. Proposals for

CIS2020/2021 was submitted to DTTS in September 2019 which included details of 85 projects. Funding approval for 2020 for CIS will form part of the Regional & Local Road Grant allocation which will be announced in February 2020.

While all of these grants and initiatives are very welcome they bring with them expectations and requirements which are difficult to meet with current resources and the involvement of Galway County Council on all projects is not possible.

Tidy Towns

Tidy Town groups play a significant role in making our towns and villages more attractive places in which to live and visit. The recent results show continued improvement across a number of towns and a number of first time entrants. Galway County Council now has 14 Tidy Town groups who achieve over 300 marks with 8 more close to this point. Eighteen of our groups achieved an increase of 15 marks or more over the last two years. In a number of categories, the judges awarded higher marks to Galway towns than the national winner. Galway County Council will continue to work closely with the Tidy Town groups and will examine issues highlighted in the judges reports that might require involvement and support from Galway County Council. I therefore propose providing €150,000 for this purpose.

Vacant / Underutilised Sites

The issue of vacant and underutilised sites in our towns and villages is raised on a regular basis and more recently was raised in a number of submissions on the Corporate Plan. While the acquisition of such sites is not generally an option other than where a funding mechanism is available there are measures that can be pursued under the Derelict Sites act, Vacant Sites legislation and Rates Incentive Scheme while broader actions under Town and Village Renewal and Urban and Rural Regeneration will also assist in encouraging property owners to bring their properties into commercial and/or residential use. To assist in further activity in this regard I propose making a specific provision of €75,000.

Tourism

The recruitment process for a Tourism Officer has been completed and the successful candidate will take up their new role shortly. It is intended that this person will assist in developing applications for tourism funding as well as developing local initiatives to support tourism in Galway and gives a very clear signal of our support for the tourism industry. I have

increased the provision to €175,000 and the Tourism Officer will undertake specific initiatives to develop tourism in the east and north of the county which are weaker from a tourism perspective.

Fleet Management

I have previously raised the ageing vehicle fleet and the need for a sufficiently co-ordinated approach to matters such as hire, leasing, purchase, vehicle maintenance, branding and other related issues and in September I assigned an Executive Engineer to undertake a review of our fleet with a view to developing a strategy for the operation and management of same into the future.

Communication / Website

Our investment in ICT in recent years has been constrained and much of the focus has been on security and resilience as well as cost saving through rationalisation of hardware and licencing agreements. As we progress through an era where technology is dominant including the provision of a digital strategy we need to review our activities and our use of technology to interact with and inform our customers and the elected members. The importance of a robust and easily navigable website, the use of social media and the possible introduction of a Customer Relationship Management System need consideration. We are continuing to develop technologies such as the Map Alerter system and we need to continue to develop new ways of communicating seamlessly with the public in a timely manner. We also need to develop effective methodologies for communicating our actions and achievements.

In this regard I have made provision to support the development of initiatives including through technology with a view to supporting enhanced communication and customer service. I have made a provision of €75,000 in respect of this initiative.

Climate Change

An amount of €60,000 was provided in the 2019 budget in respect of our Climate Change Strategy. While action in respect of climate change is required across all units and many initiatives are already underway, I am conscious of the of the fact that this must be

coordinated and more awareness created. In addition some actions may evolve from the Climate Change and Biodiversity Strategic Policy Committee established by the Members. Therefore, I have increased the provision for Climate Change to €125,000.

Staffing

Our staff resources are one of the lowest per head of population in the context of our comparator local authorities which in turn impacts on our capacity to deliver services to the level and standard desired. The Council's staffing headcount of 860 (as at the 30th September,

2019) includes 45 Beach Lifeguards (extended season) and a number of positions filled in priority areas. Many of these additional posts are either fully or part funded from external sources. New employment opportunities and staff movement across the sector continued during 2019 and this combined with 17 retirements resulted in a further increase in recruitment activity. A total of 48 recruitment competitions have taken place to date to fill both new positions and vacancies that have arisen.

A number of Administrative, Technical and Professional staff appointments are well advanced including the establishment of the Rural Regeneration Team and the recruitment of the Tourism Officer. In addition a number of recruitment competitions are underway to fill the positions of Director of Service, Chief Fire Officer, County Librarian, Senior Social Worker and Information Systems Project Leader among others. Additional provision has been made for the costs of staff recruitment and the implementation of workplace policies.

Housing

Galway County Council has responded to the priority of housing delivery and is implementing the various initiatives of Government introduced to address this issue. In addition to delivering new housing units there are other initiatives and responsibilities including the introduction of minimum standards, electrical testing and planned maintenance programmes as well as earlier turnover of vacant units. The costs of delivering on these requirements are far beyond the financial capacity of our revenue budget and therefore the approach is to make increased provision in our revenue budget in so far as we can afford and to consider the use of Internal Capital Receipts (ICR's) as a source of funding. However, it is important to recognise that the level of ICR's is limited and there are a number of demands on same as a funding/co-funding mechanism with the approval of the Department also required. I have again increased the provision in respect of housing maintenance which will be utilised for general maintenance or in respect of the planned maintenance loan repayments as required. The Galway Housing Task Force has held a number of meetings during 2019.

Economic and Community Development

Notwithstanding the limited resources available in recent times the Council has continued to support communities and advance the economic development of the County. The financial support element of some of these projects is more significant than others but it is essential that we are able to play the role envisaged for us in both economic and community development under the Local Government Reforms of 2014.

Galway County Council will continue to provide funding to various groups and bodies. This includes funding under the headings of Festivals, Economic Development, Community Facilities, Tidy Towns, Social Inclusion, Youth, Sport, Arts, Heritage and the Irish Language.

This support by Galway County Council makes a significant contribution to the efforts of many communities and organisations to deliver initiatives and improvement in their areas. While it has been the practice to continually review this spend there will be further careful consideration of how to target the funding available to achieve the best outcomes overall and to make any appropriate adjustments that may be identified. The Community & Enterprise Unit will continue to ensure optimum alignment with Galway County Councils objectives and complementarity to programmes such as ECOC and EROG while also taking account of recent national funding programmes which were not previously available.

Galway European Capital of Culture 2020

Galway County Council has finalised its contribution to the European Capital of Culture and the programme developed to date has been published and shows significant programming in the county area. The opening ceremony will involve a number of towns and there are both small and large scale projects spread across the county and throughout the year. Discussions are ongoing between Galway County Council staff and the Galway 2020 team on relevant arrangements including licencing as well as practical arrangements such as road closures etc. The delivery of a successful year of events will require the support of a number of units of Galway County Council in a practical way and this support will need to be prioritised at the appropriate times. I have included a specific allocation of €50,000 for 2020 to allow our Arts Officer consider complementary activity within our communities during the year.

Roads funding

The level of resources available for road maintenance and improvement has increased in recent years from €28.6M in 2015 to an estimated €38.9M in 2020. The draft budget for 2020 contains an additional €250,000 for road maintenance. An increased provision of €100,000 has also been included for the preparation of Traffic Management Plans. In addition the provision for public lighting has also been increased in an effort to bring our provision to the

level required to repay the loan acquired for the replacement of all public lighting with LED lights which will be completed as part of a nationally procured strategy.

Budgetary Trend

The following table shows the budgetary trend for Galway County Council in recent years.

2008 - Adopted Budget	€160 M
2014 - Adopted Budget	€122 M
2015 – Adopted Budget	€105.2 M
2017 – Adopted Budget	€105.3M
2018 – Adopted Budget	€112 M
2019 –Adopted Budget	€120.36 M
2020 - Draft Budget	€129.9M

Expenditure proposals

The following tables set out the expenditure and income breakdown proposed for 2020:

Expenditure by Programme Group	2019 Budget	2019 Est. Outturns	2020 Draft Estimated Budget
	€	€	€
Housing and Building	15,480,893	15,082,708	16,171,622
Road Transportation & Safety	39,491,467	42,592,669	43,879,461
Water Services	12,958,471	12,951,064	12,947,744
Development Management	9,140,417	10,661,037	12,492,303
Environmental Services	18,098,033	18,194,867	18,865,742
Recreation & Amenity	8,833,238	8,801,535	8,880,883
Agriculture, Education Health & Welfare	2,726,649	2,691,495	2,477,791
Miscellaneous Services	13,637,574	13,215,891	14,188,866
Total	120,366,742	124,191,266	129,904,412

In the Draft Budget, the estimated Revenue Income anticipated is as follows: -

Estimated Revenue Income	2019		2020	
	€	%	€	%
Local Property Tax / Pension Related Ded	14,517,890	12	14,517,890	11
NPPR	450,000	0	300,000	0
State Grants & Subsidies	41,584,152	35	48,500,620	37
Irish Water Income	9,046,000	8	8,842,000	7
Local Determined Income	37,399,471	31	41,054,666	32
Other Income	16,369,229	14	16,689,236	13
	120,366,742	100	129,904,412	100

Conclusion

The preparation of the Draft Annual Budget has in recent years been extremely challenging. The proposed expenditure of €129.9M together with the capital programme spend estimated at €105m represents a very considerable investment of monies in the development of the County and the delivery of services throughout the County.

I wish to thank the elected members for their co-operation and support during 2019. I wish to record my appreciation to the Cathaoirleach Cllr. Jimmy McClearn, and the former Cathaoirleach Cllr. Seán Ó Tuairisg for their commitment to the special responsibilities of their office and their courtesy and co-operation in doing the business of the Council. I wish to acknowledge the assistance of the Corporate Policy Group in the discussion on the draft budget and the overall finances of Galway County Council.

I also want to thank the staff of the Council for their dedication and flexibility during 2019 and in recent years and their support has ensured the continued delivery of services in difficult circumstances.

I wish to thank the Council's Directors of Service and their staff for their rigorous examination of budget items for 2020. In particular, I want to acknowledge the work of Mr. Ger Mullarkey, Mr. Michael McGovern, Mr. John Moore, Ms Sara McDermott and the staff in the Finance Unit and to thank all involved in delivering the draft budget.

The year 2020 will undoubtedly bring further challenges and change for Galway County Council, but I am confident that with the support of the Members, Management team, and colleagues we will provide valuable services in 2020 to meet the critical needs of the people of Galway.

I recommend the Draft Budget to you for adoption.

Yours sincerely,

Kevin Kelly,
Chief Executive (Interim)

**Divisional Reports including Annual Progress Report
on the Galway County Council Corporate Plan 2015
- 2019**

HOUSING SERVICES UNIT

Delivering Homes ∞ Building Communities

Rebuilding Ireland – Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness

Indicative Activities in 2019:

The Housing Unit, under the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan, continues to progress a range of direct-build housing projects through the 4 stage approvals process for design, planning, tendering and construction. To date, funding in the order of €55m has been approved by Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for the advancement of 246 direct-build units. In addition, proposals for a further 79 units at an estimated cost of €17m are being prepared, or are with the Department for approval. The following projects were progressed through various stages to date:

Location	# Units	DHPLG Stage
Garbally Drive, Ballinasloe	10	Stage 4 – Construction / substantially complete
Esker Fields, Ballinasloe	2	Stage 4 – Construction / substantially complete
Single Rural Dwellings	6	Stage 4 – Construction / complete
Gilmartin Rd., Tuam	61	Stage 4 – Construction / substantially complete
An Cheathrú Rua	4	Stage 4 – Construction
Fairgreen, Roundstone	14	Stage 4 – Construction
Cartron, Kinvarra	6	Stage 1 – Design
Caislean Raithlín, Ardrahan	12	Stage 2 – Planning
Barrack St., Loughrea	5	Stage 3 – Tender
Claremount, Oughterard	(13) 0	Stage 2 – Planning (Refused)
Gort Ui Lochlainn, Moycullen	31	Stage 2 – Planning
St. Josephs, Clifden	26	Stage 3 – Tender
Bridge Court, Ahascragh	18	Stage 2 – Planning
Tír an Bhui, Tuam	51	Stage 2 - Planning
Total	246	

Following Stage 4 approval from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government contracts were awarded in 2019 for the construction of:

- 14 units at Roundstone, Co. Galway;
- 4 units at An Cheathrú Rua, Co Galway;

Most significantly, the following Projects advanced through construction phase to completion or substantial completion:

- 40 No. units at Cúil Ghréine and Gort an Chláir, Tuam;
- 5 No. units at Gilmartin Rd. / St. Enda's Avenue, Tuam (Refurbishment works);
- 10 No. units at Garbally Drive, Ballinasloe;
- 2 No. units at Esker Fields, Ballinasloe;
- 1 No. Single Rural Dwelling at Tumnahulla, Corrandulla.

Housing Acquisitions in 2019:

There are three main mechanisms available for the acquisition of housing and these are Direct Acquisition, Developers Obligation under Part V and Turnkey processes

- **Direct Acquisition for 2019:**

Galway County Council reviews the market continuously in an effort to meet the housing need within its functional area. Private units are assessed based on the housing need in the locality prior to completion of engineering reports and legal assessment. A total of 12 units have been acquired by Galway County Council with a further 28 Units at the final stages of acquisition with an estimated cost of €4.78m in 2019.

- **Turnkey Process:**

To date, agreement has been reached for the acquisition of 68 Units located in Tullahill, Loughrea. This development is being delivered on a phased basis with units becoming available in 2020 and 2021. Another Turnkey proposal for the acquisition of 49 units at Kylebroughlan, Moycullen is at the final stages and these units will become available in 2020.

- **Developers Obligations under Part V:**

In accordance with Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2001 and amendments, the Housing Department continues to acquire units as part of Developers obligations under this act. In 2019, Galway County Council has acquired 13 units under the Part V obligations with Department Funding of €2.34m. A further 21 units at an estimated cost of €6.5m are currently in the process of being agreed.

Proposals for 2020:

- The Local Authority build construction stream will remain a key priority in 2020 with a clear focus being maintained on progressing local authority direct-build projects through design, planning, tendering and construction stages.
- Identifying further potential sites for development in line with the housing needs for various areas, will also remain a priority in order to enhance the potential for a direct build programme post 2021.

- In line with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government circulars, Galway County Council will be advertising a new turnkey process seeking further expressions of interest for the acquisition of social housing at planning stage.
- The Council will continue to engage with builders with a view to advancing the delivery of units under Part V.
- A targeted acquisition programme will be facilitate the local authority in acquiring properties in response to specific housing needs and to support the achievement of a social mix that underpins sustainable communities.

Strategic Development and Management Plan for Housing Lands
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The active management of the housing land bank is part of a range of actions being taken under Rebuilding Ireland designed to accelerate and increase housing output.

Indicative Activities in 2019

- Continued to drive the implementation of the Strategic Development and Management Plans in order to advance sites to development stage at the earliest date possible.
- An application under the Serviced Sites Fund (SSF) for funding from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to subsidise the development costs of sites at Raheen, Athenry was successful.

Proposals for 2020;

- The Housing Unit will continue to progress high quality sustainable social housing schemes, subject to planning approval, on various suitable portions of its remaining landbank, in areas with high social housing demand. These schemes will be advanced in conjunction with the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government and will provide sustainable communities into the future.
- The Council will advance the development of sites at Raheen, Athenry under the Serviced Sites Fund. Further sites will be identified and proposals advanced to allow for submission in response to a further call for applications under the Serviced Sites Fund in 2020.
- The Council is committed to maximizing the potential of the land bank to support housing need, including affordable housing and rental options, subject to the introduction of appropriate schemes and funding streams by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.
- The Housing Unit will explore options on its landbank in relation to the provision of affordable housing if such a scheme becomes available, as is expected in 2020, subject to planning, and subject to the approval of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.
- The Housing Unit will seek new opportunities to acquire strategic lands suitable for the provision of high-quality social housing and/or affordable housing, in locations with strong social housing demand, in order to deliver on its housing targets into the future (beyond the Rebuilding Ireland Programme).

Voluntary Housing

Indicative Activities in 2019:

The Council is continuing to engage with the Voluntary sector to maximise the number of units being made available through the funding schemes CAS (Capital Assistance Scheme) and CALF (Capital Advance and Leasing Facility).

Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)

The Capital Assistance Scheme funding is provided by the Department through the Local Authority for the provision of housing.

Projects with CAS funding completed in 2019:

- Claregalway District and Day Care Centre, Cregboy, Claregalway -14 units (Construction)
- Respond Housing Association, Fairgreen Heights, Tuam – 1 unit (Acquisition)

Other CAS Projects Progressing:

- Tearmann Eanna Teo, Old Post Office, Inverin – 4 units (Acquisition)
- Mountbellew Housing Association, Mountbellew – 5 units (Construction)
- Cluid Housing Association, Dunlo Hill, Ballinasloe – 18 units (Construction)
- Tearmann Eanna Teo, Rossaveal Cottages – 8 units (Acquisition)
- Peter Triest Housing Association, Caheroyan – 1 unit (Acquisition and Construction)
- Peter Triest Housing Association, Springfield, Ballinasloe – 1 unit (Construction)
- Cluid Housing Association, Letterfrack (Phase 2) – 11 units (Construction)
- Carrig Dubh Housing, Shannon Road, Portumna – 5 units, (Construction)
- Inis Housing, Tubber Road, Gort – 11 Units (Construction)

Capital Advance and Leasing Facility (CALF) and Mortgage to Rent (MTR)

The Capital Advance and Leasing Facility and Mortgage to Rent Scheme provide social housing through off-balance sheet current expenditure.

The following units were delivered in 2019

- 9 Units in Dunlo Street, Ballinasloe with Co-operative Housing Ireland (CHI)
- 1 unit in Cuir na hAbhainn, Claregalway with Tuath Housing Association
- 8 units are currently in progress under the Mortgage to Rent Scheme (MTR) which enables homeowners in mortgage difficulty switch from owning their home to renting their home as social housing tenants

Proposals for 2020:

- It is proposed that the Council will continue to engage pro-actively with the Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) in order to facilitate the sourcing of further units for the provision of housing under this funding model.
- The Housing Unit will examine the potential for AHBs to deliver additional housing units on Council held lands.

Long Term Leasing Initiative

Long Term Leasing was introduced to facilitate the delivery of Social Housing under Pillar 2 of Rebuilding Ireland. The Local Authority or AHB is the landlord to tenant and the property owner does not have a direct relationship with the tenant. The rent paid to the landlord is discounted monthly by 15-20% of the Open Market Rent Valuation.

- The Lease term is between 10 and 25 years, during this timeframe the Local Authority tenant the property, The Landlord will have a guaranteed rent even when the property is vacant
- The Landlord will have no day-to-day maintenance responsibilities under long term lease arrangements

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- Advertise the Long-Term Scheme regularly through the local print media and on social media.
- Engage with Landlords and Property owners and provide documentation and advice.
- In 2019 Galway County Council had 45 Applications for Long Term Lease – of which 23 are approved and proceeding.

Proposals for 2020

- Continue to advertise the scheme bi-monthly.
- Actively engage with Investors, Developers, landlords and provide information and documentation as required.

Enhanced Leasing Scheme

This Scheme will operate in tandem with a range of other measures under the Government's Rebuilding Ireland: Action plan for Housing and the Homeless. The main objective of this Scheme is to target Developers and Investors who are in a position to deliver Housing on a reasonable scale as well as fulfilling management and maintenance responsibilities.

The Lease Term is 25 Years. Applications for the Scheme must be in respect of at least 20 Units. The Scheme is targeted at newly built – or yet to be built properties.

Indicative Activities 2019

- 39 Units approved and due to be delivered in 2019 under this scheme.

Proposals for 2020:

- Continue to engage with Investors and Developers to provide Social Housing under this Scheme.
- Continue to work closely with the Housing Agency to promote this Scheme.

Vacant Homes

Indicative Activities in 2019:

A Vacant Homes Officer was appointed in Galway County Council in 2018. The role of the Vacant Homes Officer is to drive and co-ordinate actions at a local level, to attain the objective of the National Vacant Housing Reuse Strategy including data collection and analysis. The 2016 Census had identified 8,532 properties as being vacant in the County of Galway. There were 183,312 vacant homes nationwide excluding holiday homes identified in the 2016 census.

- A Vacant Homes Pilot survey was undertaken on a number of small areas (CSO and Geo Directory determined) in Tuam, Ballinasloe, Loughrea. The purpose of this survey is to consolidate the findings of the census.
- A total of 1,629 properties were surveyed in 2019 by the Community Wardens.
- Only 85 Properties were found to be vacant.
- Where a potentially vacant home that it is believed will be recoverable into use, we will attempt to engage with the property owner to set out the range of options available to reintroducing their property into liveable housing stock.

Proposals for 2020:

- Finalise the Vacant Homes Pilot Survey and Investigate the potential to bring the vacant properties back into use.

- Investigate the vacant properties uploaded to www.vacanthomes.ie to determine if any are suitable to bring back into use.
- Implement actions identified in the Reuse Strategy at local level and bring forward measures to ensure, to the greatest degree possible that vacant and underused privately owned properties are brought back into use.
- Continue to advertise all relevant schemes in the local media and on social media.
- Secure accurate and up to date levels of vacancy in Galway County particularly in urban areas where housing demand is most acute.

Repair and Leasing Scheme

Indicative Activities in 2019:

The Repair and Lease Scheme has been developed under Action 5.7 of Rebuilding Ireland to assist private property owners and AHB's in utilising existing vacant housing stock throughout the county.

RLS allows the property owner to sign-up to a lease arrangement for a length that is linked to the value of the repairs, subject to a minimum of 5 years. The value of the Repairs will then be off set incrementally against the agreed rental value over a defined period within the lease.

- The Schemes are advertised bi-monthly in local papers and on alternate weeks on Facebook.
- Continued engagement with property owners, estate agents and solicitors in an effort to attract expressions of interest to the scheme.
- In 2019, 38 expressions of interest have been received from property owners with 8 files currently being progressed, and 2 pending approval.

Proposals for 2020

- The Repair and Lease Scheme will continue to be advertised on a regular basis in the local media and on social media.
- Property owners who make enquiries will be engaged with and given all necessary information on the Scheme as quickly as possible.
- Galway County Council will engage with AHBs where appropriate in implementing this scheme.

Housing Grants

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- To date the number of applications for Housing Aid for Older People paid in 2019 is 188 with the number of Mobility Aids Grants and Housing Aid Grants totalling 159 (51 HAGs and 108 MAGs).
- Department funding was made available in the sum of €2,655,162, for 2018. Galway County Council must provide co-funding of 20%, €531,032 was sanctioned from the Council's own resources.

Proposals for 2020:

- The Council will continue to administer the Housing Aid for Older People, Mobility Aids Grants and Housing Aid Grants availing of grant funding from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to the extent that that co-funding provided by the Council allows.

House Purchase Loans (Private and Tenant Purchase Loans)

Indicative Activities in 2019:

Galway County Council provide financial assistance to enable first time buyers to purchase a home either through the tenant purchase scheme or on the private market.

- The Housing Unit currently have 32 (22 private, 10 tenant purchase) Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans approvals in principle on hand to the value of €4.5 million.
- 28 Private home loans to a value of €3,754,475 and 4 tenant purchase loans to a value of €183,305 have been paid out to date this year

Proposals for 2020:

- Galway County Council will continue to assess and process all housing loan applications in a timely manner in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan.

Rental Standards

Indicative Activities in 2019:

The Housing Standards for Rented Houses Regulations - Statutory Instrument 137 of 2019 came into effect on 1st May 2019 that superseded Statutory Instrument 17 of 2017.

The Inspectorate is responsible for all Statutory Inspections of Rented Residential Dwellings within the functional area of Galway County Council.

- The Inspection Target for Galway County Council for end of Q4 2019 is 950 Inspections. As of 04th October 2019 the number of Residential Standards Inspections carried out was 484 Inspections. It is intended to accelerate the Inspection Process to the end of Q4 2019 with goal of achieving the target.

Proposals for 2020:

- The inspection target for Galway County Council in 2020 is 1,267 Inspections.

Social Housing Need

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- A Housing Needs Assessment was completed in 2019 and there are currently approximately 3,650 applicants on the record of qualified households.
- During the period January – October 2019, a total of 274 offers were made to applicants on the record of qualified households for social housing. 25 nominations were made for voluntary housing provided by Approved Housing Bodies with the support of the Council.
- During 2019 the Housing Unit also advertised 19 houses on the Choice Based Letting system.

Proposals for 2020

- The Council will continue its' progress in the provision of social housing supports for persons on the record of qualified households.
- The Council will continue to work in partnership with Approved Housing Bodies in nominating applicants for voluntary housing.
- The Council will continue to operate Choice Based Letting (CBL) as a means to facilitate participation by housing applicants. It is intended to extend the CBL process to include nominations for voluntary housing.
- The Housing Allocation Scheme will be reviewed and revised to respond to emerging needs.

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- 1,450 applicants transferred to the HAP scheme by the end of October 2019.
- Lack of supply of available properties remains a significant issue for HAP applicants.
- The increase in rents across county Galway has also been a huge factor for applicants as the local authority can only pay a maximum rent rate depending on the household size.

Proposals for 2020

- To continue transferring long term rent supplement recipients from the Department of Social Protection over to the HAP scheme, within the limits of available resources. Approximately 450 people remain in receipt of long term rent supplement payments.
- Process all new housing applications for the HAP scheme.
- Continuation of inspection process for all properties under the HAP Scheme.

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) and Leasing

Funding has been allocated for local authorities and Approved Housing Bodies to lease or rent private residential properties for applicants on the housing list. RAS is aimed at persons who are in receipt of rent supplement for a period in excess of 18 months. Since the 1st April 2011, any housing applicants that are in RAS type accommodation are deemed to have their housing needs met.

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- There are 231 households accommodated currently through the RAS Scheme and short-term leasing Scheme.

Proposals for 2020:

- The Council will continue to administer the RAS Scheme as well as working to progress supply options under the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan.

Homelessness

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- A further increase in the demand for homeless services was noted in 2019 including the number of families presenting together with a more recent notable increase in the number of single people presenting as homeless during 2019.
- The Homeless Framework Action Plan adopted by Council during 2017 serves to guide the actions of the Council in responding to the many challenges of homelessness.
- The limited availability of private emergency accommodation presented many challenges in responding to homelessness and placed significant demands on the limited resources of the Housing Unit.
- Larger families in particular have great difficulty in sourcing homes in the private sector. Council Housing stock has a limited amount of 4/5 bedroom houses.

Proposals for 2020:

- It is anticipated that the increased demand for homeless services experienced in the past 3 years may continue in 2020 due to the limited supply of housing and in particular the limited availability of housing in the private rented sector.
- It is expected that the HAP Place Finder and Vacant Homes Officer posts will continue to positively impact firstly by assisting in preventing people becoming homeless by

early intervention and by reducing the length of time people spend in Homeless services.

- Galway County Council will continue to progress cooperation with City Council with all Homeless services, including the Cold Weather Response, for a coordinated inter-agency approach to homelessness.
- Galway County Council will continue to work in cooperation and partnership with the Voluntary sector and in particular COPE Galway, Galway Simon and Threshold with a shared goal of providing emergency accommodation for those who need it and supporting them to move on as appropriate for each individual.
- Progress a Housing led approach with all forms of social housing including transition accommodation for families in cooperation with Galway Simon, COPE Galway and Approved Housing Bodies with supports tailored to needs.
- Progress step down/ transition accommodation for single people needing some supports in cooperation with Approved Housing Bodies and with supports tailored to needs.
- Work with Voluntary and Statutory bodies to prevent Homelessness (e.g. Threshold, Tusla etc.) with a focus on tenancy protection and sustainment.
- Continue with case management with an emphasis on move on to appropriate accommodation.
- To continue to provide long term accommodation with all the necessary supports for both families and single homeless applicants.

Homeless HAP Place Finder Service

Indicative Activities in 2019:

The Homeless HAP Place Finder Service was introduced in Galway County Council in November 2018. The Service has been rolled out to Local Authorities to assist homeless households find accommodation where the high demand and low levels of supply make the rental market very challenging.

- 52 homeless households have been assisted by the HAP Homeless Place Finder between November 2018 to date.
- Ongoing engagement with property owners, estate agents in an effort to source accommodation units.

Proposals for 2020:

- Review of the priority homeless cases and the properties available to rent in County Galway.
- Continued engagement with property owners, estate agents in an effort to source all available accommodation units

Housing Strategy for People with a Disability

Indicative Activities in 2019:

The main aim of this Strategy is to promote and mainstream equality of access for people with a disability to the full range of housing options available, suited to individual and households need.

- A review of the record of qualified households for applicants with disabilities was continued in association with 2019 Summary of Social Housing Assessments. Housing applications database indicates that there are 655 people with disabilities on the Housing list - with 293 of these having a Mental Health condition, 236 having a Physical Disability, 116 having an Intellectual Disability and 10 having Sensory.
- Disabilities. People with severe and enduring mental health conditions have a very clear requirement for security of tenure and easy access to services.

Proposals for 2020

- Continue to work with Approved Housing Bodies and disability service providers to provide suitable accommodation in individual tenancies or in shared accommodation.

- The CAS Call remains open and the Council welcomes all applications from Approved Housing Bodies.
- Investigate “Lifetime Adaptable Housing” and consider that a % of all new Council housing to be designed to be wheelchair accessible, and linked with the existing Housing Need of people with mobility impairment while also allowing for emerging need.

<p>Traveller Accommodation Programme</p>

Indicative Activities in 2019:

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 -2024 was prepared in consultation with the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee and was put on public display, following which submissions received were considered and amendments made to the plan as appropriate. The final draft plan was approved and adopted by the plenary Council on 23rd September 2019.

- Major refurbishment works are ongoing at the halting site at Capira, which will be completed this year.
- Works are to commence before the year end on the construction of 6 houses and 2 bays at Dunkellin, Craughwell, following the successful conclusion of discussions with landowner and residents.
- Fire safety and awareness training is an ongoing priority with fire safety improvement works at all halting sites in the County – Tuam, Craughwell and Capira.
- Applications for funding for refurbishment works at traveller specific accommodation at Creggane, Canal Road, Cloonlyon, Gort Bride and Moyne Park were submitted to the Department. Approval has been received for work to commence at Creggane, Moyne Park and Gort Bride. Works will commence on most of these sites prior to the end of the year, with a completion date in 2020.
- The Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee met on 3 occasions, to date, in 2019 with a 4th meeting to be take place before the end of the year.

Proposals for 2020:

- The construction of 6 houses and 2 bays at Dunkellin Park is to be completed in 2020.
- Further fire safety training will be delivered at all halting sites.
- Refurbishment works are to be completed at the following traveller specific accommodation, subject to Departmental approval of funding:
 - Canal Road, Ballinasloe
 - Gort Bride, Loughrea
 - Cloonlyon, Ballygar

- Clontuskert, Ballinasloe
- Ballydavid, Athenry
- Doughiska, Galway
- The Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee will continue to play a lead role in overseeing the implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 – 2024.

Local Authority Housing Stock Management

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- 110 units were made available for re-letting to local authority tenants. Funding was received from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for 28 of these voids.
- Approval was received from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for funding towards the cost of returning 9 derelict units back to productive use. These 9 units should be available for re-letting in 2020.
- The response maintenance programme was delivered on a priority basis with the necessity to focus on essential maintenance, including plumbing and electrical, in order to operate within the constraints of available funding.
- Progress with retrofit of windows and doors to 94 dwellings under the energy efficiency programme phase 2 has commenced and is due to completion in 2020.
- A contract was awarded to carry out a stock survey under the Planned Maintenance Programme in order to comply with statutory requirements and minimum standards in the housing stock. This survey will be 90% complete by the end of 2019 with the remainder of surveys completed in early 2020.
- A contract was awarded to address the electrical and fire safety deficiencies in 54 houses identified in the stock survey. These works will include the installation of fire detection systems/smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms, fire blankets, electrical repairs and certification and service of boiler systems.
- Contract awarded for 2No. Extensions local authority houses to be completed by the end of 2019.

Proposals for 2020:

- The ability of the housing unit to continue to return void housing units to occupation will be dependent on continuation of funding from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government under the Voids Programme.
- Progress to completion the refurbishment of the 9 derelict units approved by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government subject to funding being adequate to complete the works.

- Progress with additional works under Phase 2 of the Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme, where funding becomes available.
- Deliver a response maintenance programme on a priority basis within the constraints of available funding.
- Completion of the stock survey under the Planned Maintenance Programme.
- Under the Planned Maintenance Programme, progress the installation of fire detection systems/smoke alarms, Carbon monoxide alarms, fire blankets, Electrical repairs and certification and service of boiler systems as identified in the stock survey.

Tenancy and Estate Management

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- The Housing Unit continued to work with vulnerable families in assisting them in sustaining their tenancies in accordance with the Tenancy Sustainment Strategy which was adopted by Council in March 2017.
- The Tenancy Enforcement Officer continued to work intensively in a number of areas across the County, this is done in conjunction with the Gardaí and relevant State stakeholders and other Council Departments.
- The Council's Tenancy and Estate Management Strategy involves active community engagement/participation at local level on an ongoing basis with an emphasis on the early identification of anti-social behaviour and breaches of tenancy agreement. The Council continued to engage with the Gardaí and the unit meets regularly to discuss problem areas and how both organizations can work together to address anti-social behaviour.
- CCTV is in operation in seven sites at various locations across the County.
- The Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2018-2020 was advanced in consultation with the SPC and relevant stakeholders to allow for consideration and adoption by Council.

Proposals for 2020:

- As part of the interdepartmental and inter-agency strategic approach, the Housing Unit will identified target housing estates which will be the focus of extensive estate management activity over 2019.
- Estate management staff will continue to assist tenants with the sustainment of their tenancies as per the Tenancy Sustainment Strategy.

Tenant Purchase Scheme

Indicative Activities in 2019:

The introduction of the Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme in 2016 afforded eligible Local Authority Tenants the opportunity to purchase their Local Authority homes.

- To date in 2019 the Housing Unit have received 18 completed applications, 35 properties have been approved for purchase and sales for 7 properties have been completed, total proceeds from sales amount to €361,850.

Proposals for 2020:

- Galway County Council will continue to process all tenant purchase applications in a timely manner in accordance with the Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme 2016.

Housing Rents

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- The Rent Review has been concluded in the Athenry, Ballinasloe, Loughrea and Tuam Municipal Districts and is currently being finalised in the Connemara Municipal District.

Proposals for 2020:

- The Council will continue to implement the Differential Rent Scheme and will advance a review of the terms of the Scheme during 2020.

Control of Horses

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- The Council continued to implement its protocol in conjunction with the Gardaí on the Control of Horses.
- A total of 67 horses have been seized as of October 2019.

Proposals for 2020:

- Galway County Council will continue to work with the Gardaí in tackling the issue of stray and abandoned horses on public roads and Council owned land.

Strategic Policy Committee

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- The Housing, Culture and Recreation SPC met on 2 occasions in 2019. Areas covered relating to Housing included Housing Capital Programme, Rebuilding Ireland, Traveller Accommodation Programme, Tenancy Induction Programme, and the Draft Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Programme.

Proposals for 2020:

- In 2020, it is anticipated that the new Housing SPC, when established, will examine a range of additional policy areas relating to Housing including as a priority item the Housing Allocation Scheme.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS UNIT	
Division B	Roads, Transportation and Safety

- B01 NP Road – Maintenance and Improvement**
- B02 NS Road – Maintenance and Improvement**
- B03 Regional Road – Maintenance and Improvement**
- B04 Local Road – Maintenance and Improvement**

Notification has not yet been received of grants for 2020 from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTS). The figures included in the budget for 2020 are therefore in line with the 2019 grant allocation. Road Grant allocations are distributed amongst the Municipal District based on the KM of road within the district and in line with the 3-year Road Works Programme.

Following the Local Elections in May 2019, boundary changes in the Municipal Districts will result in different allocation but on the basis of the established method of distribution i.e. on the KM of road within the Municipal District.

Road Lengths per MD following Local Elections in May 2019					
Municipal District	Motorway	National Primary	National Secondary	Regional	Local
Athenry/Oranmore	33.94	0.00	28.68	86.22	550.27
Ballinasloe	16.85	0.00	30.12	218.36	1343.02
Conamara	0.00	0.00	109.62	229.83	1124.76
Loughrea	51.19	0.00	62.26	271.15	1637.00
Tuam	14.10	20.99	61.04	94.43	921.73
Total	116.08	20.99	291.72	899.99	5576.78

B01 – B02 National Roads Maintenance and Improvement Works

National Roads - Indicative activities in 2019

Funding was provided in 2019 to facilitate the continued advancement and delivery of the Major Routes. The following projects are managed by the National Roads Project Office and the costs associated with this programme are recouped, in full, from Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

National Road No.	Route Section
M6	Galway City Ring Road
N59	Clifden to Oughterard
N59	Maigh Cuilinn Bypass
N67	Ballinderreen to Kinvara Realignment
M17/M18	Gort to Tuam
N59	Maam Cross/ Oughterard
N84	Luimnagh
N17	Carrownurlaur/ Ballindine
N63	Abbeyknockmoy to Annagh
N63	Liss to Abbey Realignment

- M6 Galway City Ring Road - An Bord Pleanála made a Request for Further Information (RFI) in April 2019. A response to the RFI was submitted on 30 August 2019. ABP will now consider this RFI Response. The response was on display for a further inspection and submissions from the 20th Sept to the 25th Oct 2019 and it is expected an Oral Hearing will take place in Q1 2020.
- N67 Ballindereen to Kinvara Realignment – The Tender Process was successfully concluded for Phase 2 of the N67 Ballinderreen to Kinvara Road Realignment with the contract being awarded in Q3 2019. Works commenced in Q4 and it is anticipated that the construction period will be 18 months.
- Maam Cross to Oughterard has been granted planning permission and is being advanced in two phases. Phase 1 is from Maam Cross to Bunakill, following the tender process, a contractor was selected in Q4 2019 on this 5km section. Phase 2, Bunakill to Claremount is the subject of ongoing discussions and communications with NPWS. A method statement has been agreed with the NPWS for an Advance fencing contract from Bunakill to Claremount. It is hoped to go through the tender process and appoint a contractor in Q4 2019.
- Contract Documents are being prepared by consultants for the N59 Maigh Cuilinn ByPass. Land acquisition is ongoing. It is intended to go to tender in 2020
- N63 Abbeyknockmoy to Annagh - substantial completion was achieved in December 2018. Snag items continued to be addressed during 2019.
- The annual resurfacing and maintenance programme for National routes was undertaken in accordance with the budget for maintenance works notified by Transport Infrastructure Ireland.
- A full programme of Pavement Overlay works was undertaken on the National Primary and National Secondary Road Network in the context of the 2019 grant allocations from Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

National Roads - Proposals for 2020

- N59 Maigh Cuilinn Bypass - Advertise the main construction contract tender for the project in 2020.
- N67 Ballindereen to Kinvara Realignment – Construction works on the N67 Ballindereen to Kinvara Road Realignment will continue throughout the course of 2020.
- Maam Cross to Bunakill - Contractors will be appointed and construction will commence in 2020.
- N63 Liss to Abbey Realignment - the emerging preferred route will be progressed further during 2020
- N63 Abbeyknockmoy to Annagh - Land settlements will continue to be progressed through 2020
- The annual resurfacing and maintenance programme incorporating ordinary maintenance, annual resurfacing, winter maintenance, bridge maintenance and traffic route lighting maintenance will be undertaken within the limits of available funding from Transport Infrastructure Ireland.
- In addition, the programme of Pavement Overlay works will continue the National Primary and National Secondary Road Network in the context of the 2020 grant allocations from Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

B03 – B04 Regional and Local Roads Maintenance and Improvement Works

The 2019 total grant allocation of **€28,830,430** for Regional and Local Roads divides as follows:

Restoration Improvement (RI) Works	€25,123,430
Restoration Maintenance (RM) Works	€ 3,707,000

The grant allocation can be classified under the following broad headings:

<i>Grant Category</i>	2019 Allocation
Restoration Improvement Grant	€14,497,500
Restoration Maintenance Grant	€2,658,000
Supplementary Restoration Maintenance	€1,049,000
Discretionary Maintenance Grant	€5,607,500
Specific Improvement Grants – Bridge Rehabilitation Programme	€415,000
Low Cost Safety Improvement Grants	€286,500
Specific Improvement Grants	€1,204,920
Strategic Regional and Local Roads	€65,000

Speed Limits – Housing Estates	€25,970
Training	€95,000
Drainage Works	€1,380,000
Community Involvement Scheme	€546,040
Former National Roads	€1,000,000
OVERALL TOTAL	€28,830,430

Restoration Improvement (RI) - Indicative Activities in 2019

Funding of €14,497,500 was allocated by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for road reconstruction works on Non-National roads in 2019. This funding was allocated as follows and facilitated improvement works at 151 locations throughout the County:

Restoration Improvement 2019		
Municipal District	No. of locations	Allocation
Athenry/Oranmore	15	€1,309,299
Ballinasloe	16	€2,806,920
Conamara	56	€3,037,340
Loughrea	28	€ 3,700,991
Tuam	36	€3,645,950
Total	151	€14,497,500

Restoration Improvement (RI) - Proposals for 2020

A programme of restoration improvement works will be compiled when notification of the 2020 funding is received and will be detailed in the Roads Programme 2020.

Restoration Maintenance (RM) - Indicative Activities in 2019

Funding of €3,707,000 was allocated for Restoration Maintenance (surface dressing) by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. It was allocated as follows and facilitated surface dressing works at 134 locations around the County:

Restoration Maintenance 2019		
Municipal District	No. of locations	Allocation
Athenry/Oranmore	10	€334,787
Ballinasloe	24	€717,727
Conamara	33	€776,646
Loughrea	35	€946,340
Tuam	32	€931,500
Total	134	€3,707,000

Restoration Maintenance (RM) - Proposals for 2020

A programme of restoration maintenance works will be compiled when notification of the 2020 funding is received will be detailed in the Roads Programme 2020.

Community Involvement Schemes

The Council continued to progress CIS projects during 2019 with an allocation €546,040 to complete all submitted projects under CIS 2018/2019.

A submission was made to the DTTS for CIS 2020/2021 which included details for 85 projects with an estimate cost of €2.6m in September 2019. Funding with regard same for 2020 will be announced in February 2020 as part of the Regional and Local Road Allocation. Projects to progress in order of priority subject to financial resources being made available from DTTS.

Tertiary Road Repairs (DG)

Investment in Local Tertiary roads repairs continued in 2019 with a specific allocation from Discretionary Grant (DG) to be set aside for such roads. A total of €900,000 was allocated specifically which enabled restoration improvement works on 48 Local Tertiary roads in County Galway.

It is intended to continue allocating a specific portion of the Discretionary Grant towards improvement works on tertiary roads. A programme of restoration maintenance works will be compiled when notification of the 2020 funding is received.

Bridges Rehabilitation and Repairs

8 bridges were allocated funding, totalling €415,000, under the Bridge Rehabilitation Programme in 2019. Works were completed on a further 12 bridges, which were allocated funding of €360,500 from the Discretionary Grant allocation.

Circular RW14 of 2019 allowed for a 30% increase on 2019 allocation in respect of Bridge Rehabilitation Programme for 2020. A proposal was submitted to DTTS to include the following bridges in the rehabilitation programme, which is subject to approval from DTTS.

Proposed Bridge Rehabilitation Programme 2020			
<i>*Subject to Departmental approval</i>			
Priority	Road Number	Bridge Name and Location	2020 Proposed Expenditure €
1	R328	Richmond, Clonbern	€75,000.00
2	L-74011	Lisgub East, Ballymacward	€50,000.00
3	L-7321	Pollnabrone, Menlough	€50,000.00

4	L-61603	Derreen, Abbeyknockmoy	€55,000.00
5	R336	Culliaghmore, Leenaun	€50,000.00
6	L-5377	Pollnaclogha, Maigh Cuilinn	€60,000.00
7	L-85144	Derreen Footbridge, Gort	€60,000.00
8	L-12053	Derryadda East, Recess	€80,000.00
9	L-82652	Ballingarry, Kilchreest	€50,000.00
Total			€530,000.00

Provision has been made within the budget to set aside €382,500 for bridge repairs in 21 locations, from the Discretionary Grant for 2020. This is dependent on the level of funding allocated by DTTS. Full details of approved works will be detailed in the Roads Programme 2020.

Specific Improvement Grants (SIG)

A specific improvement grant allocation, totalling €1,204,920, was received for 4 projects:

- Realignment of L3412 at R348 junction (Nutfield Cross) **Ballinasloe MD**
- Derrartha Road **Conamara MD**
- Dunkellin River Bridge **Loughrea MD**
- R332 Kilbannon **Tuam MD**

Submissions have been made by Galway County Council to the Department for funding for suitable schemes, including balance of funding to complete works already commenced in 2019 for Derrartha Road and R332 Kilbannon. Notification will be received from DTTAS, in February 2020, of the schemes which are to proceed, with the relevant funding also being advised.

Strategic Regional and Local Road Grants

Submissions have been made by Galway County Council to the Department for funding for suitable schemes. Notification will be received from DTTS, in February 2020, of the schemes which are to proceed, with the relevant funding also being advised.

Local Improvement Schemes

36 projects were completed under the Local Improvement Scheme from the €856,959 allocation for 2019 from the Department of Rural and Community Development(DRCD).

It is intended to re-advertise the scheme, seeking submissions, in early 2020, with a view to carrying out works at further locations, subject to funding being made available by DRCD.

Non-National Roads - Own Resources

The shortfall in the budgetary allocation for the maintenance of local roads over time has resulted in a significant reduction in the level of maintenance. Some essential elements of maintenance including drainage, verge trimming and the renewal of signs and markings have been inadequately funded. Local road maintenance is funded from both the Council's own resources and the Discretionary Grant.

The sum provided from the Council's own resources in 2019 was €6,025,436 which included provision of €1,200,000 for public lighting.

The distribution of the Local Roads Budget 2020 will be presented to Council for approval in the context of the Roads Programme 2020. The level of discretion that will be available to the Council in the allocation of funding in 2020 for Regional and Local Roads will be restricted by the requirements of the Memorandum on Grants for Regional and Local Roads as issued by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTS).

B05 Public Lighting

A sum of €1,200,000 was provided, from Council's own funds, in the 2019 budget to fund the cost of the public lighting programme in County Galway, including the maintenance, energy and upgrade costs.

Successful application to TII under the Energy Efficient Public Lighting Retrofit funding secured €353,300 in funding which facilitated the retrofit of 532 inefficient public lights on the National Roads with energy efficient LED units. A further 339 inefficient public lights on Non-National Roads were retrofitted with energy efficient LED units from the Council's own resources and grant funding from Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland (SEAI).

Following failure of decorative lanterns and subsequent review, Galway County Council proceeded with the urgent replacement of 40 decorative lanterns in two villages, An Spidéal and Creggs, with a further 30 decorative lanterns to be replaced as part of this programme in 2020.

The Council will continue to work with TII to secure necessary funding to replace all outstanding inefficient public lights on National Roads throughout the County and liaise with SEAI to secure any available grant funding for public light retrofitting works and will progress such works throughout 2020 as need and available funding allows.

B06 Traffic Management

B0601 – Traffic Management

Budget allocation for B0601 has been increased to account for operational cost and review of current traffic management software which needs to be upgraded

B0603 – Traffic Improvement Measures

A sum of €40,000 exclusive of service support costs has been provided in the budget to progress Traffic Management Plans in the County of Galway.

B07 Road Safety Engineering Improvement

B0701 – Low Cost Remedial Measures

The Council, as with headings B01 – B04, has not yet received notification of the level of grant that will be available for Low Cost Safety Improvement works. An allocation of €286,500 from DTTS in 2019 enabled works to be carried out in various locations across the County. Provision has been made for €437,000 exclusive of service support costs under the Low-Cost Safety Improvement works. The level of works to be undertaken in this area will dependent upon the amount of grant funding made available by TII/DTTS.

A submission was made by Galway County Council in accordance with Circular RW 15 of 2019 outlining proposal for 2020 in order of priority as set out below with a total estimate cost of €437,000, which is subject to approval by DTTS.

Proposed Safety Improvement Works 2020

**Subject to funding approval from Department*

LA Rank	Road Number	Description of Location of Safety Improvement Works	Description of Proposed Scheme	Cost €
1	L3103/School Road	Athenry	Install a controlled crossing for children to safely cross the road, additional signage and road markings.	€50,000
2	LP3404	Newtown, Caltra	Acquire land to widen carriageway and provide safe passing margin for oncoming vehicles	€30,000
3	R343	An Cheathrú Rua	Install a controlled crossing, signage and road markings.	€50,000
4	Junction of R458 with R380	Junction of Georges St. Gort with the Loughrea Road at Hennely's Pub - Gort Town.	Traffic Signal Control Pedestrians Crossing and associated works	€50,000
5	R942	Galway Road Tuam	Install a controlled crossing, signage and road markings.	€50,000
6	Various Locations	Driver Feedback Total 21No.	Driver feedback signs	€105,000
7	R348	Kiltullagh Village	Provide new Footway	€30,000.00
8	L7112/L3101	Junction of L-7112 and L-3101 Ballymacreg	Improve Sightlines	€15,000.00
9	L-7160	Castleturvin	Improve Sightline	€15,000.00
10	R336	Tiernakill	Safety Barrier	€8,000
11	Junction of R380 and L8529	Junction of minor road L8529 Ballynabucky with main Loughrea Gort Road R380	Improve visibility at junction	€10,000
12	L-2235	Claddagh bend and junction	Improve visibility of junction on bend setting back verge	€16,000
13	L-6199	Claregalway	Removal of Bends	€8,000
€437,000				

B0702 – Other Engineering Improvements

Following on from the adoption of the Road Traffic Special Speed Limits County Galway Bye-Laws 2018, a programme of works installing and updating signage, as per the bye-laws, was completed in Q1 of 2019.

The programme of the installation of SLOW ZONE speed limit signage in housing estates is expected to continue in 2020, depending on funding being made available by the Department of Transport.

The Unit will continue to implement Road Works Speed Limits; in consultation with the Gardaí and Transport Infrastructure Ireland, as deemed necessary to facilitate the delivery of the Council's various work programmes.

B08 Road Safety Promotion and Education

There are a number of costs incurred under this heading including the Junior School Wardens Scheme, publicity campaigns including Road Safety Week, European Mobility Week, Drive for Life Course, Cycle Training for National School and promote awareness of road safety issues for the benefit of the general public with a focus on vulnerable road users.

Galway County Council's Road Safety Together Committee consists of representatives from the County Council, Galway City Council, the Road Safety Authority, An Garda Síochána, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, and An Taisce. The Committee meet four times during the year and jointly examines options available to improve road safety for pedestrians, motorists and road users, in general.

The allocation under this heading is €128,325, inclusive of service support costs.

B09 Car Parking

A budget provision of €860,356, inclusive of service support costs, is for the operation and maintenance of both On-street (6 locations) and Off-street (6 locations) parking facilities provided throughout the County along with parking enforcement costs.

B10 Support to Roads Capital Programme

The administration costs (i.e. indirect costs) in relation to supporting the Roads Capital Programme are met from the revenue budget. This budget contains the staff costs associated with providing support to the programme, as well as a proportion of the service support costs.

B11 Agency and Recoupable Services

The Council is allowed to charge an agreed overhead rate for all jobs undertaken by its staff. The income derived from the overhead charge meets the costs of holiday pay, sick pay and insurance costs. All applications for licenses to open the public road are lodged through the national MRL system, managed by the Road Management Office. The Council's Roads department processes the licenses for County Galway and from the MRL system and attaches conditions and fees to the license. Income from Road Opening Licenses and works undertaken for other bodies are accounted for within this budget heading.

D07 Unfinished Housing Estates

10 estates have been taken in charge, with an additional 2 estates brought to taking in charge standard for Bond Release, during 2019. The Council is currently engaged with over 70 developments at various stages in the Taking in Charge process. The work on these estates may be carried out directly by Developer(s) for Bond Release/Taking in Charge or by the Taking in Charge Section following receipt of the bond monies.

The Taking in Charge Section actively engages with Bond Holders for the release of monies to complete works on estates and with Developers and/or other interested parties to ensure estates are completed to the required standard for the benefit of all, especially the residents.

The financial resources available to the Taking in Charge Section is by way of Bonds, specifically assigned to developments and/or funding received through Site Resolution with Irish Water.

The progress of works on estates is governed by the funding available, engagement with third parties and the complexity of the work involved which may include wayleave agreements.

The Taking in Charge section will continue to assess and process taking in charge applications for 2020. Having regard to the resources available, every effort will be made to ensure developments are completed in compliance with grant of planning and to a required standard for taking in charge.

F06 Agency and Recoupable Services

Community Employment Scheme

During 2019, 5 Community Employment Schemes continued to operate. Villages and towns benefitted from such works as village maintenance; landscaping; grass cutting and stone wall building. The CE Schemes are as follows: Clifden/ Roundstone; Maigh Cuilinn/Oughterard; Gort and Environs; Laurencetown/ Abbey and Tuam and Environs. The 5 Community

Employment Schemes will continue to operate and provide such works as village maintenance; landscaping; grass cutting and stone wall building.

G01 Land Drainage Costs

G0101 Maintenance of Land Drainage Areas

Arterial Drainage

The Council discharged its statutory responsibility for the maintenance of certain drainage works in the County through the Roads and Transportation Unit and the Council's Municipal District Offices. The Council has charge of twelve Drainage Districts and there are two Drainage Districts in County Galway which extend into Roscommon and Clare County Councils.

A provision of €175,000 has been made from the Council's own funding for 2020 to carry out these maintenance works.

Flood Mitigation Works and Studies

Galway County Council continues working in partnership with the OPW during 2019 to identify and progress works aimed at reducing the risk of future flooding. 22 new minor works schemes were completed during 2019, with a further 10 projects commenced and are to be carried forward into 2020.

Proposals for 2020 include completion of outstanding works on all existing minor flood mitigation projects and Galway County Council to liaise with the OPW about future minor works schemes that are under consideration with the aim of securing funding for these schemes.

A provision of €450,000 has been made under this heading for carrying out these works.

G02 Operation and Maintenance of Piers and Harbours

G0201 - G0203 – Operations of Piers and Harbours

An allocation of €150,000 was provided from the Council's own resources in 2019 for the ongoing marine maintenance programme in relation to the 162 landing places in County Galway which have been identified as in the charge of Galway County Council. This involves varied works including the updating of access steps and rails and repairs to slipways, including the removal of algae growth on piers in County Galway.

During 2019 improvement work have been complete at Ervallah, Oileann Mhór and Canower piers. Repairs to the pier at Roundstone will be completed by year end. Navigation lights

have been provided at Renville pier Oranmore and Inisboffin. Removal of silt and other obstructions has been carried out near the slipways of An Spidéal and Renville.

Provision of €150,000 excluding service support costs has been made again for 2020 to continue maintenance works on piers and harbours

There are circa 60 visitor mooring located in various sites such a Cill Ronán, Killary Harbour, Clifden Bay, Srutháin which require chains and shackle replacement every 2 years. Provision of €20,000 has also been made under this heading to continue the maintenance on yacht moorings.

Water Services

Capital Investment Programme

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- Since 1st January 2014 the Council continues to implement the Capital programme as an agent of Irish Water. The investment decisions and timing of investment are decided by Irish Water based on business case and need the approval of the Commission for Energy Regulation. The Water Services Investment Programme as we knew it has been replaced by Irish Water's Capital Investment Programme. In 2019, under the Infrastructure Programme, Athenry Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) upgrade was completed, and officially opened by Minister Eoghan Murphy on 8th July 2019. Upgrade of water mains and waste water collection pipes within Ballinasloe prior to street enhancement works continues under Ballinasloe Contract 2 and will be substantially complete by year end. Construction commenced, and will be substantially completed, on the new WWTP at Glenamaddy and the extension of the Tuam Regional Water Supply Scheme to Loughrea commenced. Upgrades to Tuam WWTP, Gort and Spiddal Water Treatment Plants under the Capital Works Programme are ongoing.

Proposals for 2020:

- The Commission for the Regulation of Utilities (CRU) is currently considering Irish Waters expenditure as part of Irish Water Revenue Control 3 (2020 – 2024). The outcome of this process will inform the levels of expenditure for Irish Water in both Opex and Capex. Irish Water has published its Capital investment Plan for this period for the consideration of the CRU and some of the planned investment is set out hereafter. In 2020, under the Infrastructure Programme, it is envisaged that new WWTPs will commence construction at Mountbellew, Spiddal and Ahascragh. The extension of Tuam RWSS to Loughrea will be completed. Planning and design for new WWTPs at Roundstone, Carraroe, and Ballygar. The sewer network upgrade for Athenry, will progress, with a view to commencing construction before year end. Construction of new reservoirs is expected to commence for the Letterfrack WSS, Tieranea WSS, Gort WSS and Kilkerrin/Moylough RWSS under the Capital Works Programme.

Management and maintenance of Water and Wastewater Schemes

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- The Council continues to operate the water and wastewater schemes as agent of Irish Water under the terms set out in the Service Level Agreement and the annual service plan. The Council as agent of Irish Water is now operating within a regulated environment and the practical effect of this has been a much greater emphasis on reporting of activities and measurement of performance based on that reporting. This has resulted in the adoption of new practices and new technology. Much of the new technology assists in the gathering of data necessary for reporting activity levels and performance to the CRU. Emphasis continues to be placed on Health and Safety and quality compliance. The operation of new technology and processes is challenging in a regulated environment where constant efficiencies in input resources are demanded while demand for outputs and standards increase.

Proposals for 2020:

- The Council will continue to operate the Service Level Agreement and perform within the parameters set out in the Annual Service Plan. It is expected that further transformation initiatives will be rolled out as well as progress in relation to the Water Industry Operating Framework (WIOF) which should clarify the road ahead for the industry as a whole but it is clear that the aim of IW is that of a single public utility model. While this is unlikely to be achieved in 2020 it's eventual achievement will need careful management and planning by all local authorities.

Water Conservation

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- Leakage reduction works throughout the County is been addressed under the Water Network Program (WNP). These work activities are carried out by both the WNP Contractor and Local Authority crews across a number of different strands including the following: Water Mains Renewal (Mains Rehab), Find and Fix, Lead Replacement, DMA Establishment, First Fix, Metering and Pressure Management. To date in excess of 20km of mains and all associated Valves and fittings have been replaced under this program at various locations on selected watermains. In addition, 19 Pressure Reducing Valves (PRV's) have been installed and commissioned throughout the County and are now operational, yielding considerable water savings in those areas. Customer side leakage continues to be targeted under the First Fix program throughout the County.

Proposals for 2020:

- To further reduce the 'Unaccounted for Water' in the county during 2020, resources will continue to be provided to target all public and private side leakage in the network under the leakage reduction program. Further areas are to be prioritised for mains rehabilitation works, metering and pressure reduction throughout the County engaging the services of both our direct labour crews and Contractors.

Rural Water Programme

Indicative Activities in 2019:

A new Multi Annual Rural Water Programme (2019 -2021) commenced in the current year and submissions on same were submitted to the Department on 13/3/2019. Final allocations for the period were confirmed on 14th October 2019 and in the interim Galway County Council continued its activities in the implementation of the Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2016-2018 (MARWP). In accordance with the policy direction of the Department the usual emphasis on the identification and implementation of the most economically feasible and sustainable options to ensure compliant drinking water drove the approach along with the RAL list published by the Department. The Council continued to assist schemes in their day to day operations by implementing the approved Subsidy scheme and substantial funds were paid out. It should be noted that the Department increased the subsidy by 65% to allow group water scheme to supply water for domestic purposes free of charge to mirror the situation on the public side.

Proposals for 2020:

The Council will work with all the schemes successful schemes to ensure the funds made available under the Multi Annual Rural Water Programme and expended and that water quality within the group water scheme sector improves.

FINANCE AND ICT UNIT

Finance

Value for Money, Shared Services and Public Procurement:

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- Galway County Council utilises the procurement platform www.supplygov.ie offered by the Local Government Operational Procurement Centre (LGOPC) in relation to the procurement of goods, works and services from suppliers (incl. contractors and service providers). The website www.supplygov.ie has been developed by the Local Government Operational Procurement Centre (LGOPC) to streamline the procurement process. The website operates two modules for procuring goods, works and services through Requests for Tenders (RFTs) and Requests for Quotations (RFQs). During 2019 Galway County Council generated 173 Requests for Tender (RFT) and 71 Requests for Quotation (RFQ) on www.supplygov.ie.
- The Government's electronic tendering platform administered by the Office of Government Procurement is www.etenders.gov.ie. This platform is a central facility for all public sector contracting authorities to advertise procurement opportunities and award notices. This year to date Galway County Council processed 22 tenders on this platform.
- Purchase Cards: The Council uses the Lighthouse Portal (Ascendas) to process transactions to Agresso and currently has 240 active cards with spend of €988,087 and has processed 6,645 transactions to date.
- Fuel Debit Cards: The Council currently has 238 active fuel cards with a 2019 spend of €624,000 made up of 9,004 transactions across 66 filling stations.
- The Procurement Officer will monitor requisition compliance through switching on product codes for procurement approval after they are raised, utilising the procurement checker tool in MS4 Agresso. The number of product codes switched on for checking will continue to increase as the role of compliance increases.

Proposals for 2020:

- Further develop the use of the platforms www.supplygov.ie and www.etenders.gov.ie across the organisation by;
 - increasing procurement awareness and addressing training needs,
 - utilising frameworks established by LGOPC and the OGP across the organisation,
 - monitoring www.etenders.gov.ie and www.supplygov.ie to ensure competition processes are completed in line with EU Directives and guidelines.
 - analysing the 2019 spend profile with a view to identifying possible cost saving initiatives in line with LGOPC and the OGP frameworks and contracts.
 - engaging with the LGOPC and the OGP and ensure that all relevant Circulars, Guides and instructions are circulated and implemented.

- To update the Corporate Procurement Plan (2019-2021) and the Corporate Procurement Policy (2019-2022) and increase the profile of procurement through the Council's website.

- Encourage greater access to Small Medium Enterprise (SME) participation in procurement in relation to Circular 10/14.

- Publish details of all new national frameworks and contracts on the Council intranet and to introduce a simplified Contract Logging/Monitoring system.

- To implement a Spend Data Analysis System and expand the Procurement function through Agresso MS4.

- Implement Green Procurement as criteria in tender documentation where possible.

- Continue to monitor and review the Purchase Card and Fuel Card systems.

Discharge of Payments

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- Continued implementation of electronic payment methods/upgrades to ensure compliance with e-Payments
- Review and continue application of best practice within both the Accounts Payable and Payroll functions
- Continued implementation of Directives issued by the Revenue Commissioners
- Ensure Accounts function meets BPI requirements.

Proposals for 2020:

- Co-operation with the implementation of E-Invoicing.
- Continued implementation of electronic initiatives such as e-TAX Clearance
- Continues compliance with the requirements of “Real-time” payroll; ePSWT when rolled out

Financial Management Systems

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- Additional efficiencies achieved re: Budget drafting system (Budgeting / Forecasting /Reporting) and full engagement with the software provider.
- Additional efficiencies achieved re: claims system for travel and subsistence and reduction of late claims/utility accounts.
- Policy and procedure notes developed for Accounts Payable including supplier statements /fraud prevention.

Proposals for 2020:

- Continued review of procedure/best practice for the full Accounts payable function and documentation of same.
- Investigation of enhances/alternative automated methods to achieve aspects of the BUDGET cycle. Continued review of CCAS Budgetary Modules and full implementation of functionality.
- Review Taxation expertise within Finance unit and skill-up for identified knowledge and expertise gaps.

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- Continued review of the Revenue collection function – to ensure best practice is achieved and any new income stream is incorporated efficiently.
- Continued utilisation of the ASCENDAS system in regard to the management of income streams such as rates, rents and development levies.
- Continued utilisation of the MARPS process in regard to housing loans.
- Liaison with the Law Agent in regard to the administration of the Tenancy Warning system in regard to rent arrears and Section 12 Applications for Possession under the terms of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014.
- Continued implementation of electronic payment methods e.g. Billpay, Household Budget, EFT, online payment facility etc to facilitate customers.
- Formal commencement of REVAL 2021 in conjunction with the Valuation Office which will provide for a complete revaluation of all commercial and industrial property in regard to rates in County Galway to reflect the contemporary business environment. The Valuation Order was signed by the Commissioner of Valuation on the 1-11-2019.

Proposals for 2020:

- Continued implementation of REVAL 2021 in conjunction with the Valuation Office which will provide for a complete revaluation of all commercial and industrial property in County Galway to reflect the contemporary business environment. The purpose of the revaluation is to bring increased transparency and equity to the rating system and provide a much closer and uniform relationship between the current annual rental values of commercial property and their commercial rates liability. This is part of the National Revaluation Programme and the deadline for the production of the new Valuation List is the 15-9-2021. The new valuations will become effective on the 1-1-2022.
- Monitor and update the Revenue collection function as regards best practice
- Continue to review debt collection procedures including legal enforcement measures with the Law Agent.
- The unit will continue to offer the Bill Pay option to Rents, Loans, RAS and Rates customers.
- Provide appropriate training to staff on debt collection procedures.

Motor Tax and Driver Licensing Systems

Indicative Activities in 2019:

The number and value of **motor tax** transactions to the end of September 2019 is set out below:

No of transactions online	No. of Transactions Galway Motor Tax Offices	Total
160,760 - €30.4M	51,684- €10.8M	212,444 -€41.2

- Approximately 75% of total motor tax transactions for the Galway area were carried out online to the end of September 2019. 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.

Proposals for 2020:

- Work will continue on retrieving and digitizing motor tax records in long-term storage with a view to creating an accessible index of all vintage vehicle registration records.
- The Motor Tax Offices in An Cheathru Rua, Ballinasloe, and Galway, will continue to implement all motor tax policies and procedures, and provide support and advice to members of the public, including customers of the motor tax online service.

Information Technology Systems

Indicative Activities for 2019

- Storage Area Network tender completed and commencement of installation and migration project to complete by year end
- Upgrade to Regional Offices Tuam, Loughrea and Ballinasloe completed to Government Cloud Network (GCN)
- Government Network Services Wifi for 8 largest Offices to facilitate Members, Staff and Guests secure access.
- Extensive replacement of Staff and Members laptops and PC's for high energy efficiency and preparation to have all Windows 10
- Implement new Data centre grade backup and recovery software and hardware platform with subscription tier and volume services.
- N6 Galway City Ring Road update with response data to An Bord Pleanala
- Automation workflow processing enhancement for increased and more reliable service offerings for Planning Mapping and notifications for both staff and public.
- Business Reporting Analytics and Process Improvement Citizen Feedback /Queries FOIs, HLO tenant interviews, rental inspections, environmental complaints, invasive species
- Provision of Mobile Laptop charging and security container training facility for staff.
- Location mapping and mobile data collection for Personal Injury Claims, Playgrounds, Wifi Hotspots, Graveyard Plots, Recycling Centres
- Planning Systems improvements for preplanning and notifications of applications

Proposals 2020

- Business Case Development for Customer Service Management
- Adaption and Implementation of Information Systems Security and Usage polices from National Sectoral agreed ones.
- Enhance Disaster Recovery capability to facilitate Cloud Housing support services in the event of service failure
- Develop a strategy and toolset for Electronic Records cataloguing, classification and retention.
- Replace all Virtual Server Hosting hardware and software with ability to move compute workloads to/from Cloud Recourses
- Video Conferencing multi user suite facility initially to be used for National Emergency Planning Centre meetings and job interviews.
- Participate in National Open Data Strategy.
- Continuing development of Severe Weather Management Systems.

ECONOMIC, RURAL and COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT and CORPORATE SERVICES UNIT

Economic Rural and Community Development Unit

Promoting Co-ordination of Agencies

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- The Galway County Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) held 5 meetings to date in 2019 and in addition, meetings of the Funding Co-Ordination Sub-Committee, Health and Wellbeing Sub-Committee, and Social Inclusion Sub-Committee were held to examine in detail various programmes of the LCDC.
- Facilitated the County Galway LCDC in the implementation of the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) to the value of €1.6 million in County Galway and monitored the financial and non-financial reporting of the programme in line with the Funding Agreement.
- The Department of Health approved a third round of funding for the Healthy Ireland Fund and Galway County LCDC co-ordinated and submitted a Programme of Works to Pobal for consideration and funding approval is awaited. The funding provides for a Coordinator to manage the schemes and the recruitment process is in train
- Supported community groups in the development of their festival and events including their Food Tourism offer, building on the European Region of Gastronomy 2018 designation.
- Supported festivals and events in terms of the sustainability and long-term growth of festivals. The unit is currently working with Fáilte Ireland and other partners to put a development and support programme in place.

- Promotion of the Transport Co-ordinating Unit (TCU) service and brand name of Bealach na Gaillimhe.
- Partnered with Galway Film Centre and other relevant partners on the UNESCO City of Film 2019 programme and the rollout of the WRAP Fund. Currently engaging with partners in the development of a multi annual plan to maximise the opportunities presented by the designation and to further develop the audio visual and film sector.
- Partner and support Galway 2020 in the development and delivery of the programme for the European Capital of Culture 2020. Work with the 2020 team to ensure the opportunities and return on investment for the County is maximised, to ensure capacity is built at community level, that towns/villages in the County benefit from the designation and that there is a legacy post next year.
- Continue to develop and foster strong partnerships with LEO and Galway City Council in the areas of Economic and Enterprise Development, ensuring that the County benefits from the range of supports available and that services are tailored to meet the needs of the County, supporting jobs and communities.
- Continued to develop and foster strong partnerships with LEO and Galway City Council in the areas of Economic Development.
- Participated and continued to act as Vice Chair of the CYPSC and facilitate a coordinated approach with the LCDC.

Proposals for 2020:

- Implement the recommendations of the Departmental Review of LCDC's, ensuring appropriate use of Sub-Committee structures, and linkages with other operational structures and committees.
- Agree a schedule of meetings of Galway County LCDC, and focus on the review of the Local Economic and Community Plan.
- Implement all Galway County LCDC Programmes within target deadlines and in line with all programme and reporting requirements.
- Support community groups in the development of their Food Tourism offer. Support festivals and events in sustainability and long-term growth.

- Promotion of the Transport Co-ordinating Unit (TCU) service and brand name of Bealach na Gaillimhe.
- Partner with Galway Film Centre and other partners on the UNESCO City of Film 2020 programme and the further development of opportunities which can support the development of the audio-visual and film sector up to the end of 2022. Continue to support the rollout of the WRAP Fund.
- Partner and support Galway 2020 in the development and delivery of the programme for the European Capital of Culture 2020. Work with the 2020 team to ensure the opportunities and return on investment for the County is maximised, to ensure capacity is built at community level, that towns/villages in the County benefit from the designation and that there is a legacy post next year.
- Continue to develop and foster strong partnerships with LEO and Galway City Council in the areas of Economic Development ensuring that the County benefits from the range of supports available and that services are tailored to meet the needs of the County, supporting jobs and communities.
- Continue to work with all relevant partners to assist economic, social and community development in County Galway through a coordinated approach and development of projects delivered through shared resources and securing funding from competitive bids.
- Participate and continue to act as Vice Chair of the CYPSC and facilitate a coordinated approach with the LCDC.
- Continue to collaborate with the Western Development Commission through projects associated with the Atlantic Economic Corridor. For example, the Glenamaddy Enterprise and Education hub through the Digiwest initiative.

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- Progressed the development of the BIA Innovator Campus, Ireland West Food and Rural Development Innovation Hub in association with all relevant partners. Facilitated the development of the detailed design for the campus, a revised Part VIII and the procurement process for the construction of the development. Working with HR, the nit the facilitated the recruitment of the General Manager position for the BIA Innovator Campus CLG. Continued to provide strategic leadership in an advisory capacity and at Director level on the Board.
- Progress the work done previously on the Tourism Strategy for Galway with a view to publishing same in early 2020.
- Developed opportunities for the Agri-Tourism Sector, building on the funding secured through the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine which supported over 40 local producers in Galway County through the Discover Galway series.
- Commenced initial scoping work on a Galway Food Strategy with next stages and a course of action to be teased out and decided on.
- Reviewed the range of producer supports and any producer liaison work/preparation that needs to be completed in advance of the BIA Innovator Campus build.
- Continued to work with GRD on monies and supports available through the three-year Artisan Fund.
- Development of ERG legacy projects such as the Discover Galway series to be continued beyond 2019.
- Support for Development of Food and other local community Festivals in Galway assisting existing festivals to grow and assisting new festivals, events and experiences to develop.
- Facilitated the development and growth of local markets throughout the County by subsidising new producers at particular times and promoting local markets through various media.
- Continued to work with Teagasc in relation to supporting and developing key strategic projects in relation to the agriculture and food sectors to assist to increasing the value added to primary production in County Galway.
- Supported the development of tourism in the county including a range of festival and events, the development of visitor experience including the Connemara Greenway, participation on the Connemara and Aran Islands Tourism Network (CAITN) in the

rollout of the Connemara Visitor Experience Development Plan, participated on and contributed to the Lough Derg Marketing group and commenced discussions with a number of key national and local partners for the development of destination experiences and investment in product development and business support. Worked with HR to recruit the Council's first Tourism Officer and supported Costa Gaelach Conamara and Arann in partnership with CAITN, FLAG West and Údarás na Gaeltachta to enable the engagement of a Tourism Officer and rollout of tourism initiatives for Connemara.

- Continued to development strong working relationships with Failte Ireland to support the development and rollout of Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and the Wild Atlantic Way destination brands including scoping out key opportunities for the east of the County for the IHH brand which is a very welcome addition that will provided investment and growth in this region.
- Worked with the Broadband Officer and other stakeholders in the preparation of the Digital Strategy for County Galway and participate in the preparation for the National Rural Broadband Project.
- Ongoing role in the management of the site including the management of a number of short term leases/licences such as the Galway Flying Club, Fever Pitch music festival and Galway International Arts Festival. Worked with the Planning Department and engaged with a number of stakeholders in relation to the longer-term development options for the Former Galway Airport Site at Carnmore to secure optimum economic benefit for the Galway region.
- Ireland West Airport – Continuous provision of Tourism Promotional material
- Supported Communities to secure funding under the Outdoor Recreation fund
Outdoor Recreation and infrastructure scheme – (ORIS) 2019
- Facilitated the BOI Enterprising Towns Awards competition in County Galway working with Tuam, Oranmore, Portumna and Clifden.
- Provision of tourism Promotional material at Galway Showcase Event at Milwaukee Irish Festival, linking with over 100,000 attendees, with cultural, heritage and ancestral links to Ireland.

Proposals for 2020:

- Assist the development and implementation of Galway County Digital Strategy.
- Progress Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) projects in Athenry, Dunmore, and Tuam and including the BIA Innovator Campus, Regional Food Hub Project in Athenry.

- Submit application for calls under RRDF (categories 1 and 2).
- Progress relevant actions under the Regional Enterprise Plan to 2020 West.
- Work with the WDC and Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC) network on regional projects, including the development of hubs along the AEC.
- Continue to support Communities to secure funding under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2020.
- Continue to Support Bank of Ireland's National Enterprise Town Awards, by supporting the nomination of towns which showcase and promote the spirit of enterprise in their local Area.
- Continue to work in partnership with Fáilte Ireland, facilitating and enhancing the tourism product across Galway County, including Discover Galway Food Series and development of Business Tourism.
- Continue to work with lead partners, tourism networks and state agencies in supporting brand "WWW" Wild Atlantic Way and supporting the Connemara Coast and Aran Islands Visitor Experience Development Plan, ensuring a strategic and planned approach to address the needs of the region.
- Support tourism networks for brand "IHH" Irelands Hidden Heartlands
- Continue to work in partnership with the Lough Derg Marketing Group partners, Tipperary and Clare County Council's, Fáilte Ireland, Waterways Ireland and Tourism Trade to promote the Lough Derg Area.
- Continue to support the development of the Lough Derg Destination Strategy and Action Plan *to ensure a strategic and planned approach to maximising opportunities and addressing the needs of the Lough Derg Area.*
- Facilitate the request for the temporary use of the Galway Airport site in support of the Galway 2020 Programme of events such as Branar/Galway Arts Festival and the two-day music festival 'Fever Pitch'.

Supporting Sustainable Communities

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- Progress the 2018 Town and Village Renewal Schemes and submitted the 2019 Town and Villages Renewal Scheme.
- Roll out funding approvals under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF).
- Supported Tidy Towns groups in the County to participate in the Tidy Towns National Competition in 2019 through funding support, and held 2 workshops to advise and assist Groups.
- Continued to support and develop the Public Participation Network (PPN) including rolling out County and Municipal District plenaries and providing assistance to the voluntary Secretariat of the network.
- Two communities/projects (Creggs and Moycullen) entered into the 2019 Pride of Place competition with the support of the Unit.
- Delivered the Community Support Scheme in 2019 and held a funding workshop in each Municipal District to offer advice and assistance to Community and Voluntary Groups on the Council's funding schemes, in addition to input from other agencies.
- Supported communities to secure funding under the Outdoor Recreational Fund in 2019.
- Galway County LCDC administered the Community Enhancement Programme in 2019 and supported a range of projects to enhance amenities and facilities across communities, while ensuring the best use of resources across all funding agencies.

Proposals for 2020:

- Having regard to the Departmental 5-year Strategy to support the Community and Voluntary Sector in Ireland 2019-2024, continue to work with communities to empower them to identify needs and develop community-led projects, and build their capacity through the Public Participation Network (PPN).
- Deliver Funding Workshops across the County, incorporating information on new programmes and funding options for voluntary activity.
- Provide targeted support to Tidy Towns Groups across the County, including initiatives to support the implementation of the All-Ireland Pollination Plan by the Council.
- Continue to support voluntary activity throughout the County in a targeted manner through the Community Support Schemes and assist Groups in drawing down funding on an annual basis.
- Focus on inter-agency collaboration in the delivery of LCDC funding programmes to ensure the best use of resources across all funding agencies, and maximise opportunities for leveraging of funding.
- Assist communities in implementing Town and Village Renewal 2019 projects. Accept expressions of interest and submit final applications for Town and Village Renewal 2020.

Indicative activities for 2019:

- Continued to expand delivery of the Community Smoke Alarm Scheme targeting vulnerable people with no alarm and commenced a review of those whose alarms have reached their 10-year life span.
- Over 40 events were organised for Social Inclusion Week 2019 which took place from 14th to 20th October 2019 – Social Inclusion Week is a celebration of participation, equality and inclusion and a great opportunity for the Council to raise awareness of the excellent work being done by local Groups and Organisations across the County.
- The Bealtaine Festival is a month-long event held in May to celebrate creativity in older people and the Council organised 30 events throughout the County, in conjunction with Active Retirement Groups and relevant support organisations.
- The Unit co-ordinated 3 meetings so the Traveller Interagency Group to date in 2019 in association with Housing Unit, to discuss implementation of the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy
- An Information Session to develop the Older Persons Council for the City and County was held on 22nd October 2019 and over 100 people attended the event. During 2019 to date, 3 meetings of the Age Friendly Alliance were held, which is a joint committee to oversee the implementation of the Galway Age Friendly City and County Programme.
- Continued to administer and manage the Comhairle na nÓg development fund from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) for the purposes of funding a countywide programme of activities and initiatives.
- Organised National Play and Recreation Event in June 2019 at Rinville Park and supported a number of other events under the National Play and Recreation Grant Scheme 2019.

Proposals for 2020:

- Organise National Event days for various social inclusion activities.
- Commence consultations on a 5-year Age Friendly Strategy to commence in 2020.
- Agree a programme of funding for Comhairle na nÓg and support their key topics through the Council's funding schemes.

- Continue progress on Strategy documents in the areas of Healthy Ireland and Migrant Integration for Galway County.
- Continue to target disadvantaged individuals, groups and communities through programmes such as SICAP, Community Enhancement Programme, Community Support Schemes and Healthy Ireland Fund.

Supporting RAPID areas - Tuam and Ballinasloe

Indicative Activities in 2019

- In 2018, RAPID (Revitalising Areas by Planning and Investment in Development) was amalgamated with the Community Facilities Scheme and rebranded as the Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) to enhance facilities in local authority areas. The CEP is no longer ring-fenced for RAPID areas only, however, LCDC's are requested to take into account the relative deprivation of areas when allocating funding throughout the local authority administrative area.

Proposals for 2020:

- Galway County LCDC will continue to cross-reference all applications under the CEP with the Pobal Deprivation Index to ensure that funding is targeted towards getting small grassroots projects of the ground, and improving facilities, across all disadvantaged areas of the county.

Promoting and Developing Arts Activity

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- Designed and administered Arts Grants 2019
- Began a large scale regional Invitation to Collaboration Award "Agents of Change", a regional producer model in collaboration with Irish Theatre Institute, Drama at NUIG, Galway City Council and Roscommon County Council in partnership with Dublin Culture Company.
- Provided a professional arts information and advice service to community groups, individual artists, festivals in the county.

- Administered Individual Artists Bursaries and Tyrone Guthrie Centre Bursaries. 18 artists were directly supported with arts bursaries, of these, 3 were young/ emerging artists receiving support by the Arts Office for the first time.
- Supported 3 professional music critics from County Galway to take part in new Music Writer Scheme with Journal of Music.
- Drafted an Arts Plan 2020 – 2024 for adoption by Galway County Council in consultation with artists, communities and professional arts organisations.
- Delivered a revised Arts and Education Programme through the Artists in Schools Programme with 8 schools in the county.
- Expanded the Children’s Book Festival to include a short residency with writer Alan Durant for teens, broadening the programme and offering opportunities for older children to take part. This is created in conjunction with the county library service. Re-branded Children’s Book Festival 2019 to BOOK IT!
- Developed Youth Arts Initiatives to include Circus/Street Arts and Music across a number of locations in collaboration with Macnas, Galway Community Circus, Atmos Collective and youthwork agencies.
- Supported the Arts Council Creative Places Tuam initiative and led out on public consultations in collaboration with the Arts Council totalling €450,000 over 3 years.
- Worked directly with a number of key festivals and artists to further support projects in the community to include: Shorelines Arts Festival, Ballygar Theatre Space, Headford Lace, Oranmore Arts Festival and Traidphicnic.
- Supported Dig Where You Stand, the documentary funding scheme for young filmmakers.
- Currently partnering with the following professional arts organisations to deliver work in the county and community including: Galway Community Circus, Galway Music Residency, Macnas, Galway Arts Centre, Galway Film Centre, Brú Theatre Company, TULCA, Baboró, Galway Dance Project, Blue Teapot and That’s Life.
- Supported 2 Artists in a Healthcare Setting Residency in Portiuncula Hospital, Ballinasloe with Saolta Arts.
- Supported an Arts and Disability Programme in collaboration with Brothers of Charity and Ability West.
- Initiated a new work commission for Galway County Arts Festivals in 2019. Offer social media, PR and producer supports to festivals.

- Supported and delivered Professional development/seminars and one to one professional mentoring for artists and delivered Child Protection Awareness Training for artists.
- Curated a large countywide programme of events for Culture Night 2019, collaborating with venues, community groups and artists across the county.
- Supported Screen Commission West, UNESCO City of Film and Wrap Fund.
- Support Aras Éanna (Arts Centre on Inis Oírr).
- Created a new age friendly residency with a dancer working with older people in the county.
- Lead Galway County Council's Creative Ireland Programme 2019 and produced Cruinniú na nÓg (national creative day for children) 2019. Cruinniú na nÓg is an annual national initiative celebrating the creative potential of children and young people. Galway County Council hosted a series of wonderful events across the county on Saturday 15th June, following on from the success of last year's inaugural event, €15,000 in collaboration with Creative Ireland.
- Developed a draft Public Art Policy for consideration at SPC.
- Worked collaboratively with Galway 2020 to support delivery of programmes within the county.
- Supported Music Generation Programme 2018-2021 in Galway County.

Proposals for 2020:

- Administer Arts Grants, Individual Artists Bursaries and Tyrone Guthrie Centre Bursaries.
- Complete delivery of large scale regional Invitation to Collaboration Award "Agents of Change", a regional producer model in collaboration with Irish Theatre Institute, Drama at NUIG, Galway City Council and Roscommon County Council and present findings at Arts Council Festivals Conference 2020.
- Provide a professional arts information and advice service to community groups, individual artists, festivals in the county.
- Deliver on Arts Plan 2020– 2024 to be considered by the elected members in December 2019.
- Deliver an Arts and Education Programme with schools in the County.
- Begin work on a new database/artist portal to connect artists in the county and share work opportunities. This will also include a number of networking opportunities in

different locations in the county. Continued professional development opportunities are planned in collaboration with ITI, VAI, TULCA, ISACS.

- Continue to offer bursaries for artists and artists residencies. Residencies in 2020 will focus on supporting local arts residencies and venues.
- Begin a series of CPD training with artists on creating work in context to include Schools, communities and older years setting
- Support and develop Children's Book Festival (Book It! 2020) in collaboration with the Galway Library Service to include a Children's Writer in Residence.
- Developed Youth Arts Initiatives to include Circus/Street Arts and Music across a number of locations in collaboration with professional practitioners and youthwork agencies.
- Support the Arts Council Creative Places Tuam Initiative, providing accommodation and local expertise.
- Promote the use of shared services and joint working across voluntary arts groups.
- Support access to Culture Capital Scheme Research rolled out by Dept. of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
- Agents of Change Programme participants to support existing voluntary arts groups to develop programmes and look at sustainable models of practice in the arts within communities.
- Plan to focus on Arts in Older years for 2020, working in collaboration with the Older Year's Council, Active retirement groups and colleagues in Council to look at increasing engagement in the arts for our older years groups and older artists with a focus on the Bealtaine Festival.
- Support Integrated Disability Youth Project with Blue Teapot and artists with ID in the community.
- Curate and produce high quality countywide programme of events for Culture Night, collaborating with venues, community groups and artists across the county.
- Supported Screen Commission West, UNESCO City of Film and Wrap Fund.
- Support Aras Éanna (Arts Centre on Inis Oírr).
- Supported and delivered Professional development/seminars and one to one professional mentoring for artists.
- Develop an Age Friendly arts programme in collaboration with Social Inclusion.

- Lead Galway County Council’s Creative Ireland Programme 2020 and directly produce Cruinniú na nÓg 2020.
- Developed a Public Art Policy and working group to support delivery of new Public Arts Commissions.
- Worked collaboratively with Galway 2020 to support delivery of programmes within the county.
- Support Music Generation Programme 2018-2021 in Galway County.

Local Sports Partnership

Indicative Activities 2019:

- Sourced and secure sufficient funding from available sources – Sport Ireland, Dormant Accounts, Local Authorities, HSE and Government Departments to fund the Operations of Galway Sports Partnership in 2019. Funding from Sport Ireland, HSE Dormant Accounts Funds and Dept. of Transport, Tourism and Sport secured to run all programmes in 2019.
- Extend sports hub to include Ballinasloe, subject to funding being secured from Dormant Accounts Fund.
- Secured funding for and oversee the implementation of Sport Ireland Programmes and other programmes in our five-year Strategic Plan 2016 – 2020, with particular emphasis on the GSP main target groups. Programmes will include Outdoor Adventure, Women on the Water, Youth at Risk Programme, Walking Football for Older Adults, Senior Circuits, Buggy Buddies, Midnight Soccer, Meet and Train. Funding secures and programmes implemented. Some complete, others in progress to end of year.

The review of the Fit Towns initiatives and findings of the final report of the Review Sub-group to be implemented with the initiative to be re-branded and re-launched in 2019. Review still in progress. Final decision on future of the initiative to be made shortly

- Establish Sports Linkage Groups in consultation with the County PPN.
- Organised community walks as part of Operation Transformation in association with local communities across Galway. – 11 walks organised, 1574 people took part altogether across Galway.
- Increased participation in sport and physical activities, through GSP Programme Funding. Activity programmes – Be Active Night, Women on the Water, Youth @ Risk, Senior circuits – all organised, some completed and others still in progress to end of

year. See also below under HSE funded programmes, schools programmes and Disability programmes.

- Delivered Training Programmes – Safeguarding 1, 2 and 3, Activity leader, First Aid, SAQ, Walking leader, Cycle Training, Disability Inclusion Training, Disability Awareness Training, Coaching Children Workshops, Sports Leader Award for TY students. - Training and Education programmes – Safeguarding 1, 2 and 3, First Aid, Coaching Children workshop, Sports Level 1 Award, Disability Awareness all completed.
- Delivered Community Coaching programmes in Galway City and Tuam. – Not completed through difficulties with social welfare payments and impact this course would have on recipients. Course will now be open to other participants in 2020.
- Delivered Disability specific programmes – boccia, walking football, learn 2 cycles, ID tennis and Vi tennis. Boccia ongoing, walking football taster session completed in Duniry, learn to cycle programme delivered in Claddagh National school, ID and Visually Impaired tennis ongoing at present.
- Delivered walking programmes, swimming programmes, Men on the Move programmes and Couch 2 5K programmes across Galway. HSE funded programmes, - 4 Men on the Move, 4 Couch 2 5K three Buggy Buddies programmes, Disability Swimming programme ongoing in three centres – Renmore, Ballinasloe and Tuam.
- Delivered the Sportshall Athletics, Be Active After Schools and Mile Walk programme to primary schools across Galway. All three programmes delivered and finalised.
- Arranged and facilitate meetings of GSP Steering group and relevant workgroups throughout 2019. Four meetings completed, one extra meeting (with Sport Ireland) on future funding and capacity of Galway Sports Partnership. Workgroup meeting on Club Development funding to take place on 31st Oct.
- Applied to and secured funding from the DTT&S towards the delivery of events and programmes for Bike Week 2019. Funding applied for and received. A total of 31 events, 13 in the county took place as part of Bike Week celebrations involving a total of 605 persons, adults and children.
- Organised and deliver physical activity programmes for older adults as part of the Bealtaine festival 2019. Go4Life games delivered as part of Bealtaine celebrations 2019.

Proposals for 2020:

- Apply for and secure CORE funding from Sport Ireland to fund general operations of Galway Sports Partnership for 2010.
- Application made to Dormant Accounts funds to establish a Sports Hub in North Connemara, to fund this and three other programmes across Galway in 2020- Youth Leadership, Volunteer training and Disability activity.

- Apply for, secure funding from HSE and deliver walking programmes, swimming programmes, Men on the Move programmes and Couch 2 5K programmes across Galway.
- Continue to work with the Galway Sports Partnership and key stakeholders including Galway City Council and Sports Ireland to maximise the opportunities and strategic development of the Galway Sports Partnership.
- Secure funding for and oversee the implementation of Sport Ireland Programmes and other programmes in our five-year Strategic Plan 2016 – 2020, with particular emphasis on the GSP main target groups. Programmes will include. Active Leadership Workshops Go for Life Get Ireland Walking Healthy Ireland Programmes HSE Programmes Cara Centre Bike Week Galway Walking Week Men Only Rowing Learn to cycle Balance Bike Programme Visual Impairment Soccer
- Complete review of Fit Towns initiative
- Complete Establishment of Sports Linkage Groups through the County PPN.
- Deliver Training Programmes – Safeguarding 1, 2 and 3, Activity leader, First Aid, SAQ, Walking leader, Cycle Training, Disability Inclusion Training, Disability Awareness Training, Coaching Children Workshops, Sports Leader Award for TY students.
- Deliver revised Community Coaching programme in North Connemara and Galway city.
- Apply to and secure funding from the DTT&S towards the delivery of events and programmes for Bike Week 2020.
- Organise and deliver physical activity programmes for older adults as part of the Bealtaine festival 2020.

Customer Service

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- Continued to review Unit's section on website to provide up to date useful information for communities, businesses and citizens as well as support the Made in Galway and Galway Gastronomy websites.
- Implemented agreed actions in Customer Service Action Plan and Irish Language Guidelines.
- Increased engagement with the community and business sector across Social Media platforms.
- Held community consultation and engagement events in conjunction with the Public Participation Network in regard to funding schemes and programmes operated by the unit.
- Continued to maintain www.galwaygastronomy.ie following on from the European Region of Gastronomy designation until a longer-term is developed.
- Continued to highlight and promote the activities of 'Galway Gastronomy' (the partners, stakeholders, members of the Galway Food Charter etc) across all themes on Email/Facebook/Instagram/Twitter and PR services.

Proposals for 2020:

- Continue to issue information to all Community and Voluntary Groups through the PPN and collate information on all available grant sources for easy access.
- Continue to update our website and provide a dedicated page for Healthy Ireland Fund to promote the countywide activities.
- Hold countywide information sessions to update all Voluntary Groups and Organisations regarding funding sources.
- Organise Workshops to build capacity of targeted groups and identify needs to feed into funding programmes and activities.

Library Development Programme

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- Library usage continued to increase in 2019. The Library Service of Galway County Council is one of the most heavily used services in Ireland and libraries are established FREE civic and cultural centres in their communities.
- The total number of materials issued in Galway Libraries for 2019 was 619,577.

- Visits to Galway Libraries for 2019 were 621,524.
- The National Distribution system has grown in popularity in 2019. Public reaction has been hugely positive to this service due to the accessibility of out of print titles, the availability of course books and access to new titles. The community library has now become an important educational aid to more isolated areas of the county and being able to order books online and collect them has increased the relevance of the library.
- Digital Literacy programmes continued including the continuation of IT classes in bigger branch libraries, facilitated by Age Action, Digitise the Nation and Rural Alliance. Customer training was also delivered on the range of online resources now available. This was done in branch libraries and on visits out to community groups.
- ICT funding for Public Libraries was secured from the Dept. of Rural and Community Development in the amount of €280,706. Matched funding from Galway County Council brought the total amount up to € 374,275.17.
 - New public access PCs were installed in all branch libraries, allowing free internet access to everyone. The numbers of PC's available for the public increased in Loughrea and Westside.
 - Customer led IT solutions introduced included OPAC tablets which allow the patron search through a National Catalogue of 15 million items of stock available to borrow from public libraries.
 - Digital equipment including a hublet with tablets were purchased for Tuam Library along with a laptop dispenser for Galway City Library. Both allow patrons to borrow electronic devices for free use within the library.
 - Interactive panel screens were installed in Westside and Galway City. These touchscreen digital displays drive greater group collaboration, expand presentation capabilities and are ideal for meetings or training for community groups/organisations.
 - Digital Signage was introduced into Athenry, Ballybane, Clifden, Carraroe, Galway City, Portumna, An Spidéal and Tuam libraries. This equipment allows the Library Service to promote events and services.
 - Collaborative furniture with rechargeable power towers were purchased which allows greater flexibility for patrons to work independently or in groups maximising best use of library space.
 - Tovertafel units were purchased which promote physical, social and cognitive activity for patrons with dementia, autism or learning difficulties. The units are situated in Carraroe and Ballybane Libraries.
- In 2019 Surfbox was extended to Carraroe. SurfBox allows members of the public to send a print job to a printer in their local library. The print job can be sent from home, and it is released and collected at the library. Surfbox is now available in the

following branches in Galway City, Ballybane, Oranmore, Ballinasloe, Westside, Tuam and Clifden

- Self-service technology was introduced to several branch libraries in 2019 and is now available in Westside, Ballinasloe, Oranmore, Tuam, Galway City, Ballybane, Loughrea, Clifden, Portumna, Athenry and An Cheathrú Rua.
- ISO45001 accreditation was achieved for the Library Service as part of overall accreditation process.

Library Initiatives:

- *Healthy Ireland @ your library:*

The Department of Health has seen the potential to work with Public Libraries across Ireland, to deliver the Healthy Ireland at Your Library Programme which aims to establish libraries as a valuable source within the community for health information. The Healthy Ireland at your Library Programme addresses 6 key areas: **Healthy Childhood, Healthy Eating and Active Living, Wellbeing and Mental Health, Positive Ageing, Alcohol and Tobacco.**

- The Programme enhances current health information in Galway Libraries by providing a comprehensive collection of new books, e-books, e-audiobooks, e-magazines and online courses on health and wellbeing. The Healthy Ireland Book Stock and online resources have been complimented by a series of talks, discussions and workshops with a focus on physical health, mental health and health literacy, these are ongoing.
- To date 128 events have taken place in Galway Libraries with 2210 attending so far. Topics covered have been Heart Health, Dementia Awareness, Healthy Ageing, Fitness for life, Growing fruit and vegetables. Information sessions have also taken place on Cancer Care and Prevention and the National Screening Service.
- Healthy Islands Initiative in collaboration with Healthy County Galway took place on the three Aran Islands and Inisboffin.
- Where suitable collaboration with Healthy Galway has taken place in maximizing publicity and event up-take.
- Phase 3 continues with new and revised book titles with a focus on development of young adult and children's book stock.

Work Matters:

- *Work Matters* is a service to support (together with local partners) people seeking employment, up-skilling or developing small businesses.
 - It includes dedicated, branded spaces with computers, broadband and wi-fi, printing and scanning facilities.
 - Book-stock and online resources to support employment and business activities

- Expertise of library staff providing support through the relevant resources
- Events and programming on business and work-related topics.
- *Work Matters* areas have been developed in Clifden, Portumna, Oranmore, Loughrea, Tuam, Ballinasloe and Galway City.

Right to Read

- **Children’s events** – *Spring into Storytime* was delivered in branch libraries in April, delivering story times to branches throughout the county.
 - **Children’s Book Festival** was successfully run in October 2019 in conjunction with Galway Council Arts Office. 68 children’s events were enjoyed by 2,300 children.
 - The **Summer Reading Challenge** took place throughout the county with 4,600 children registering for the challenge and 3,000 completing. Award ceremonies took place in branches in September and October.
 - Galway Library Service was received its Right To Read award.
- **Creative Ireland projects in 2019 have included:**
 - Lights, Camera, Action! Galway’s Great Read and Look beyond our world are all projects funded by Creative Ireland.
 - Cruinniú na nÓg was celebrated on June 15th, facilitated by Creative Ireland in several library branches throughout the municipal districts.
 - Dean é was delivered in library branches in November as part of libraries commitment to STEAM.
 - Active participation in Galway City and Galway County Council’s Creative Ireland Programmes, a five-year initiative from 2017 -2022, with direct emphasis on delivering Pillar 2 of the national programme – Enabling Creativity in Every Community.
 - Galway Library Service worked in conjunction with Westside Arts Festival to deliver a programme of arts to the community focusing especially on children and families. One of the highlights was the Exploration Dome which was funded through Creative Ireland which enjoyed by all.
 - Worked collaboratively with Galway 2020 to support delivery of programmes.

Adult events –

- Continued expansion of Galway's Great Read programme, funded by Creative Ireland. 2019 featured *Pumps, Piers and Potholes: 120 years of Local Government* which explores the history and significance of local democracy in Ireland.
 - Westside Public Library in conjunction with community partners delivered the Westside Arts festival,
 - Oranmore participated in the local arts festival.
 - Outreach events were facilitated at Glenamaddy, Menlough, and an Age Friendly Alliance event.
 - Support Culture Night 2019 for County Galway in conjunction with the Arts Office.
 - Continue to support Galway Age Friendly City and County Programme. Galway was awarded its Age Friendly Charter by LGMA.
- Regular events include:
 - Art exhibitions, book clubs, book launches, participation with Cúirt, Babaró, music performances, support for the various Arts Festivals throughout the county and city;
 - Europe Direct centres in Galway continue to facilitate a number of annual events, both in branch and outreach.
 - Bealtaine Festival in May was celebrated in a number of libraries.
 - Building improvement works were carried out in several Branch Libraries including Galway City, Westside, Oranmore, Ballinasloe and Portumna.
 - Book drops were provided for An Spidéal, Oranmore, Athenry and Oughterard.
 - Work progressed on the MOL project.
 - Ballygar and Woodford Library went online and are now part of the national library management system.
 - Supported Social Inclusion week in branch libraries and Galway Pride week.

Proposals for 2020:

- Work will continue, based on available funding, to maintain and improve, where possible, the Library Services in Galway as per the Galway Library Development Programme 2016-2021.
- Work will continue progressing the new Galway Community/Cultural Library.
- The Healthy Ireland, Work Matters and Right to Read campaigns will continue to be rolled out across the library branch network, availing of national funding streams, with the aim of ensuring a range of service in both urban and rural branches.
- Efforts to enhance the use of technology will continue, including self-service technologies, while further promotion of the online resource package will be delivered.

- The computerization of branch libraries in the Galway service will continue, subject to staffing levels and financial resources. It is hoped that Leenane and Letterfrack along with the mobile library will be computerised in 2020.
- Galway Libraries will continue to develop our events programme, engaging with individuals and communities through our branches, availing of national funding opportunities where possible, including Creative Ireland, while operating within the constraints of local funding.

Legal Advisory Services

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- The Department provided legal services for all programme areas and Directorates, including the acquisition and sale of properties, the conduct of litigation to include District Court enforcement prosecutions, Circuit, High Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court Litigation, including Judicial Review. In particular, District Court Litigation (Rates, Planning Enforcement and Environmental Enforcement prosecutions) and Judicial Review were areas of significant workload in terms of overall litigation. The completion of land acquisitions and CPOs on inter-urban routes and acquisition of residential units, were also substantial areas of work for the Law Agent Unit.
- The Case Management System, which facilitates the use of templates to create work flows for the efficient and cost-effective delivery of legal services, continues to be updated and applied to existing and new work areas.
- Work has continued to manage and update our Register of Lands in co-operation with our partners in other units such as IT, Finance and Housing.

Proposals for 2020:

- Concentrate on and continue in our efforts to provide efficient legal advisory services for all programme areas throughout the organisation.
- The continued completion of any residual work arising from Compulsory Acquisition on older inter-urban routes. This work is nearing completion with a number of registration applications requiring completion.
- Implementation of measures to meet our requirements in terms of the new Data Protection Regulations to include Data Mapping and Risk Control. We will continue to liaise with and assist the council Data Protection Officer in this regard.
- Workflows for the Case Management System will continue to be created, further enhancing work delivery and capacity. We will finalise the setting up of our case management system's facility for automatically creating litigation Booklets of Proofs and Counsel's Briefs and conveyancing Booklets of Title thus cutting down on time spent on such work requirements and thus increasing overall office efficiency.
- Continue in our efforts to work with our partners to maintain and bring fully up to date the council's Register of Lands.
- Ensure that staff attend CPD and training courses and modules, where appropriate, to keep up to date with continuing developments in Local Government Law and Office Management.
- Create new systems internally for managing and dealing with GDPR and FoI requests to the organisation.

Water Safety Programme - Indicative Activities in 2019:

- The Water Safety Programme 2019 involved the recruitment of a panel of 52 trained Beachguards to provide services at 10 locations in the County [including six Blue Flag Beaches] and at 6 locations in the City as part of a Shared Service Agreement with Galway City Council.
- Induction Training for the Beachguards was held on 24th May and 21st June 2019.
- The Service commenced on the 1st June and continued until the 15th September 2019.
- Upgrading of some equipment was undertaken as well as a hut preparation and repairs-maintenance schedule, which was agreed and delivered. A new hut was installed at An Trá Mhór, Knock, Inverin, for the 2019 season.
- Following approval by Council, funding of €6,150 was advanced to the Irish Water Safety Council.

Proposals for 2020:

- Implement Water Safety Programme, subject to funding being available, on a seasonal basis including induction training.
- Promotion of the Beachguard Programme using web-sites, social and local media.
- Continue, subject to funding and the approval of Council, provision of a financial contribution to Irish Water Safety.
- Roll-out next phase of the Ringbuoy Renewal Programme, subject to funding.

Parks, Pitches, Open Spaces and Playgrounds:

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- Rinville Park, Maree, Oranmore, managed by Galway County Council is owned jointly by Galway County Council and Galway City Council. It is a designated location on the 'Wild Atlantic Way'. It is used extensively by local residents, visitors and local organisations such as Scouting Groups.
- The Parks' Maintenance Programme continued to be delivered in partnership with local groups. The maintenance programme is co-funded by Galway City Council.
- A Concession for the provision of refreshments at Rinville Park from March to October was continued.
- Funding was secured by the Council from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) towards improvement and refurbishment works for the playgrounds in Rinville Park and Palace Grounds, Tuam. Works to be completed by the end of 2019.
- Palace Grounds, Tuam - Maintenance Programme for Palace Grounds Park, Tuam was implemented in association with a Council sponsored Community Employment Scheme. In 2019, a Strategic Landscape Management Plan was developed for Tuam Palace Grounds Park. This Plan provides a strong basis for the implementation of future projects and act as a guide to the maintenance team currently working on the park to ensure that the park's welcome, orientation, identity and interpretation is enhanced in the long term. This will also underpin and populate any new graphic mapping and signage.
- Ballinasloe – Maintenance Programme was continued in Ballinasloe town for parks and open spaces in 2019.
- The Unit provided administrative and advisory support to community groups to advance proposals for recreational facilities in their respective areas and to access available funding under programmes such as CLÁR and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA). Funding was awarded for 4 projects under these schemes.

Leisure Centres – Tuam and Ballinasloe

- A four-year management, operating and maintenance licence, with an option to extend, continues to be delivered by Coral Leisure Ltd. for Tuam and Ballinasloe Leisure Centres. A Joint Liaison Committee continues to be chaired by Corporate Services with Coral Leisure to review the ongoing implementation of the Licence Agreement.
- Corporate Services continue to have oversight of essential maintenance and health and safety related improvement works at both centres. Improvement works included re-tiling, upgrading of the Sauna Room, public lift improvements, boiler repairs, replacement of pool feature pumps, air conditioner replacement and installation of fire exit doors.

Pitches / Running Track / Leisure Centres and Swimming Areas

- A Licence Agreement is in place with Tuam Celtic Football Club, to operate Galway County Council's All-Weather Pitches in Tuam. A Liaison Committee is established to review operation of the facility.
- Dunlo Recreational Park, Ballinasloe Running Track was fully operational for the year. A schedule is available on www.galway.ie indicating public times and bookings by local clubs. As part of the Council's Recreation and Amenity Programme, outdoor gym and fitness equipment was installed in the park in December 2018. This facility is made up of 11 exercise stations with a number of items accessible for use by wheelchair users. The official launch of the equipment took place in April 2019. This project was co-funded by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sports – Local Authority Sports Capital Programme.
- Concessions were continued in 2019 to permit applicants to sell ice creams and soft drinks at beach locations in the County for the summer season. One applicant was issued with a licence to operate at four beaches.
- In accordance with commitments previously given under the Play Policy, assistance was provided to playgrounds through direct funding and provision of insurance. To-date, a total of 71 playgrounds have been developed in the County, under this policy. The Smoke Free Playgrounds Policy launched in 2013 was ongoing in 2019. New non-smoking signs were designed as a result of funding received from Healthy Ireland and distributed to all playground groups during the 2019. Information on all sites are available to download in the Council's Guide to Playgrounds – 'Lets Play' available on www.galway.ie and an interactive map on the Mapzone section of the web-site.
- Playground Inspection training took place in September and October. This training course is provided by a Certified ROSPA Inspector. Galway County Council Community Wardens and a representative from each Community Playground Group are provided with Certification for a period of 3 years, on successful completion of the Course.

- ROSPA Inspections of the 15 Council Owned playgrounds also took place in November.

Proposals for 2020:

- Parks maintenance programmes, including grass cutting, will be developed and implemented in line with available resources for Rinville Park, Oranmore, the Palace Grounds, Tuam, Dunlo Park, Ballinasloe and other amenity and open spaces, with priority afforded, within available resources, to public parks and amenity areas.
- The development of the Strategic Landscape Management Plan for Tuam Palace Grounds Park will feed into the design of a unique identity/brand/logo for the Park to include interpretative signage content and mapping so new map-boards can be installed.
- Continue maintenance required in Rinville Park under the Woodlands Plan.
- The maintenance of Council owned and operated Playgrounds, including the repair and/or replacement of play equipment, will be undertaken in line with resources. Annual ROSPA Inspections, required as a condition of insurance cover, will also be arranged for the 15 Council owned playgrounds.
- Endeavour to continue to provide administrative and advisory support to community groups wishing to advance proposals for recreation and to access available funding insofar as staff resources allow.

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- Funding was provided for the operation of Athenry Heritage Centre located in St. Mary's Church in Athenry Town Centre, which is the in ownership of Galway County Council and subleased to the Development Association who oversee the management of the Centre. The Centre employs a Centre Manager and staff through various schemes. The funding contributed to promotion, events and basic upkeep of this Historic Asset, which attracts over 3,000 visitors.
- The 1691 Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre is owned and operated by Galway County Council. The Centre opened for the season from 30th May to 6th September 2019.
- The 1691 Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre hosted a series of lectures on 'Galway's Local Places–Local History' during July and August on selected Fridays from 2pm-3pm. The lectures highlighted the 'Heritage, Archaeology and Folklore of some Sacred Wells from East Galway', 'Reporting on the Silent Century – Co. Galway News Items, 1900-1799', 'Aspects of the Heritage of East Galway as reflected in the coins in the Aughrim Museum collections' and 'Death and Burial in an Irish Poor Law Union
- 'Ireland's-Game Changer' was the title for the 2019 Heritage Week event held in the Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre on Saturday 24th August. The event was organised by the 'Battle of Aughrim 1691 Historical Group', in co-operation with Galway County Council. It proved to be an outstanding success with up to 90 persons in attendance. The ethos behind this event was firstly to educate and inform people about this significant chapter in Ireland's history, and secondly, to present the 1691 Battle in an engaging, inclusive, and accessible way for everyone. Along with a full account of the events of July 12th 1691 (Julian Calendar), there were talks exploring the folklore and traditions surrounding the Battle, the artillery used, and what the everyday soldier would have faced. There were also delightful performances of traditional music, with musicians Sean Igoe, Michael Tully, and Valerie Seale providing their respective talents throughout the day. The event ended with a guided tour of some of the battlefield sites.
- The Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre was successful in the receipt of funding under the Regional Museums Exhibition Grant 2019. The core objective of this grant funding was to develop/enhance the 'education and learning' to inform the visitor of the significance of the Battle of Aughrim and the adjoining Battle field. The funding support approved allowed for the production/development of material which will seek to enhance the visitor perception and understanding of the Battle of Aughrim and its context on a European and world-wide level.

Proposals for 2020:

- Subject to funding, financial support will continue to be provided to support the operation of the Athenry Heritage Centre and Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre to build their number of visitors and promote these areas as part of overall Council investments in tourism and support of the local economy.

Community Warden Service

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- Corporate Services supports the co-ordination of the Warden Service which delivers a range of services on behalf of the Council. Monthly workplans are compiled based on service needs.
- Litter Pollution/Derelict Sites Surveys were carried out, whilst regular inspections of Playgrounds, Parks, Local Authority Estates, Halting Sites, Piers, Lifebuoys, Beaches, Bottle banks etc. continued to be undertaken by the Wardens.
- The Wardens continued to assist with the operation of pay parking and the implementation of traffic management plans in a number of towns across the County.
- Environmental Enforcement including the issuing of Litter fines and notices under the Waste Management and Water Pollution Acts continued to be undertaken by the Warden Service.
- Dog Licensing inspection campaigns continued throughout the year.
- The Wardens continued to implement the provisions of the Roads Act 1993, in relation to abandoned vehicles, with vehicles identified, reported and removed as necessary throughout the year.

Proposals for 2020:

- This Unit will continue to co-ordinate the allocation of functions to the Community Warden Service and review the impact of functions based on agreed service indicators.
- Work will continue on assessing how the Service can best assist in meeting the objectives and business priorities of the organisation.
- Phased replacement of the Community Wardens vans will be implemented insofar as resources and may allow.

Disability Action

Indicative Activities 2019:

- Continued delivery of the Disability Action Plan.
- Supported the Accessible Ballinasloe initiative to develop Ballinasloe as an accessible, inclusive environment.
- A Beach Wheelchair can be accessed on two beaches, An Trá Mór, Indreabhán and Trácht beach, Kinvara. The project was led by the Corporate Services Section, working in consultation with the Water Safety Development Officer and the Galway Speeders Sports Group and The Dolman Centre Kinvara.
- As part of the Council's Recreation and Amenity Programme, outdoor gym and fitness equipment, which includes a number of items accessible for use by wheelchair users, was installed both in Dunlo Park Ballinasloe and Castle Avenue, Portumna. This project was co-funded by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sports – Local Authority Sports Capital Programme.

Proposals for 2020:

- Support implementation of the Customer Service Action Plan to continually improve access to services for persons with a disability.
- Support improved Access for Persons with a Disability to Recreation and Amenity Facilities, subject to finance being available.

Promotion of the Irish Language

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- In March, a special event, 'Lá na Gaeilge', was organised during Seachtain na Gaeilge (1-17 March 2019), in which an opportunity was given to local members of the public, businesses, community groups and so on, who conduct their business through Irish, to showcase their work to the general public in Áras an Chontae for the day. A musical showcase was also organized during this time, in which a primary school group from County Galway performed for staff and the general public.
- Irish language classes (beginner and intermediate levels) were organised for staff of the local authority and classes were also available for Councillors.
- Scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta Phádraig Mhic Phiarais 2018 / Pádraig Pearse Scholarships 2019 were provided again this year by Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe in collaboration with Summer Colleges in Conamara. 12 scholarships in total were provided to second level students in the County of Galway to attend Gaeltacht Summer Courses.
- Community Support Grants – The Irish language was specifically included as a category in the Community Support Scheme in 2018. Small scale grants totalling €8,000.00 were approved for projects in Schools, Community and Voluntary Organisations to support the promotion and increased use of the Irish language.
- An Award for the Irish Language continued to be included in the Cathaoirleach's Awards this year for Gaeltacht and Non-Gaeltacht communities and schools.
- Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe continued its support of the promotion of Irish in communities throughout the County through the Glór na nGael Award, which was presented to Comhlacht Forbartha Inis Meáin, Co. na Gaillimhe, in February 2019, and also by helping to promote events as Gaeilge e.g. National Heritage Week, etc through the Irish Language media.
- Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe continued to work in partnership with other organisations, informing them of our Language Scheme and ensure that the measures of the Scheme were implemented where such was within the Council's control. Support and advice was provided, along with proofing services.
- Information and consultation continues to be provided to staff of Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe regarding language duties, obligations and legislation.
- Website content approval procedure continues to be implemented in association with Customer Services and Information Systems, to ensure bilingualism on www.galway.ie / www.gaillimh.ie, in line with our language scheme and legislation.
- Mobile Simultaneous translation equipment continued to be used at Council meetings or other meetings at which translation may have been required.
- The 3rd Language Scheme for Galway County Council was finalised and implemented.
- The Council continued to co-operate with An Coimisinéir Teanga, in dealing with issues raised by members of the public, regarding Irish language services and legislation.

Proposals for 2020:

- Continue to provide information to all staff of Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe regarding language duties, obligations and legislation.
- Continue to provide appropriate language awareness and language support material to staff of Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe, to enhance the provision of services through Irish.
- Continue to provide and build on the number of Irish classes/courses provided throughout the year for staff and Members of Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe, focusing in particular on conversational Irish and possible immersion courses in the Gaeltacht, based on available funding.
- Aim to continue Scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta Phádraig Mhic Phiarais / Pádraig Pearse Scholarships in partnership with Irish Colleges in the county.
- Continue to promote the Irish language category for Gradaim an Chathaoirligh and community support grants, on a priority basis.
- Continue to operate the website approval process in partnership with Customer Services and Information Systems.
- Lead participation of Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe in activities and events for Seachtain na Gaeilge and where possible, expand on these events for March 2020.

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- Corporate Services continued to provide caretaking and facilities management services for the Council's network of offices, libraries and civic functions.
- The Unit continued to deliver on its requirements under the Safety Management Programme in areas such as PAT testing, periodic testing of electrical installations, VDU assessments.
- Energy efficiency monitoring and management continues to be a priority focus in the facilities unit. Display Energy Certificates were completed and put on display for 18 offices and libraries which are greater than 250 sqm.
- Ongoing review of refurbishment requirement to Council office buildings took place in order to facilitate the provision of additional office and meeting room accommodation
- The Unit continues to undertake procurement processes for a range of facilities management related contracts to ensure value for money and quality of service are maintained.
- Plans to install a new back-up electrical generator are underway.

Proposals for 2020:

- Maintenance contracts will continue to be the subject of ongoing review with the aim of maintaining costs reductions achieved in recent years and if feasible in limited areas achieve further cost reductions.
- In order to operate within available budgets, it may be necessary to limit the maintenance of office and library facilities to focus on priority health and safety requirements and critical operating systems. In relation to Áras an Chontae, a significant number of management and maintenance systems are at or near end of life with an increased potential for systems failure and related response maintenance costs.
- The provision of adequate accommodation at Áras an Chontae is proving to be an ever-increasing challenge. Occupancy levels in a number of areas in HQ are exceeding the available capacity giving rise to areas such as laboratory space, meeting rooms, training rooms, etc. being converted into office accommodation for staff. A review of the organisation's business and customer requirements for the medium to long term needs to be undertaken to allow for adequate office space capacity to be available to deliver these services.
- The Unit will aim to further reduce energy consumption across its offices and libraries. Display Energy Certs will continue to be displayed to the public in offices and libraries.
- A Legionella Monitoring and reporting programme will be rolled out for office and library accommodation.
- Improvement works planned for An Spidéal Library (essential roof replacement) and essential fire safety improvement works to Clifden Area Office.

Management of Records and Archives

The Archives Section works to ensure the care, preservation, management of and access to the Council's archives. Archives are valuable cultural assets which require specific care, and with growing interest in our past and in particular in family history and for The Decade of Commemorations, they are also important for cultural tourism. The Section also provides policy advice to the Council on the care and management of its records.

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- Continued to provide core archival services, in terms of access and preservation. Such as maintaining and updating information on Galway County Council's archival holdings through its descriptive lists and its on-line catalogue, and through various archival portals; providing reader services, such as access to collections, and advice and guidance to researchers; and monitoring the environmental conditions of the archives and endeavoured to ensure their continued protection, preservation and management, despite storage facilities not meeting internationally acceptable preservation standards.
- Continued the programme of processing several small archive collections, and / or adding to existing collections¹.
- Following a major project to transcribe and index records from the Archives' [Burial Ground Records](#) the resultant database was being made available free online, with the assistance of the ICT section.
- Facilitated the conservation of several volumes from the Loughrea Poor Law Union collection.
- Outreach activities included liaising with the Local Government Archivists and Records Manager's Group to research and curate the exhibition *Celebrating the History of Irish Local Government*, funded by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government; curated and produced a short dual language online exhibition to celebrate 120 years since Galway County Council's 1st meeting, together with the production of a commemorative bookmark. To mark the occasion, together with library colleagues, a series of talks and seminars was organised and hosted in November 2019 under the title *Pumps, Piers and Potholes.... 120 years of Local Government*. This project was funded under the Creative Ireland /Galway County Council Cultural and Creativity Strategy, 2018-2022.
- Liaised with the Museum of the American Revolution in the USA to facilitate a six-month loan of the volume [Survey and Maps of the Estate of St George of Headford](#)

¹ Such as GP14 (Martyn estate), GS19/01 and /02, and County Secretary files GC/CC13/3/0011-013, GC/CSO13/3/0001; GC/CSO3/013-018; GC/CSO/2/various.

(GS01/5) which features in the prestigious international exhibition, [Cost of Revolution: The Life and Death of an Irish Soldier](#)

- Provided advice on records management best practice and assistance to Sections within Galway County Council as required.

Continued the management of non-current record transfers to storage and record retrievals and returns: 802 recall requests were processed from January to-date (21/10/2019). There are now 122,314 entries on the ArcLink records management database.

Proposals for 2020:

- Concentrate on processing archive collections, whilst continuing to provide access and advice to researchers.
- Continue the programme of providing security backup and reference surrogates to collections. Galway County Council will continue to avail of commercial storage for its non-current records and manage the retrieval and return of records held in off-site storage.
- Continue to liaise with Sections to develop and implement file classification and record retention schedules and provide advice on records management best practice.

Register of Electors

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- The Register of Electors for 2019/2020 was published on the 1st February 2019 and came into force on 15th February 2019.
 - A Supplementary Register of Electors was completed within statutory timelines in advance of the Local Elections 2019, held on 24th May 2019.
 - The Draft Register of Electors for 2020/2021 was published on 1st November 2019 and was made available for inspection by the public at Post Offices, Garda Stations, Public Libraries and the offices of Galway County Council and online at www.galway.ie enabling any person whose name was not on the Draft Register to submit a claim on Form RFA1, to Galway County Council not later than 25th November 2019. Claims are considered by the County Registrar at Revision Courts held in December each year.

Proposals for 2020:

- The Council will publish the Register of Electors for 2020/2021 by 1st February 2020.
- The Draft Register of Electors for 2021/2022 will be published on 1st November 2020, and will be made available for public inspection, with Revision Courts to follow.

- Supplementary Registers of Electors will be compiled and published within the relevant timeframes in the event of any further Referendum or Election.

Local Elections 2019

The Local Elections 2019 were held on 24th May, 2019.

The Nomination of Candidates for the Local Elections opened on 27th April and closed on 4th May 2019. 78 Candidates contested the Local Elections.

The counting of votes took place on 25th and 26th May 2019 to elect 39 Members to Galway County Council in 7 Local Electoral Areas: Athenry-Oranmore; Ballinasloe; Conamara North; Conamara South; Gort-Kinvara; Loughrea; Tuam.

Corporate Planning and Support / Local Representation/ Civic Leadership

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- Administrative services are provided for the Chief Executive, Cathaoirleach of the Council, Elected Members, Corporate Policy Group and Council Meetings.
- Corporate Services progressed the preparation of the Corporate Plan 2020 -2024 in consultation with the Elected Members, the Corporate Policy Group, the Executive team and staff. This included a workshop held with the Elected Members and the Executive team on Tuesday 5th November 2019 held in Claregalway.
- The plan is informed by feedback received from an online survey published on www.galway.ie and advertised in the local newspaper. The survey was circulated directly to the Elected Members, Staff and members of organisations and committees including Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), Joint Policing Committee (JPC), Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC), Public Participation Network (PPN), Enterprise Ireland, Failte Ireland, Sports Partnership etc. The draft Corporate plan is expected to be considered at the November Plenary Meeting of the Council.

Service Delivered for Plenary Council Meetings and Members

- Preparation of Agendas for Ordinary, Special and Annual Meetings of the Plenary Council, co-ordination of Agenda Items with all Sections, facilitating the Meetings and recording the Minutes.
- Publication of the Agendas, Minutes and Agenda documentation to the Extranet.
- Facilitating Meetings of the Corporate Policy Group.
- Facilitation of Expressions of Interest for attendance at Training Events and Conferences.
- Compilation of Reports to Council in accordance with the Local Government Act for Authorisation of Attendance by Members at Training Events and Conferences.
- Arranging in-house Training in line with the agreed Galway Co. Council Training and Development Plan for the Members.
- Processing Members Travel and Subsistence Claims for attendance at Training and Conferences.
- Facilitate the submission of Summaries of Conferences attended by the Members, preparation of Report for Agenda and publishing Summaries on the Website.
- Maintaining Database of Attendances of the Members at all Meetings of the Council, including Plenary, SPC, Municipal District, JPC, Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, Local Community Development Committee, Road Safety Together Committee.
- Facilitate the compilation of the Public Register of all Attendances and Payments of the Councillors.
- Maintenance of Ethics Register for Councillors.
- Facilitating the Members in the return of Donations Declarations
- Facilitation of Civic Receptions is supported by the Corporate Team in response to proposals of the Plenary Council –

A Civic Reception was held in Áras an Chontae on 28th January 2019, to honour the achievements of the following Groups:

- Athenry Minor and U15 Girls Rounders Team, All Ireland Winners 2018.
- Turloughmore U14 Team, Féile All Ireland Winners 2018
- Black Dragon Kickboxing Club/Gym Achievements for 2018.

A Civic Reception was held in Áras an Chontae on 22nd July 2019, to honour the achievements of the following individuals and groups:

- Adam Hession and Aaliyah (ALEA) Butler, Monivea Boxing Club 2018/2019
- Maree Women's Basketball Champions 2018/201
- Oranmore Maree, All-Ireland Intermediate Club Hurling Champions 2018/2019
- Corofin, All-Ireland Senior Club Football Champions 2017/2018 and 2018/2019

Facilitating the Joint Policing Committee and Athenry Municipal District Council Meetings

- Galway County Council operates a Joint Policing Committee (JPC) in conjunction with local Garda Síochána management. The operation of this Committee is an assigned statutory function, in accordance with Section 35(4) and 36(1) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 and in accordance with Revised JPC Guidelines issued in 2014.
- The function of a Joint Policing Committee is set out in section 36(2) of the Garda Síochána Act, which states: *"The joint policing committee's function is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area"*.
- The JPC held its Public Meeting on 4th November 2019. Ordinary Meetings of the JPC were held on 11th February, 15th April, 30th September and 10th December. Corporate Services facilitates the Meetings of the Athenry Municipal District Council. The first Meeting of the newly elected Athenry Municipal District Council, following the Local Elections held in May 2019, was held on 11th June 2019. Ordinary Meetings of the Athenry Municipal District Council are held bi-monthly and the Budget Meeting was held on 22nd October 2019.

Services provided by Corporate Services for the Organisation

- Maintenance of Ethics Register for Relevant Staff.
- Support provided by Corporate Services for Receiving, Registering and Opening of Tenders for the organisation.
- A new Policy was put in place in relation to the reception, opening and recording of Tenders received electronically through the eTenders system
- Register of Chief Executive's Orders maintained, Orders Numbered by Corporate Services for each Section.
- Corporate Services continued to serve as liaison for the Office of the Ombudsman in relation to queries raised by the Office in relation to service delivery by Galway County Council. All correspondence is co-ordinated via Corporate Services, with a tracking system in place.

Proposals for 2020:

- Corporate Services will continue to support the Cathaoirleach, elected members and the organisation of Plenary Council Meetings.
- The Council will maintain Staff and Members Ethics Register and facilitate the Members in the return of Donations Statements.
- The Unit will publish details of all Payments to Elected Members, including in respect of Outside Bodies to which the Members are nominated
- The Unit will actively support the role of the Corporate Policy Group.
- The Unit will continue to facilitate the Joint Policing Committee and the Meetings of the Athenry Municipal District Council
- The Council will continue to comply with its statutory requirements regarding Data Protection, Freedom of Information and Access to Information on the Environment legislation and will continue to facilitate the organisation in relation to Ombudsman queries.
- Corporate Services will continue to facilitate the reception, opening and recording of Tenders received by the Council.

Galway Commemorative Strategy for the Decade of Commemorations 2013 – 2023

A range of events and initiatives continued, across various Units, under the Galway Commemorative Strategy for the Decade of Commemorations 2013 – 2023.

- Galway County 1916 Rising Heritage Trail (bi-lingual) Signage Project: To enhance one's journey on the 1916 Rising Heritage Trail, an interpretative signage project has been completed where signage has been put in place for 12 no. selected sites of Galway County Council's 1916 Heritage Trail – Go Explore the Historic Sites and Monuments.
- Galway County Council Heritage Office and Galway County Library is working in partnership with Loughrea Memorial Group on a conference entitled "Democracy and the People" to be held in Loughrea on 7th November 2019. The conference will deal with the following topics "Liam Mellows, Democrat or Demagogue: Personal Writings and Political Speeches" by Dr Conor McNamara, "Provincial talks for Military Service (1916-1923) Pensions Collection – Connacht" by Robert McEvoy, "What it said in the papers a century ago – Loughrea and County Galway in 1919" by Steve Dolan, "Stacking the coffins: the impact of the 1918-1919 influenza pandemic on Loughrea and Ireland" by Dr Ida Milne and "The Mutiny of the 1st Battalion of the Connaught Rangers in 1920" by Joe Loughnane, 'The majority have emigrated': Post-Civil War Cumann na mBan Emigration' by Síobhra Aiken. There will also be an Exhibition of revolutionary period materials and artefacts on display throughout the day by Dave Swift and Claíomh.

- Further development and updating of the bi-lingual website 'Galway: Decade of Commemoration' <http://www.galwaydecadeofcommemoration.org/> continued in 2019.
- Galway's Great Read is a series of talks, performances, exhibitions and readings taking place throughout November across all the libraries in the county. This November Galway's Great Read is marking the 120th anniversary of the establishment of democratic local government in Ireland. The 2019 theme 'Pumps, Piers and Potholes... 120 years of Local Government', is a series of events, which it is hoped will enable audiences to learn more about our local authority system and to enjoy, create, explore and actively engage with the events presented in the programme. Events include several evening talks by prominent historians in branch libraries in Ballinasloe, Clifden, Tuam and Athenry on a variety of related topics.

**Data Protection, Freedom of Information, Access to Information on the Environment,
Ombudsman Queries**

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into effect on 25th May, 2018 with the purpose of maintaining a uniform approach to Data Protection across all EU member states. The GDPR aims to encourage the use of new privacy principles within all aspects of business operations such as Privacy by Default, Privacy by Design, Accountability and Transparency. All staff have been afforded the opportunity to attend training sessions and briefings on the changes that the new legislation brings to Galway County Council. Our main priority for 2020 is to continue to train staff and create a more secure, trusted environment for all personal data in our control.

The Data Protection Officer is assigned to Corporate Services and is the contact point for all Subject Access Requests in the organisation and the Office of the Data Protection Commission. All Subject Access Requests received are processed and tracked through the Data Protection Officer.

Data Protection Indicative Activities in 2019:

- GDPR / Data Protection Training for Data Protection Liaisons took place over 2 days in July and October 2019. A total of 47 relevant senior staff across all departments of Galway County Council attended the full day training course.
- Galway County Council are engaged in a Data Protection Audit of CCTV by the Data Protection Commissioners Phase II commenced end of November 2018 and the audit was completed in October 2019.
- Register of User Return for PPS Number was completed in August 2019 and submitted to the Department of Social Protection.

- Work has continued to create a Data Breach Management Policy.

Proposals for 2020:

- Further training on GDPR, including Data Breach and Subject Access Request training will be provided to staff in 2020, this will include e-learning training.
- Finalisation of the CCTV Audit by the Data Protection Commissioners.
- Work will continue to develop Data Mapping inventory in each department.
- Work will continue to develop Privacy Statements in each department.
- Provided advice on data protection to Sections within Galway County Council as required.

Freedom of Information Officer/Access to Information on the Environment Officer is assigned to Corporate Services and is the contact point for Freedom of Information (FOI) and Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) Decision Makers and Appeals Officer in the organization and also the Local Government Management Agency and the Office of the Information Commissioner/Office of the Commissioner for Environmental Information. All FOI and AIE Requests received are processed and tracked through Corporate Services and a Disclosure Log of FOI requests maintained.

Freedom of Information Indicative Activities in 2019:

167 requests received up to end October, 2019. Decisions were issued as follows:

- 75 granted, 42 part granted, 25 refused, 4 transferred/withdrawn, 21 remain to be decided.

Access to Information on the Environment Indicative Activities in 2019:

6 requests were received to end October 2019 Decisions were issued as follows

- 4 granted, 1 withdrawn, 1 pending decision.

Customer Service

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- The email address, customerservices@galwaycoco.ie and gaeilge@cocogaillimh.ie remains a central point of access to information for Staff and Customers alike. Staff are asked to submit information on projects, campaigns, events, works etc. so that the Customer Services Team are aware what events are taking place across the Council

and are better informed to handle queries. The general public can also email these addresses with general queries, which are acknowledged and directed to the relevant sections as required for their attention and direct reply.

- The Customer Services Officers Group (CSOG) continued to meet over 2019. The CSOG is comprised of staff representatives from all the main service areas.
- Customer Services continued to moderate and process Fix Your Street cases and follow up on outstanding cases with relevant sections. Fix Your Street is a national programme and is an on-line public forum where issues can be submitted by location to the relevant local authority.
- The centralised system for Public Notices continued in 2019 to enhance our Corporate Image in the Print Media, to generate savings through shared advertising space and also meet our requirements under National Procurement Framework. Advance copies of public notices prior to notices appearing in the various newspapers appear on Social Media and are sent to Elected Members with relevant contact details included.
- Customer Services is the central point of contact on behalf of Galway County Council for the new Government portal for Public Consultations.
- Customer Services continues to assist and guide staff regarding the procedures and templates for re-formatting of new application forms and updating existing forms when requested. We now have over 231 forms and memorandums in total on our register/coding system, available via our website.
- Door access system cards and car park fobs continue to be issued and maintained by Customer Services on behalf of the Building and Facilities Unit.

Customer Services Desk and Communications Centre

- The Customer Services Desk continues to be operated to provide efficient referral/query handling for customers as they enter Áras an Chontae. The phone service continues to be operated from the Customer Services Communications Centre on the second floor of Áras an Chontae.
- Corporate Services staff based in Customer Services are assigned to support the Mobile Phone Policy of the organisation and day to day administration of the account.

Communications and Social Media

- Further increased use of Social Media (Twitter and Facebook) and this is continuing to grow on a daily basis.
- Social Media has been integrated with Advertising and other Promotional Campaigns of the Council and specific attention given to the use of Social Media during severe weather events. There has been an increase in the posting of events on behalf of staff with a focus on Road Works, Water Disruptions and any other day to day events happening throughout the County. The Customer Services team participated in 'Our Council Day' twitter campaign nationally as coordinated by the LGMA.

Proposals for 2020:

- Continue to co-ordinate implementation of the Customer Service Action Plan in line with agreed targets and goals in the Quality Customer Services Strategy.
- Continue to facilitate the Customer Services Officers Group meetings, information sharing and joint actions across all sections.
- Research Customer Service Models to apply to local needs and implement benchmarking process to further develop our standards as resources allow.
- Continue to implement 'Fix Your Street' to meet agreed targets.
- Continue to maintain a central deposit and coding system for all County Council Application Forms available via the website.
- Continue to focus on the development of the County Council's use of Social Media as a source of information and an efficient communication channel for our customers.

Operation of Markets and Casual Trading and Requests for Filming in County

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- Casual Trading Licenses were issued for trading in a number of towns and villages throughout the County including: Athenry (4), Ballinasloe (10), Clifden (5), Gort (8), Loughrea (2), Mountbellew (5), Dunmore (1), Headford (1), Tuam (9); in line with Casual Trading Bye-Laws.
- Continue to promote trading where bays are vacant by contacting those on the waiting lists and continued to monitor data on Casual Trading through Community Wardens Work Plans returns.
- In addition, special events licences were processed for the Ballygar and Dunmore Festivals, Clifden Pony Show, Maam Valley Fair, the Loughrea Medieval Festival and the Ballinasloe Horse Fair.
6 Requests from film makers etc. to use public property for filming were also processed.

Proposals for 2020:

- Continue to issue Casual Trading Licenses and consider reviewing existing Bye-Laws as staff resources allow.
- Continue to facilitate queries and issue permissions as required to Media and Production Companies wishing to film in the County.
- Continue to co-ordinate the operation of trading at the Ballinasloe Horse Fair in October in partnership with the Ballinasloe Municipal District Office
- Continue to facilitate and Chair Meetings of the Ballinasloe Fair and Festival Co-Ordinating Committee

Internal Audit Activity

Internal auditing is an independent, objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve the organisations operations. It helps an organisation accomplish its objectives by bringing a systematic disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance process.

The Internal Audit Unit is responsible for providing assurance to the Chief Executive of the Council on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's internal control and risk management systems.

The Internal Audit work programme is driven by the annual Internal Audit plan which is drawn up in conjunction with the Executive Team and the Audit Committee and included 10 areas for audit during 2019.

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- The following 6 audits were completed during 2018 and are for presenting to the Audit Committee
 - Use of Product Codes to record 2018 Bitumen Supply and Supply and Spray Services
 - Mobile Phone / Printing Costs / Post Opening Procedures
 - Report to NOAC on compliance with the Public Spending Code
 - Implementation of the 2018 Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme
 - Policy Compliance testing – Use of Low Value Purchase Cards and outstanding transactions – Use of product codes when raising purchase orders - Travel and Subsistence claims- Fire Service Debtors
 - 2018 Housing Grants

- Work is ongoing on the following 4 audits.
 - 2018 Heritage/Conservation grants
 - Procedures and controls in place for dealing with data requests
 - Community Enhancement Scheme
 - Risk Management Oversight

Periodic reviews of progress are carried out on the Local Government Auditors recommendations made following the 2017 Statutory Auditor's Report.

Quarterly checking of the cash office receipts and lodgements and cancelled receipts is carried out.

Periodic checking in the Motor Tax Office headquarters in Áras an Chontae and sub offices in An Cheathrú Rua and Ballinasloe

Proposals for 2020

- Drafting of the 2020 Internal Audit plan for approval
- Reviews of recommendations made on the 2019 Audit Reports
- Facilitate the work of the Audit Committee /administration of meetings
- Completion of audits as per the 2020 Audit Plan.
- Compliance with the Quality Assurance requirements of the Public Spending Code
- Continued work on policy compliance and value for money testing.
- Quarterly and periodic checks on the various income collection streams.
- Periodic checking in the Motor Tax Sub offices in Ballinasloe and An Cheathrú Rua.

Human Resources

Indicative Activities in 2019

➤ **Recruitment and Workforce Planning:**

Galway County Council's Staff Headcount at the end of Quarter 3, 2019 is as follows:

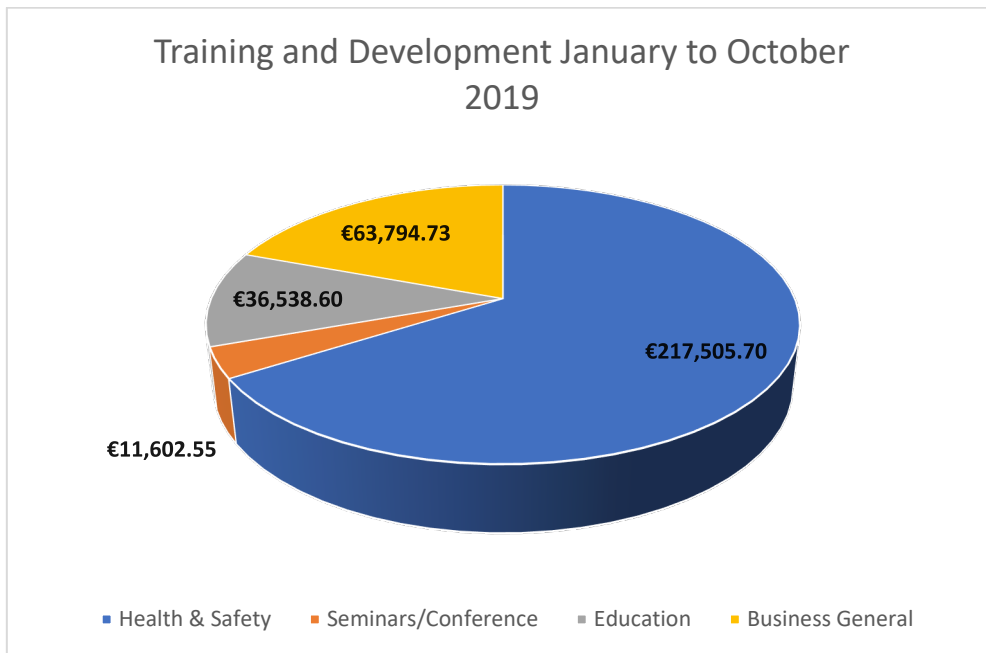
Category	Headcount
Core Staff	860
Retained Fire Fighters	107
Non-Department of Housing, Planning and LG	78

Recruitment Activity, 2019:

The Human Resources Department ran 48 recruitment competitions up to the end of Quarter 3, 2019 which resulted in 243 appointments. Staff recruitment and re-deployment has been targeted at the priority areas of Housing, Economic, Rural and Community Development.

No of Recruitment Competitions run up to the 31st of October, 2019	48
No of Staff Appointments in 2019 to date (Including Appointments and Backfilling of Consequential Vacancies)	243

➤ **Staff Training and Development**

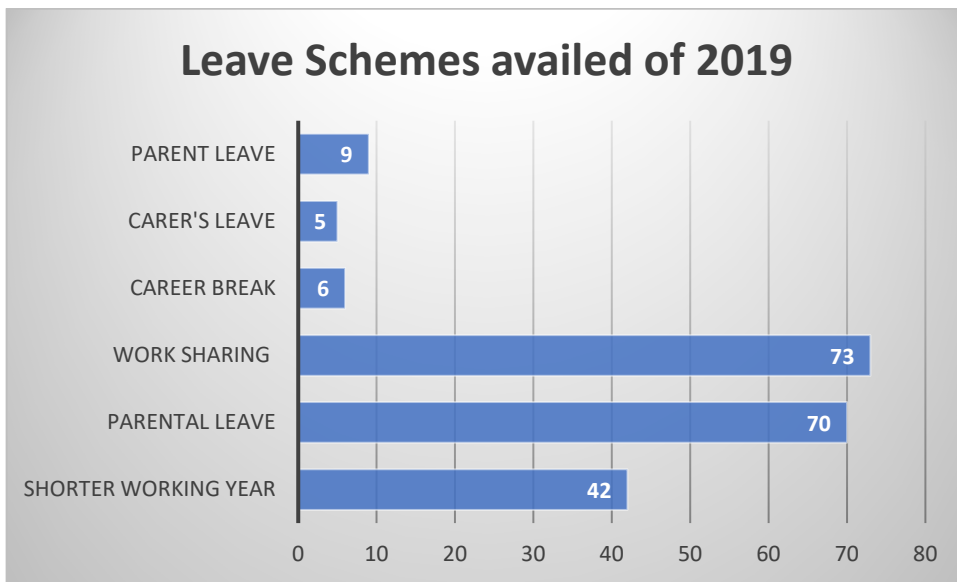


- The Training and Development Section provides a wide range of training programmes to enable staff and management carry out their duties in a confident and competent manner and in a safe working environment. Staff investment in training benefits the organisation through the up-skilling of employees and it also facilitates continuous personal development. There have been approximately 2081 training days provided from January to October 2019.
- Health and Safety training formed a considerable part of 2019 Training Plan which included the following courses: Safe Pass, Manual Handling, Occupational First Aid, Re-certification of Occupational First Aid, Chainsaw Training, Confined Spaces Training, Road Opening Reinstatement Training, Abrasive Wheels, Fire Evacuation Training and VDU Assessor Training.

➤ **Staff Welfare**

Galway County Council has a number of Family Friendly Schemes in place which have been availed of by staff as follows up to the end of Quarter 3, 2019;

- Parent Leave Scheme: 9 staff members availed of the new parent leave scheme in 2019
- Carer's Leave Scheme: 5 staff members availed of Carer's Leave in 2019
- Career Break: 6 staff members availed of career breaks in 2019
- Work Sharing Scheme: 73 staff members availed of work sharing arrangements in 2019
- Parental Leave Scheme: 70 staff members availed of parental leave in 2019
- Shorter Working Year Scheme: 42 staff members availed of unpaid leave under the Shorter Working Year Scheme in 2019



➤ **Other services available for staff:**

- **Employee Assistance Programme:** A confidential counselling and advisory service, the “Employee Assistance Programme” or “EAP” is available to all Galway County Council employees. Health Assured Ltd provide this service on behalf of Galway County Council.
- **Cycle to Work Scheme:** Under this scheme an employer may provide an employee with a bicycle and/or associated safety equipment up to a maximum value of €1000 without the employee being liable for benefit –in-kind taxation. 15 applications for participation in the Cycle to Work Scheme have been processed to date in 2019 for Council employees.
- **Travel Pass Scheme:** There are currently 8 staff members availing of the Tax Saver Travel Pass Scheme.
- **VDU Assessments:** 78 VDU tests have been carried out as at the end of Quarter 3 of 2019, with further assessments pending to December 2019.

➤ **Planned retirements in 2020**

- According to service records, 2 full-time staff members and 1 part-time staff member are due to retire in 2020. 17 staff members retired in 2019.

Following the introduction of the Public Services Superannuation (Age of Retirement) Act 2018, the compulsory retirement age for most staff recruited before 1st April 2004, has increased from 65 to 70 years.

Staff recruited after 1st January 2013 and who are members of the Single Pension Scheme also have a compulsory retirement age of 70.

It is no longer compulsory for staff who reach 65 years of age in 2020 to retire.

❖ **Proposals for 2020:**

- Recruit and deploy staff in an efficient and professional manner, and in accordance with Government policy and service priorities.
- Continue within the available resources to deliver training and development programmes. The 2020 Training Plan will focus on the delivery of mandatory health and safety training and certification requirements taking into account individual and organisational requirements.
- Develop, implement and communicate appropriate human resource policies in line with existing and new legislation, and in keeping with best practice.
- Support and advise Line Managers on the implementation of workplace policies.
- Promote dignity at work, diversity and equality for all employees of the Council.
- Continue to promote a climate of good industrial relations and strengthen the partnership approach to joint problem-solving in the interest of employee and customer relations.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE (LEO)

The County Enterprise Boards Dissolution Bill 2013 was enacted, and the County Enterprise Boards were dissolved on 14th April 2014 and replaced by Local Enterprise Offices (LEO's). On the 15th of April 2014, the LEO Galway commenced operations within the Galway County Local Authority (as lead Authority for Galway County and City) structure under a Service Level Agreement (see summary Appendix A) between the Local Authority and Enterprise Ireland.

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- Provide an excellent and effective First Stop Shop for businesses in Galway County and City
- Increase awareness of LEO services available to businesses locally and nationally and help develop relationships between businesses and these service providers.
- Generate awareness of the LEO brand and services.
- Provide a suite of capability building supports and services that add value and bring benefits to business.
- Support employment creation in the county through investment in eligible businesses.
- Provide Brexit supports for clients (training, mentoring cost reduction, new market development etc.)
- Support economic development aimed at job creation in the county and region.
- Engage with partners at local and national level to design and deliver enterprise creation and support initiatives.

Proposals for 2020:

- Information provision – First Stop Shop and outreach events (4)
- Support for Brexit impacts for clients (training, mentoring, cost reduction programmes, new market development etc.)
- Business Advice, Mentoring and Networking
- Management development, Sectoral development programmes
- Training, workshops
- Funding (direct – limited eligibility, indirect – via Microfinance Ireland)
- Research and Development funding delivery to high potential sectors
- Client participation in National events (IBYE, Student Enterprise programme, National Enterprise Awards and National Showcase and Ploughing)
- Delivery of Bia Innovator Food hub

Summary Targets 2020:

Item	2019 Targets
Value of Grants Approved	€550,000
Feasibility	3
Priming	10
Business Development / Expansion	13
Value of Grants Paid	€510,000
Feasibility	€50,000
Priming	€200,000
Business Expansion	€260,000
Jobs Associated with Funding – WTE¹	120
Total Employment in LEO Clients (Year start) – FT / OT / WTE	
Gross Jobs Created / Lost	195/100
Full Time Created / Lost	130/75
Other Time Created / Lost	65/30
Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) Created / Lost	+72
Total Employment (Year End) – FT / OT / WTE	1273
Training	
Total No. of Courses Run	55
Total No. of Participants	660
Mentoring	
Total Number of Mentoring Assignments	550
Total Number of Mentoring Clinics	74

PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT and EMERGENCY SERVICES UNIT

Planning for Sustainable Development

Indicative Activities in 2019

- 1686 Planning Applications have been received to date (30th October 2019).
 - 1 Pre-application consultations have been attended with An Bord Pleanála under the new regulations for housing developments over 100 units, Oran Hill Oranmore.
 - 20 pre planning meetings for major developments have taken place to date (30th October 2019)
 - 68 Exempted Development applications have been processed to date (30th October 2019)
-
- Prepared a report on Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) for Wind Farm Application for twenty-five windfarm turbines. Presented this report to Plenary Council Meeting and issued report to An Bord Pleanala.
 - Prepared submission on Material Alterations to the Regional Spatial Economic Strategy and Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan.
 - Preparation and finalisation of the Landscape Character Assessment.
 - Attended and advised at Steering Group meetings for the Galway City Ring Road.
 - Prepared tenders for the preparation of the review of the Galway County Development Plan and associated Environmental Reports-SEA/AA/SFRA and LARES.
 - Appointed Environmental Consultants for Galway County Development Plan Environmental Reports-SEA/AA/SFRA and LARES.
 - Preparation and finalisation in relation to the preparation of the Urban Framework Plan for lands at Garraun, Oranmore.
 - Commenced the preparatory review of the Galway County Development Plan 2021 – 2027. Preparatory work on settlement plans (14 in total) which will be incorporated into the County Plan
 - Prepared returns for Departments of Education, Planning Housing and Local Government in relation to extant permissions for housing.
 - Participate in the National e-Planning Initiative.
 - Participate in the Planning Spatial Data Capture Pilot initiative with Department of Planning Housing and Local Government. -
 - Engagement in statutory licencing events legislation with officials in relation to Galway 2020
 - Consultation and Engagement in relation to outdoor event at the former Galway Airport site.

Proposals for 2020:

- To commence and prepare a Draft County Development Plan 2021-2027 and a Local Authority Renewable Strategy.
- Preparation of Urban Design Framework for strategic lands identified at Garraun.
- Preparation of Masterplan for the former Galway Airport site.
- To commence the Retail Strategy in consultation with Galway City Council.
- To implement a Vacant Site Register (statutorily required from January 2017 under the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015), to include a review of sites in local area plan areas.
- Participate in the Planning Spatial Data Capture Pilot initiative with Department of Planning Housing and Local Government. -
- To consider, subject to resources and staffing, the preparation of a number of non-statutory Local Area Plans/Masterplans.
- To undertake a review of the GTPS in preparation of the Draft County Development Plan 2021-2027.
- Arrange and manage the translation of all new policy (variations to the CDP, relevant Local Area Plans) in accordance with the Scéim Teanga.
- Participate in the National e-Planning initiative.
- Prepare returns for Departments of Education, Housing Planning and Local Government as required
- Prepare Green Infrastructure Strategy/Climate Change Audit as part of the Galway County Development Plan 2021-2027
- Preparation of Public Realm strategies for identified Local Area Plan towns, where resources allow.
- Assist where required in the operation of the Development Management Section at various times throughout the year.
- Consultation and Engagement in relation to outdoor events in relation Galway 2020.

Building Control

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- 688 commencement notices have been received to 22nd October 2019, which represents a 21.7% increase on this time last year.
- 78 completion certificates have been submitted and validated to 22nd October 2019.
- 165 inspections have been carried out by the Building Control Officer to ensure compliance with the Building Regulations to 22nd October 2019.
- 802 buildings commenced to 22nd October 2019.

Proposals for 2020:

- The Building Control Officer will continue to implement the statutory building regulations and to carry out at least the minimum level of inspections of new developments required.

Enforcement Measures

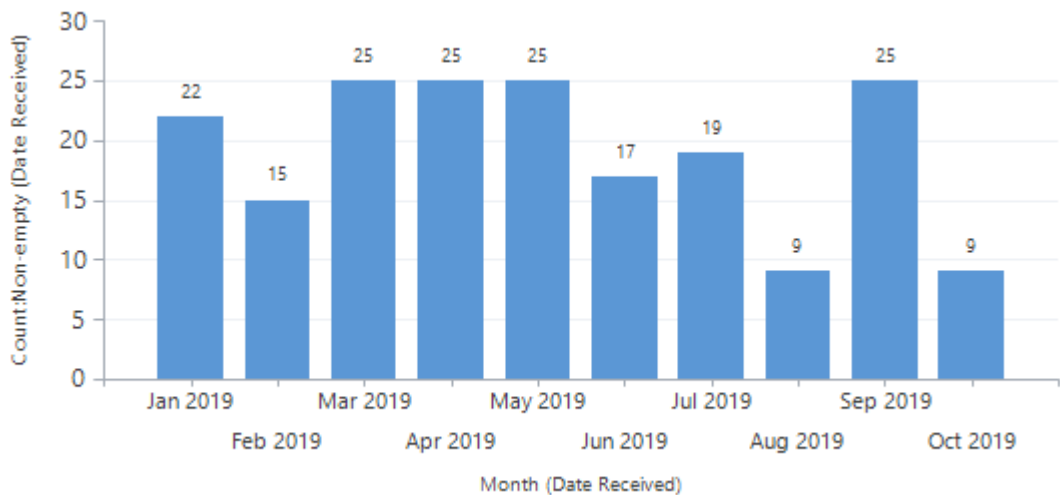
Indicative Activities in 2019:

- 286 Warning Notices/Letters served to 30th October 2019.
- 111 Enforcement Notices served to 30th October 2019.
- 30 Files have been referred for legal action to 30th October 2019.
- 193 New Files opened to 30th October 2019.
- 196 approx. Enforcement Files have been resolved/closed at 30th October 2019.

Proposals for 2020:

- It is proposed to continue to provide resources to the Enforcement Team to ensure the implementation of the Planning Regulations in 2020 and proactively follow up complaints and referrals in respect of unauthorised developments.
- To prioritise unfinished housing estates for enforcement action as necessary.

- No. of Complaints Received by Month



Indicative Activities in 2019:

- **'Go Wild' Summer Camps:** Developed two children's biodiversity 2 day summer camps with BirdWatch Ireland, Mountbellew Heritage Group and Williamstown Tidy Towns Group. These successful courses were delivered in Mountbellew and Williamstown in August 2019.
- **Geological Heritage Audit:** Undertook Phase 3 of a Geological Heritage Audit of County Galway in partnership with the Geological Survey of Ireland and the Heritage Council. The final report due by mid -November 2019. Also attended Geopark Conference in Maam Cross.
- **Cruinniú @ Portumna:** This one day event was held on Saturday 20 July in Portuma. It was developed by Galway County Council, Waterways Ireland, the OPW, Irish Workhouse Centre, Portumna GAA, Portumna Anglers to showcase the rich heritage of Portumna and Lough Derg. Over 1000 people attended this free event. That was funded by the Heritage Council, Galway County Council, Waterways Ireland, OPW, Irish Workhouse Centre.
- **Hidden Heartlands:** Attended a tourism training course organised by Fáilte Ireland.
- **Galway West of Ireland Region of Gastronomy Heritage Projects 1919** – continue to work with local communities and organisations gathering information relating to the gastronomical heritage of the county and produce written, audio and video outputs for the website. This included working with Killimor Heritage working on their gastronomy heritage book.
- **LAMA Awards:** Won best heritage project in LAMA awards for Athenry Town Walls Project.
- **Alcock and Brown 100:** Held a very successful aviation conference in Clifden on Friday 14 June with Alcock and Brown 100 Committee. Working on school's education pack.
- **Heritage Grant Scheme as part of Community Grants:** Assessed grants, assigned conditions to same and in the process of paying out grants.
- **Athenry Town Walls Capital Works** – Funding sought from Heritage Council and under the RRDF funds re works to the North Gate. Various permissions needed sought, tendered for contractor to carry out works. Undertook works.
- **Athenry Walled Towns Day** – This family fun day was held on Sunday 19 August. It showcased the wealth of the built, natural and cultural heritage in medieval Athenry. Over 3500 people attended this event.
- **Loughrea Medieval Festival** – This 3- day heritage event was held in on 23rd to 25th August 2019 in partnership with Loughrea Medieval Festival Committee. Over 20,000

people attended various heritage events over the 3 days including Walled Town Day which was held on Sunday 25 August.

- **Creative Ireland:** Part of Creative Ireland Team, working on Alcock and Brown Education Pack, Reading the Landscape Course and 120 Years of Local Government Films and events.
- **Food and Heritage Bus Tour (Free Tour Celebrating Heritage Week)**
Connemara Food and Heritage Bus tour took place on Thursday 22nd August. The tour was led by Michael Gibbons, Archaeologist and Padraig O’Raighne, Food Tour Expert and visited Inagh Valley Lodge, Ballinakill Graveyard, Tullycross and Renvyle Castle.
- **Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre**
Working with Corporate Services Section on upgrading the centre and development of education resources.
- **Biodiversity Project.**
Providing advice and guidance on various aspects of biodiversity including tree planting, dealing with invasive species and pollinator plans to Tidy Towns, Community and Schools Groups throughout the county. Set up a ‘Boxes for Bees’ School Project and a number of schools received a school visit and a box and seeds for planting. Worked with the Environment Section on the development of brochures for Portumna Bathing area. Provided input into the development of Kilcornan Heritage Trails. Worked with Creggs Tidy Towns on their Heritage and Biodiversity Audit. Applied for funding from NPSW to produce leaflets and short films relating to biodiversity issues.
- **Invasive Species Working Group.**
Working on an invasive species strategy with other sections of the Council in particular with the Roads Section, Community Wardens, Environment Section, Community Waters Office and IT.
- **Decade of Commemoration**
Further development and updating of the bi-lingual website for the Decade of Commemoration with additional information and podcasts. Held 2 events for the First Dáil on Monday 21 January, they being lectures given by Dr Conor McNamara and Siobhra Aiken in the Council Chamber and later that day in the Claregalway Hotel. Working with GMIT on a digital heritage project re documenting sites of significance in the county. The Loughrea Remember Conference entitled ‘Democracy and the People’ will be held on 7 November 2019. Held Dáil 100 exhibition (Oireachtas Exhibition) in Áras an Chontae from mid August to mid September. This included a launch event on 9th September in Áras an Chontae.
- **Cathaoirleach Awards**
These Awards include an Award for the best heritage project and the best heritage publication.

- **Emigration and Diaspora Projects**

Tuke Emigration Scheme Project – continued to work with the Clifden 2012 Committee and Oughterard Heritage Group and Emigration Centre Carna on this project. Developed and produced online information relating to emigration and diaspora. Held conference in Carna on 4th and 5th October. Over 150 people attended in total.

- **ICAN – Community Heritage website.**

The Heritage Office continued to work in partnership with the Museum of County Life Castlebar and various communities throughout the county to further develop this website. Both technical and heritage training has been provided to the groups throughout the year. ICAN members have also embarked on the development of an exhibition entitled Our Irish Women that will be officially launched on Friday 9th November at the Museum of Country Life Castlebar.

- **Féile na gCloch**

Over 100 people attended Féile na gCloch on Inis Oírr which took place from Thursday 13 to Sunday 15 September. Participants had a choice of engaging in stone wall building, lettering, carving, paving, sketching and hot lime demo as well as listening to various related talks.

- **Community Events, Conferences and Workshops**

Assistance, advice, and support was also given to numerous Tidy Town, Community Heritage and schools groups in 2019 and included advice and guidance on heritage publications, development of heritage trails, oral heritage recordings, Heritage Week Events, heritage training and relevant local heritage conferences and seminars etc. Worked with Ard Scoil Mhuire, Ballinasloe on the development of their 100 anniversary commemorations. Working with CDS Cornamona on their townland research project. Assisting Caherlistrane/Knockma Group develop their local heritage initiatives. Working with Athenry Active Retirement Group on their heritage book. Working with Forum Connemara, GRD, Oughterard, Dunmore, Emigration Centre Carna on townland research projects. Assisting Aillebrack School with their history book; Killaghton Drama Group, Corrib Beo,

- **Emigration and Diaspora Projects**

Tuke Emigration Scheme Project – continued to work with the Clifden 2012 Committee and Oughterard Heritage Group on this project. Developed and produced online information relating to emigration and diaspora.

- ***Digital Mapping of Graveyards in the County*** – Continued to work with Galway Rural Development on mapped and memorial inscriptions will be recorded and up loaded to www.galway.ie . Working on Ballymacward, Killerorin (Ballygar)

- The ***Beo Schools Project*** with INSIGHT, NUIG and Galway Education Centre ongoing.
- Participation on Committees/teams such as the ***Placenames Committee, Loughrea Heritage and Development Company, Creative Ireland***.
- Rolled out of the Heritage Grant Scheme as part of Community Grants.
- **Townland Research**
Working with Galway Community Heritage, GRD, Forum Connemara, Carna Emigration Centre and Cornamona on recording and documenting townland historical research.
- The ***Golden Mile Calendar*** will be produced in December 2019.
- Have held meetings and progress heritage initiatives with **Galway County Heritage & Biodiversity Forum**.
- **Féile na gCloch**: This event was held in Inis Oírr from 19th to 22nd September. It included workshops on stone walling, lettering, carving, paving, and working with lime and sketching.
- **Unveiling of Rare Fossil in Tuam**: This event took place in the area office, Tuam on 30 September over 100 people attended this event. The fossil is on show in the area office.

Heritage

Proposals for 2020:

- Undertake Phase 4 of a Geological Heritage Audit of County Galway in partnership with the Geological Survey of Ireland and the Heritage Council.
- Galway West of Ireland Region of Gastronomy Heritage Projects 2020 – continue to work with local communities and organisations gathering information relating to the gastronomical heritage of the county and produce written, audio and video outputs for the website.
- Launch a publication and produce an exhibition that highlights the rich Ecclesiastical Heritage resources of the county.
- Continue to work on the Invasive Species Strategy.
- Continue with the Stories from the landscape initiative.
- The community archaeologist will work with various groups, schools and individuals in the county to increase awareness, knowledge and appreciation of the archaeological heritage of the county. He will also provide guidance and assistance on undertaking archaeological heritage based projects to best heritage practice.
- Village/town Project to be developed in partnership with the Heritage Council.
- Hold a 6-week course that will be of benefit to those who are undertaking oral heritage projects under an Audio Recording and Interviewing Techniques Programme.
- Undertake phase 1 of an audit of the holy wells in the county.
- Undertake phase 1 of developing a suitable planting scheme in an urban area.
- Reading the Landscape Course Phase 2 - To continue to work with community groups to learn field skills and use same to upload content onto the new community heritage website.

- Continue with the Biodiversity Project and continue to work in partnership with community groups, Tidy Towns Groups, Schools, NUIG, GRD etc.
- Athenry Walled Towns Day – Funding will be sought from the Walled Towns Funds of the Heritage Council and if successful a walled town Day will be held in August 2020.
- Athenry & Loughrea Walled Towns Educational Project – Funding to be sought to continue this worthwhile project.
- Athenry Town Walls Capital Works – Funding will be sought to undertake another programme of works for the Walls and an ensuing body of work will also take place if successful.
- Loughrea Medieval Festival – Seek to develop an event in partnership with Loughrea Medieval Festival Committee.
- Decade of Commemoration - Further development and updating of the bi-lingual website for the Decade of Commemoration with additional information and podcasts. The Loughrea Remember Conference to be held in November 2020.
- Produce a publication on sources of study for the Revolutionary period for County Galway.
- Cathaoirleach Awards - These Awards include an Award for the best heritage project, best heritage publication and best Irish/heritage schools project.
- ICAN – Community Heritage website. The Heritage Office will continue to work in partnership with the Museum of County Life Castlebar and various communities throughout the county to further develop this website.
- Community Events, Conferences and Workshops – Assistance, advice, and support will also be given to numerous Town and Community events in 2020 including Féile na gCloch, Heritage Week Events, heritage training and relevant local heritage conferences and seminars etc.
- Emigration and Diaspora Projects: Tuke Emigration Scheme Project – To continue to work with the Clifden 2012 Committee and Oughterard Heritage Group on this project. Further develop online information relating to emigration and diaspora. Hold a conference relating to diaspora and emigration.

- Digital Mapping of Graveyards in the County – To be continued with several graveyards to be mapped and memorial inscriptions will be recorded and up loaded to www.galway.ie
- The Beo Schools Project with INSIGHT, NUIG and Galway Education Centre will be ongoing.
- Alcock and Brown 100 –Work on school’s education pack.
- Participation on Committees/teams such as the Placenames Committee, Loughrea Heritage and Development Company, Creative Ireland and the Aran Life Project.
- Roll out of the Heritage Grant Scheme as part of Community Grants.
- The Golden Mile Competition and Calendar and awards ceremony will also take place during the year.
- Hold meetings and progress heritage initiatives with Galway County Heritage & Biodiversity Forum.
- Develop and deliver heritage summer camps for children in selected parts of the county in partnership with Bird Watch Ireland and other partners.

Conservation

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- Identified, evaluated and provided advice on structures, groups of structures areas and other features of architectural heritage significance. Provided advice to owners and occupiers of historic structures on good practice and on the availability of assistance, including financial assistance, for such conservation.
- Assessed structures on Record of Protected Structures (RPS) with a view to issuing Declarations as to works that require planning permission and provide pre-planning advice.
- Offered advice to owners /occupiers of traditionally built structures, in particular energy efficiency measures.
- Reported and advised on planning applications where architectural heritage issues arise both in Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) and with Protected Structures (individual buildings or groups of buildings) where development was proposed.
- Monitored the state of repair of structures on the Record of Protected Structures, and as necessary, made recommendations on the need for the planning authority to take enforcement action.
- Consulted with the relevant department, state agencies, voluntary and international organisations on matters of architectural conservation including Association of Architectural Conservation Officers, ICOMOS, Irish Georgian Society, and Construction Industry Federation.
- Liaised with local communities regarding Tidy Towns and community initiatives. *Paint the Town Headford* pilot project in association with Galway 2020.
- *Heart of Gort Festival* in May with ICOMOS Ireland Baile town and village committee to promote sustainable development
- Historic Assets group – the internal inter disciplinary- inter departmental working group continued its work to maintain Protected Structures in the care of the local authority. The Architectural Conservation office funded professional reports for conservation works to Portumna Courthouse

- Participation in *Architecture at the Edge* festival of architecture with adapt Reuse theme- Events throughout the county
- Promote *The Walks, Loughrea*; conservation project with *Reimagine*, an initiative of Irish Architecture Foundation with funding from Creative Ireland and in association with Galway 2020
- Administered the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and Historic Structures Fund(HSF) made available through Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for Protected Structures
- Input into Local Area Plans, and County Development Plan as required.
- Processed proposals for inclusion and deletion on the Record of Protected Structures as part of annual review of the Record of Protected Structures.

Proposals for 2020:

- Continue to carry out the statutory duties of Architectural Conservation Officer as set out in Circular 5/99 or as amended.
- Propose additions to the RPS and research and propose Architectural Conservation Areas. Liaise with owners and occupiers.
- Promote opportunities to raise awareness of the architectural heritage and its appropriate conservation and reuse through Creative Ireland, G2020, Irish Architectural Foundation
- Promote the initiatives and funding made available by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
- Continue to promote traditional skills use and training initiatives.
- Continue to contribute to the Historic Assets working group and work with local communities to incorporate the historic built environment into the community life of towns and villages.
- Prepare costed project outlines and plans to be able to avail of capital funding as it becomes available.

- Avail of and promote any funding initiatives available, including Built Heritage Investment Scheme Fund, Historic Structures Fund, Rural Towns and Village funding, Historic Towns Initiative & Creative Ireland.
- Provide advice to the local authority on architectural conservation matters; Liaise with roads re conservation of masonry stone arch bridges; Liaise with corporate services re historic assets in LA ownership; Liaise with Environment re graveyards; Liaise with local area engineers re public realm and issues arising.

Major Emergency Management (MEM)

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- The Major Emergency Development Committee (MEDC) which was established by the Council as part of the New National Framework for MEM is ongoing and continues to be chaired by Ms Eileen Ruane (Director of Services) as part of the Council's Planning, Environment & Emergency Services Directorate.
- The ME Plan and Severe Weather Sub-Plan were reviewed and work is continuing by the committee to review the Flood Response Sub-Plan. Plans to introduce a severe weather call management system are at an advanced stage.
- The MEM West Regional Steering Group (RSG) under chair of the HSE continues to meet in its role of co-ordinating Major Emergency Management between the eight Principal Response agencies (PRA's) -i.e. 3 Local Garda Divisions, 4 Local Authorities and HSE West, in the Galway, Mayo and Roscommon areas.
- The MEM West Regional Working Group (RWG) involving members of the Principal Emergency Services (PES's) in the West Region, i.e. Local Authority Fire Services, Local Garda Divisions and HSE National Ambulance Service, continues to operate, under the auspices of MEM West Regional Steering Group and is chaired by the HSE until the end of 2019.
- Work on the Major Emergency Regional Co-ordination Plan including the Regional Media Plan and the Regional Evacuation Plan was ongoing in 2019 based on available National guidance.
- Galway County Council Headquarters continues as the location of the Local Co-Ordination Centre (LCC) for the three Principal Response Agencies (PRA's) – Galway County Council, HSE West and Galway Garda Division - for Major Emergencies in the Galway County area. The information management (IM) facilities at LCC in County hall were upgraded in 2018 and continues in use with work ongoing in relation to the installation of video conferencing facilities.
- In 2019, funding from the NDFEM was approved for the purchase and installation of a stand-by (back-up) generator for County Hall to provide a redundant power source for the LCC, IS Section and other critical areas. The generator will be purchased by the end of the year and work to facilitate its integration will commence in early 2020.
- It should be noted that the City Council may use City Hall as the LCC for severe weather events.
- The County/City MEM integration group, was established between the PRA's in Galway City and County under the chair of a Director of Services from Galway City

Council to deal with issues in the City/County area and large crowd events, and continues to operate.

- Regional training is ongoing for relevant personnel in the eight PRA'S in the West region.
- Galway County Council were responsible for the procurement of two temporary mobile body storage units for the seven Local Authorities in the West & North-West MEM regions to increase capacity in these regions respectively. This is in addition to the upgraded temporary body holding container on contract and which is deployed as part of planned MEM Exercises in the West region.
- GFRS led the review of the Circle K Terminal External Emergency Plan in early 2019 including public consultation.
- A Major Emergency table-top exercise was held at the Circle K Oil Terminal in Galway Port on the 17 May 2019 in order to test the revised External Emergency Plan. The terminal is an upper tier site under the COMAH Regulations. The exercise involved the 3 Local Competent Authorities (LCA's,) - i.e. Galway City Council (including GFRS as PES to the City Council), Galway Garda Division, HSE West, and the Site Operator Circle K. The exercise was based around a simulated tank fire with a resultant off-site smoke plume. As part of the exercise Galway County Council's mobile on-site coordination unit was mobilised to site and the electronic information management system was tested also.
- The inter-agency Island Response Plan was revised during 2019.
- A Major emergency exercise, involving 3 local Principal Response Agencies, the Irish Coastguard and Aer Aran Islands was held at Inverin Airport Connemara and Inis Mor Airport on the 12 November 2019. The objective of the exercise was to test the revised Island Response Plan and Major Emergency procedures.
- GFRS personnel attended a number of MEM seminars and severe weather debriefs. MEDC members also attended the MEM National conference in Athlone on the 14 November 2019.
- MEM briefings by GFRS to the various Council's Safety Steering Groups commenced in 2019 to improve awareness of the process and the responsibilities of each Directorate.
- 2019 saw an increased use of TETRA (the National Digital Radio Service) throughout the Council and the conversion of all GFRS vehicle radios to TETRA as part of the NDFEM National programme. This means that there is now significantly more resilience available in terms of emergency communications.

Proposals for 2020:

- Both local and regional personnel will receive further training and testing in their various new roles as allocated in their PRA Major Emergency Plans.
- The Major Emergency Development Committee (MEDC) established by the Council as part of the New National Framework for MEM will continue to meet on a bi-monthly bases and will continue to be chaired by Ms Eileen Ruane (Director of Services). The emphasis will be on the implementation of a new system for managing and mapping requests for assistance during severe weather events and the improvement of staff communications, including the full integration of TETRA.
- Validation and updating of the existing County Council Major Emergency Plan is envisaged to continue in 2020.
- Council personnel and GFRS personnel will continue to support Regional Steering and Regional Working Groups, local MEDC and the Galway County/City Integration Group.
- Work on the Major Emergency Regional Co-ordination Plan will continue including the Regional Media Plan and the Regional Evacuation Plan.
- A Major Emergency exercise to test the Island Response Plan is scheduled for the end of 2020. This will again involve the 3 Local Competent Authorities (LCA) i.e. Galway County Council (including GFRS as PES to the County Council), Galway Garda Division, HSE West, the Irish Coastguard, RNLI and Aer Aran Islands.
- A blind MEM mobilisation exercise is scheduled for the Tynagh Energy site (a lower tier site under the COMAH regulations) before the end of 2020.
- Work will continue in 2020 in relation to the installation of the new stand-by generator at County Hall and the development of video conferencing facilities at the LCC.
- Additional media training for Galway County Council staff, including social media use, is planned for 2020.

Fire Prevention and Education Programs

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- The Schools Fire Safety Program was continued again in primary schools in County Station Areas.
- Self-contained smoke alarms with long life batteries were procured by GFRS for 250 households and continue to be issued to households in Galway City and County

for installation by community groups as in previous years. This project was completed with the assistance of the Community and Enterprise Units in both Galway City and Galway County Councils as part of the ongoing National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) Programme.

- A program was run locally as part of National Fire Safety Week as in previous years including opening all Fire Stations to the public during the week for lectures and demonstrations.
- Fire safety awareness media campaigns were conducted in 2019 for National Fire Safety Week, wildfire safety, Halloween safety and a further campaign is planned for Christmas time. A number of officers conducted radio and TV interviews.
- In 2019 a Vulnerable Persons Programme was commenced including a Home Fire Safety Check Booklet which was launched by Sean Canney, Minister of State Community Development, Natural Resources & Digital Development on the 7th of October 2019 at Tuam Fire Station.
- In 2019 a new fire safety advertisement campaign was conducted with the placing of the fire safety messages 'Stop Fire' and 'Check Your Detector' on the sides of a fire appliance in each station. A trial similar sign was installed on the fire station appliance bay doors in Tuam.

Proposals for 2020:

- The Schools Fire Safety Programme involving local fire officers visiting 4th class in primary schools in Galway will continue in 2020 subject to the availability of financial resources.
- Self-contained smoke alarms will continue to be issued in 2020 in both the city and county from allocations received in 2019 and further alarms will be purchased in mid 2020.
- A program will be run locally again in 2020 as part of National Fire Safety Week as in previous years including opening of all Fire Stations to the public. This year we hope to include a number of fire safety seminars and demonstrations in towns.
- Fire safety awareness media campaigns will be conducted in 2020 for National Fire Safety Week, wildfire safety, Halloween safety and Christmas safety. It is hoped that the number of officers conducting radio and TV interviews will increase in 2020.
- In 2020 the Vulnerable Persons Programme will be rolled out to all stations including the City and the Home Fire Safety Check Booklet will be promoted extensively. The programme will be linked with the pre-incident planning programme.

- In 2020 the new fire safety advertisement campaign of the fire safety messages ‘Stop Fire’ and ‘Check Your Detector’ will be installed on the fire station appliance bay doors in all stations.
- In 2020 work will commence on a new GFRS website to promote fire safety awareness.

Fire Operations – Keeping Communities Safe (KCS)

A Framework for Fire Safety in Ireland

The Fire Service is subject to the same financial constraints and consequent scrutiny of expenditure as all other Local Authority services. Additional investment in Fire Services beyond that already programmed will be challenging, given the impairment of public and local government finances. The challenge, as reflected in the document “Keeping Communities Safe”, is to manage the available resources to achieve an optimal outcome for the public in terms of their individual safety, and to minimize loss and disruption to society.

Achieving the successful implementation of the main provisions in KCS will require ongoing commitment from the Fire Service, the City and County Management Teams along with the City and County Elected Representatives. Following from the report of the NDFEM External Validation Group visits to all Fire Services in 2014 entitled “Fire Services in Ireland – Local Delivery – National Consistency”, a second round of External Validation Group visits is scheduled for the end of 2019 and throughout 2020. A new draft Service Delivery Plan 2019 – 2024, a new Draft Section 26 Plan have been prepared by Fire Service Management and submitted to the Directorate of Planning, Environment and Emergency Services. It is envisaged that these plans will be presented to the Council Executive Management Team by the end of 2019 and to the SPC Planning, Environment and Emergency Services and the Plenary Council in early 2020. Work is also ongoing in relation to new Statutory and Community Fire Safety Plans.

Fire Operations – Keeping Communities Safe (KCS)

Indicative Activities in 2019 (based on 2018 data) :

- There are 11 Fire Stations in the City and County (see Figure 1) located at Athenry, Ballinasloe, Clifden, Galway City, Gort, Loughrea, Mountbellew, Portumna, Tuam, Inis Mór and An Cheathru Rua. All stations are resourced with retained personnel except Galway City, which is a mix of full-time personnel on shift and retained personnel on call.
- The Council employs approximately 156 fire-fighting personnel at full complement directly in Galway Fire & Rescue Service including full time and retained fire-fighters

in the City and County. This figure includes an agreement in 2019 to increase the number of retained firefighters in the City by two additional fire-fighters.

- There are also 11 supervisory and fire prevention senior fire officers, including the Chief Fire Officer (CFO), 4 civilian support personnel, a Brigade Mechanic and a Civil Defence Officer (CDO) working in the Headquarters at Galway City Fire station.
- During 2018, the Galway Fire and Rescue Service responded to a total of 1,755 emergency call outs, 1,059 by the County Fire Brigades and 696 by Galway City Fire Brigade in its City and County fire grounds. This represented an increase of 11% when compared to 2017. There was an increase of 8% in the City and 13% in the County. Figure 2 below shows the level of call-outs from 2009. It can be seen that from a peak in 2010, call-outs had reduced and flatlined from 2013 to 2017. There was a significant increase in call-outs in 2018 and it is expected that there will be a further increase in 2019. Call-outs per station are shown in Figure 2 below.

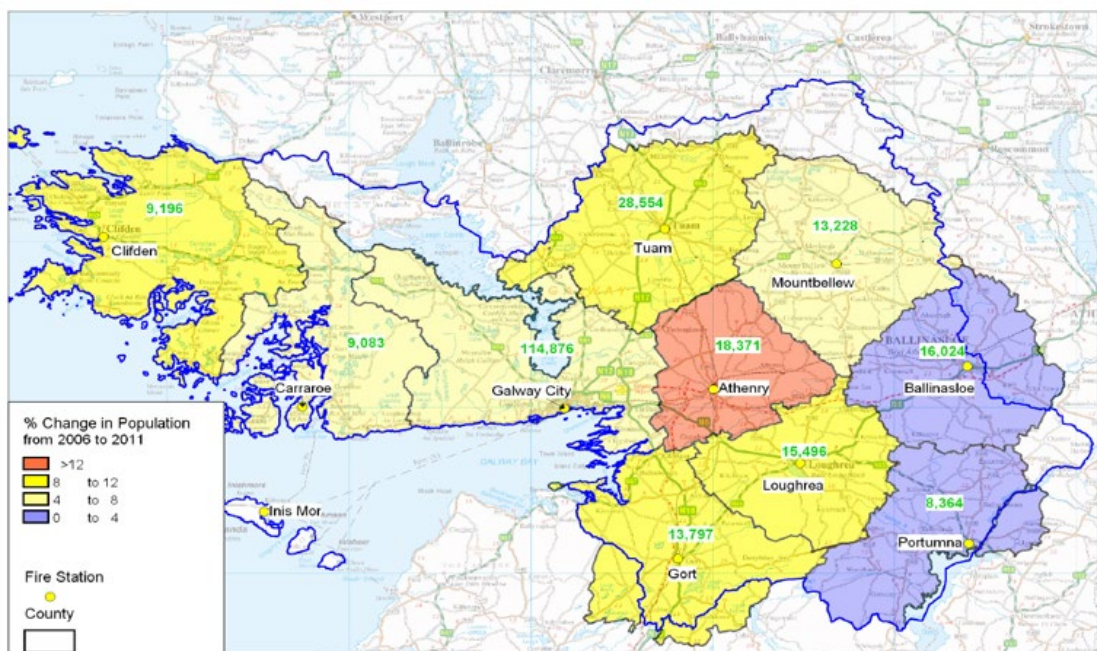


Figure 1 Current Fire Station Areas

- The average cost per head of population for providing the Fire Service in Galway City and County in 2018 was €47.68. Average response times for all incidents for first attendance vehicles in the City full-time and County retained stations were 2.33 minutes and 5.38 minutes respectively.
- The percentage attendance times at scene for fires and other incidents for City and County Fire Brigades are shown in Table 1 below. Thankfully there were no fire

fatalities in 2018 but unfortunately there have been two fatalities in 2019 up to the end of October.

- The Council endeavoured to ensure that all of its Fire and Emergency Services personnel received training as in previous years at local level. Senior and Junior Fire Officer training with the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management (NDFEM) also progressed. Training was carried out as per the Training Plan / Annual Training Programme for 2019 as per previous years. Training standards continued to convert to the QQI framework in 2019.

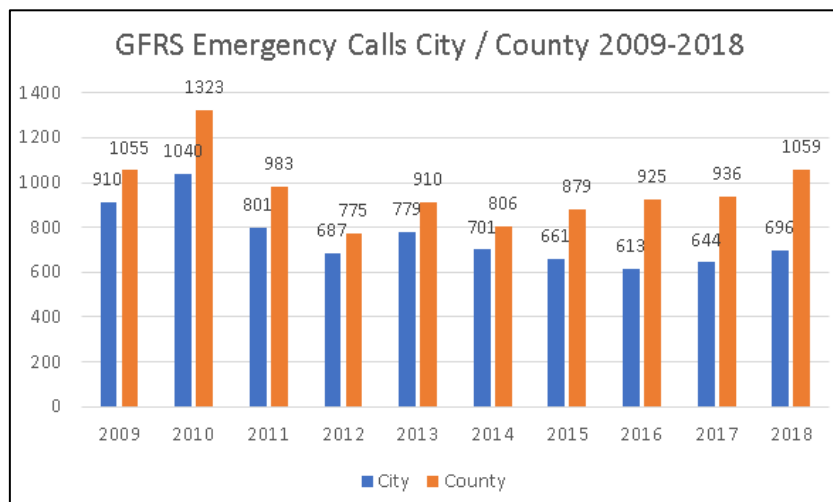
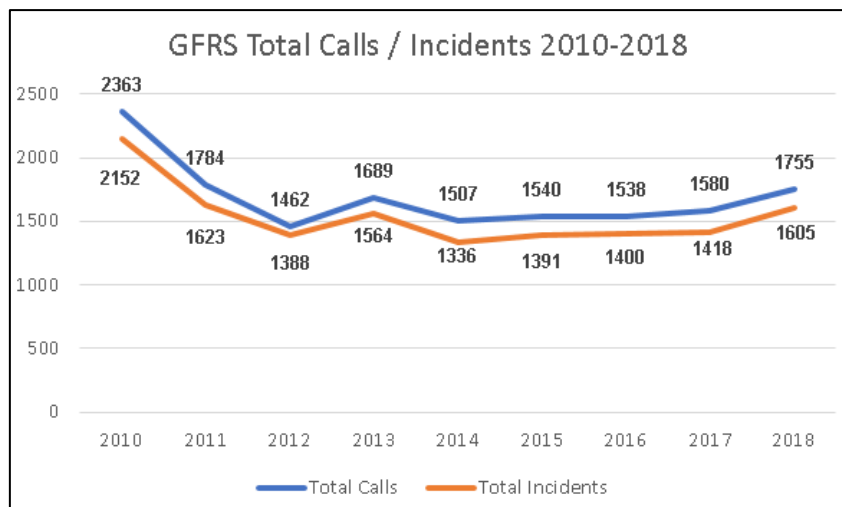


Figure 2 Call-out History 2009 - 2018

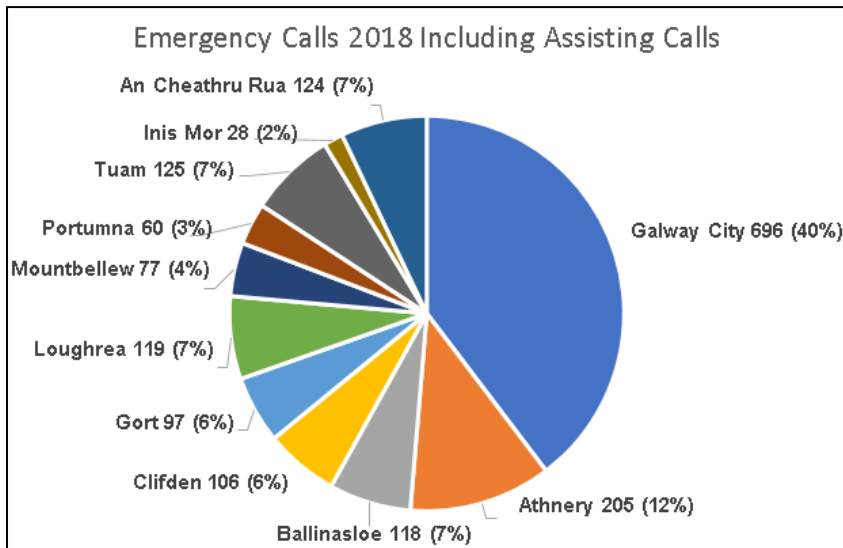


Figure 3 Breakdown of Call-outs by Station in 2018

% Attendance Time	Fires %	Other Incidents %
Less than 10 minutes	32.5	45.9
11 to 20 minutes	40.4	39.9
Greater than 20 minutes	27.1	14.2

Table 1 Percentage Attendance Times Galway City and County

- The Council intend to continue to prepare pre-incident plans for significant City and County risks, which is a statutory duty under the Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003. This work is closely allied to the new Vulnerable Persons Programme which commenced in 2019.
- The Fire Service’s Health & Safety Steering Group continued to meet in 2019 with monthly meetings to manage and drive the Health & Safety Management Plan throughout the Fire Service and Civil Defence. The objective was to maintain its ISO 45001 accreditation achieved in October 2018 which followed the OHSAS 18001 accreditation previously achieved in December 2017. The Operational Safety Group meetings also continued monthly in 2019.

Proposals for 2020:

Operational

- The revised Fire Service Strategic Plan (2019 – 2024), the revised Fire and Operations (Section 26) Plan should be reviewed and adopted in early 2020.
- Work will continue in 2020 in preparation for the process of External Validation Group 2 by the NDFEM in order to assess the application of the National “Keeping Communities Safe” policy. This will include the finalising of additional plans including the Statutory and Community Fire Safety Plans.
- The Council will endeavour to ensure that all of its Fire and Emergency Services personnel continue to receive training as in previous years, at local level. Fire Officer / Instructor training with the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management will continue. Training will be carried out in accordance with the Annual Training Plan for 2020 subject to budgetary provisions. National SOGs will continue to form the backbone of the training plan throughout the City and County for all fire personnel in 2020. The next set of SOGs will be rolled out in 2020 and National Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs) continue to underpin generic risk assessments as part of our Safety Management System.
- In 2020 we will continue the migration of training standards to the QQI framework in conjunction with the NDFEM.
- There was a significant increase in retirements/resignations from retained and full-time Fire Service in Galway in 2019 and there will be further vacancies arising through 2020. Retained recruit induction will continue through LASNTG to the new QQI standard in 2020. A full-time firefighter recruitment campaign underway at the end of 2019 will see full-time recruit training probably in the UK in early 2020. Increased recruit training will result in increased training costs in 2020. It is also hoped also that the full compliment of senior officers will be achieved again in early 2020.
- The emphasis on pre-incident plans will continue in 2020 in conjunction with the Vulnerable Persons Programme which will be implemented in all stations. The emphasis will continue to extend to high and medium rise buildings and those with legacy issues.
- In 2020, with the improvement in our infra-structure we hope to be able to continue to improve our mobilisation and attendance times.
- Safety will continue as a priority through 2020 with our monthly Safety Steering and Operational Safety Group meetings. GFRS will again be audited for continued ISO 45001 accreditation on a six-monthly basis.

West Regional Communications Centre (WRCC)

The Fire Authorities of Connacht and Donegal are involved with this Central call-out and communications project through the Western Regional Communications Centre (WRCC) in Castlebar, which is run by Mayo County Council as Contracting Authority. All Local Authority partners contribute to the cost of this service and costs will increase significantly in 2020 as a result of the migration to the National Digital Radios System (TETRA). All three Regional Communications Centres are currently being reviewed by the NDFEM as part of the new CTRI project.

In 2019 GFRS, along with all other Local Authority Fire Services migrated to a new National Digital Radio Service platform known as TETRA. The installation of new mobilisation and radio equipment was completed in Fire Stations and all appliances in mid-2019 as part of the ongoing CTRI project.

The change over to the TETRA will have significant financial implications for all Local Authority Fire Services from 2020 as there will be an annual fee for each TETRA device in use, payable to TETRA Ireland who have won the national digital communications project for all Emergency Services in Ireland. The revenue cost for new TETRA devices for the first year of operation in 2019 is being borne by NDFEM. The cost will revert to each Local Authority Fire Service in 2020 and this represents a significant increased cost in the region of €90 k per annum.

It is understood that as WRCC migrates from a Regional to a National model, a new National funding model will be established. This might have benign implications for Local Authority budgets from 2020 onwards.

Regional Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Project
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Galway County Council is the Contracting Authority for the roll out of the CISM system to the six Fire Authorities of Connacht and Donegal. Provision is being made in 2020 budgets to continue this project, with Galway County Council again acting as the Contracting Authority. A contract for the period 2017-2020 in the West region was awarded to Inspire Wellbeing from Northern Ireland. A new tender competition will be conducted in 2020 for the period 2020-2023.

Indicative Activities in 2019 (based on 2018 data):

- In 2018, the Fire Service Fire Prevention Section carried out 241 inspections of premises as part of its fire prevention function, under the Fire Services Act (FSA) 1981 & 2003, Licensing Acts, Planning Acts and the Dangerous Substances Act. Inspections were also carried out in relation to the issue of Fire Safety Certificates (FSC's) under the Building Control Act 1990 (as amended). Thus far and to the end of October 2019 the Fire Prevention Section has conducted a total of 323 inspections .
- In 2018 the Fire Prevention Section dealt with 294 public licence applications in 2018. Thus far and to the end of October 2019, the Fire Prevention Section have received and dealt with 192 licence applications of all types.
- The Fire Prevention Section dealt with 286 Fire Safety Certificate (FSC) Applications of all types in 2018 under Building Control Regulations, 164 in the County Council area and 122 in the City Council area. The overall number of Fire Safety Certificate applications represents an increase of 9% from 2017. Fire Safety Certificate activity from 2008 to 2018 is shown in Figure 4 below. The increasing number of FSC applications received in 2018 reflects an increase in construction activity within the County and City and that levels are returning to boom year levels with increasing size and complexity of commercial construction being proposed for development.
- Thus far to the end of October 2019, the Fire Prevention Section have received and dealt with 233 Fire Safety Certificate (FSC) Applications of all types confirming the continuing increase in applications. There was one fire prevention officer vacancy for most of 2019 which has now been filled. Additional fire prevention officers will be required in the short-term to comply with our statutory requirements given the increasing workload.
- The Fire Prevention Section processed 103 Disability Access Certificate (DAC) applications in 2018 an increase of 30% from 2017. Disability Access Certificate activity from 2010 to 2018 is shown in Figure 5 below. Thus far and to the end of October 2019, the Fire Prevention Section have received and dealt with 67 Disability Access Certificate (DAC) Applications under Building Control Regulations.
- The Fire Prevention Section received 137 **planning referrals in 2018 for the City and County. Thus far to the end of October 2019 the number of referrals received is 11. The reduction is due to a shortage of staff during the year.**

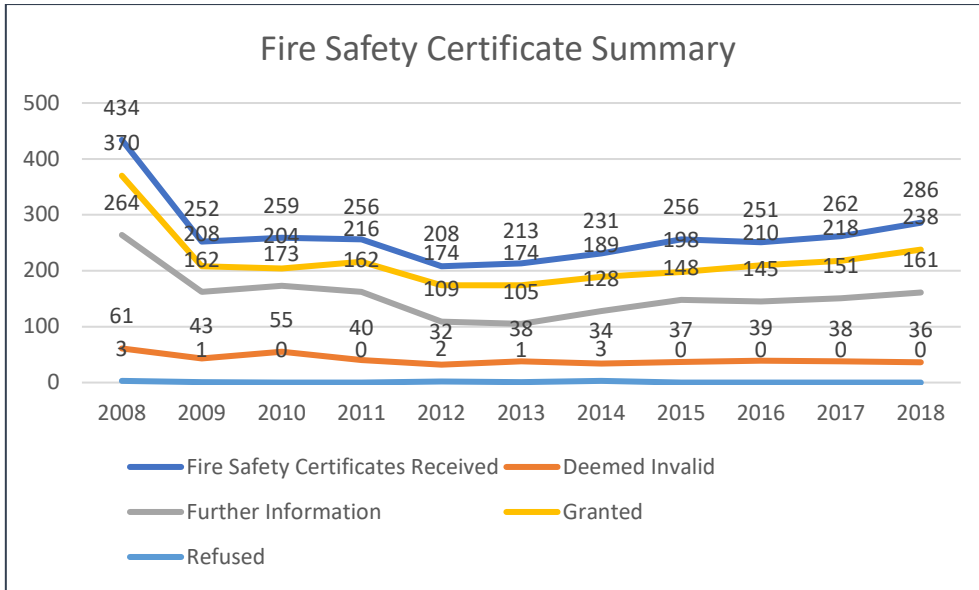


Figure 4 Fire Safety Certificate (FSC) Activity 2008- 2018

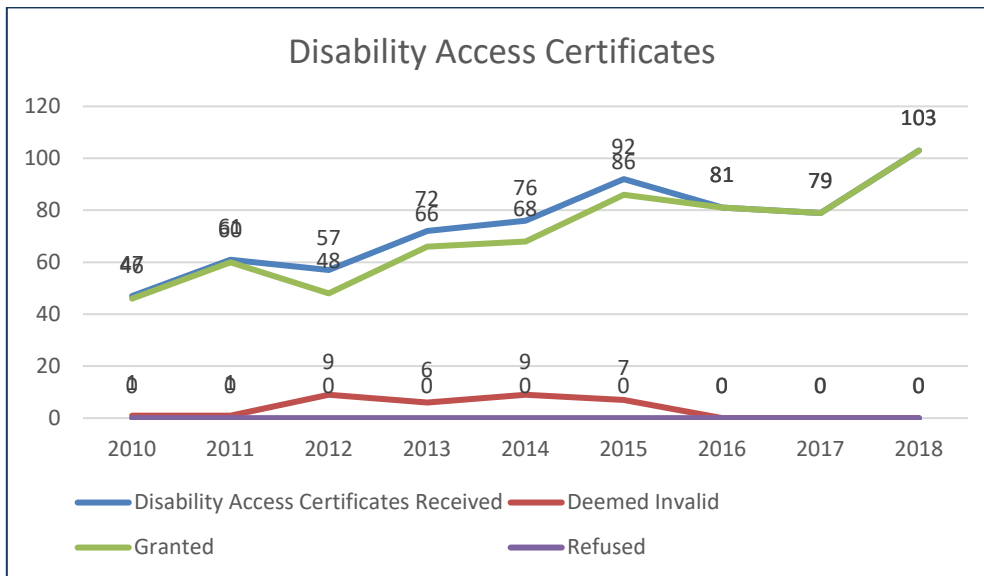


Figure 5 Disability Access Certificate Activity 2010-2018

Proposals for 2020:

- The Fire Prevention Section will continue to process all FSC type applications on behalf of the County and City Councils and DAC applications on behalf of the County Council.
- The Fire Prevention Section will continue to process licence applications and planning referrals as received.
- The Fire Prevention Section will continue their programme of inspections of retail petroleum stores in the City and County. They will also continue to process DSA licences of retail petroleum stores in the City and County as received. It should be

noted that proposed new regulations in this area will significantly increase the workload of this Section and additional resources will be required going forward.

- The Fire Prevention Section will continue their programme of fire safety inspections with particular emphasis on nursing homes, care facilities, hostels and hotels in the City and County. Emphasis will also be placed on medium / high rise buildings and those with legacy issues.
- The Fire Prevention Section will continue to carry out inspections in the City and County on foot of complaints on a prioritized basis. Enforcement action will be taken as necessary and required.

Galway Civil Defence

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- Galway Civil Defence, through their five training centres, Galway City, Oranmore, Loughrea, Ballinasloe and Clonberne have had an intensive year with duty activities and training, locally and centrally, through the Civil Defence College, Roscrea.
- A programme of training in Cardiac First Response, First Aid Responder, Emergency First Response is currently ongoing through 2019 to 2020.
- All Cardiac First Responder and First Aid Responder Instructors will recertify in 2020. This will bring a more streamline approach going forward as all will recertify at the same time each second year.
- New Search Skills training was rolled by instructors to Counties in 2019 to enhance Search Management capabilities. 3 instructors will have completed this certification by November 2019
- One MEM Information Manager were trained in 2019. This course was hosted by the Regional MEM Group for Inter Agency Training.
- One additional Drone was issued in late 2019. This superior craft has the most up to date technology and camera specifications. A Thermal Imaging camera is also to be purchased fully grant aided by the Dept. of Defence, Civil Defence Branch.
- One additional 4x4 Ford Ranger was allocated to Galway by the Dept. of Defence, Civil Defence Branch with funding from the Dormant Accounts Fund.

- All units will again be responding to their community's requests for assistance at local community events, providing first aid cover and other assistance that may be requested.
- One additional DLP trained to support the Child Protection Policy of 2018. All practitioners have completed on-line Tusla 'Children First' e-learning course.

Proposals for 2020:

- Focus on training for 2020 will centre in developing the Search Management capability and Swift Water Rescue training with members partaking in re-certification training and initial training in early 2020 under the Rescue 3 programme.
- Work in the West of the County in Clifden in 2020 to expand the scope of operations and to provide a Civil Defence presence to the Connemara area.
- To partake in re-certification training in line with the Civil Defence College programme for 2020.
- All clinical levels of responders will continue to develop their skills throughout the training year.
- 4x4 off-road training will be hosted by Terrafirma to drivers to prepare for severe weather response. 2 more courses to be completed by the 2nd February 2020 to increase our available pool of drivers.
- Terrafirma are nominated by the Civil Defence Branch to provide training in off-road 4x4 driving to Civil Defence nationally.
- Continuous liaison with the PRA's to develop and promote Civil Defence as a support organisation.
- Additional CISM Peer to Peer Support training to be availed from the Civil Defence Branch training programme in 2020
- Continuation for all members to complete the Tusla 'Children First' e-learning course.
- New members are always welcome from their community and training will be provided to all members of the highest standard by our instructor core.
- Support the LA's with the 2020 programme where possible.

Waste Management Infrastructure

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- Galway County Council continued to operate the landfill at Kilconnell for the acceptance of waste in 2019.
- Civic Amenity Sites continue to operate under contract at Ballinasloe, Clifden and Tuam.
- Tier 3 Site Investigations were carried out at historic landfill site at Clifden & Tullyvoheen, funded directly by Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAIE).
- Rehab Glasco continue to provide a collection service for glass and beverage cans at the County's 93 bring bank centres, while the Council has a partnership arrangement with Athchursáil Arainn Cuideachta Gníomhaíochta Ainmnithe to operate an integrated waste management scheme for the Aran Islands. On Inishboffin a landfill and recycling service is provided for, fully funded by Galway County Council.
- The Local Authority Prevention Network is ongoing. The Network is involved in identifying actions for prevention and capacity building within community, business and public sectors in relation to resource use efficiencies and areas covered include waste prevention, energy conservation, water conservation and capacity building, training and awareness.

Proposals for 2020:

- Landfill operations will cease at Kilconnell in January 2020 while the site resolution plan will be ongoing for the year.
- Retender the operation of leased recycling facilities countywide and consider extending the number of facilities.
- Provide 1-2 mobile hazardous waste & 4-5 WEEE collections at targeted locations.
- Implement waste presentation by laws as resources permit.
- Education awareness to continue in area of waste prevention and good environmental practices.

Environmental Monitoring and Enforcement Measures

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- Details of enforcement notices and warning letters which were issued and prosecutions which were initiated under environmental legislation in 2019 will be set out in the 2019 RMCEI (Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections) returns which are due for issue by the 16th of February 2020.
- The 2019 RMCEI returns will detail planned inspections carried out on regulated facilities and unplanned inspections carried out in relation to complaints received and incidents of environmental pollution. Inspections were carried out in relation to complaints, permitted waste facilities, permitted collectors, quarries, garages, various waste producer categories, discharge licences, sewage sludge facilities, farms, private wastewater treatment systems, air pollution licences, deco paints facilities and solvent registered sites.
- Joint Producer Responsibility Inspections were carried out by wardens and enforcement officers, focusing on food waste disposal and commercial brown bins in agglomerations of >500.
- Joint inspections were carried out with REPAK on non-compliant businesses, under the CUWERLA pilot packaging programme.
- A number of litter 'black spots' were cleaned up, barriers and signage erected and CCTV installed with funding provided by DCCAE under the Anti-Dumping Initiative 2019. A substantial amount of waste was removed during the Initiative which was publicised locally on Council's social media and in local newspapers.
- 3 Bulky Goods Collections were organised in addition to the collection of end-of-life vehicles from the Arann Islands.
- Environment Enforcement launched its own Awareness Campaign in the local media in relation to illegal dumping and the new Waste Presentation Bye-Laws.
- Monitoring was carried out in relation to drinking water, bathing water, rivers, lakes and landfills in accordance with legislative requirements both directly and via contracts with external laboratories. Follow-up actions were taken in response to non-compliances.
- Enforcement actions included the enforcement of 126 discharge licenses for large scale private wastewater treatment systems and the inspection of 38 farms and 101 domesticwastewater treatment systems.

Environmental Monitoring And Enforcement Measures

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- Public notices were issued and investigative monitoring was carried out as required in response to drinking water and bathing water non-compliances. Six Blue Flags and Six Green Coast plaques were awarded to bathing areas in County Galway.
- Activities which have the potential to cause air pollution such as dry cleaning and vehicle refinishing were regulated.

Proposals for 2020

- The Council will set out all planned pro-active inspections of authorised facilities under various Environmental Legislation in the 2020 RMCEI Plan which is due for issue by February 16th, 2020. The scale of enforcement activity in 2020 will reflect the resources available for inspections and will be on a prioritised basis taking consideration of Departmental, EPA, LAWPRO and WERLA guidance.
- The Council will continue to carry out investigations and monitoring under environmental legislation, in accordance with government policy and EPA directions, and take enforcement measures as required for non-compliance with environmental legislation.
- There will be continued review of the most successful ways to deal with illegal dumping. The new Waste Presentation Bye-Laws will be enforced and fixed penalty notices will be issued as required.
- The Council will work with the public and other agencies, including the WFD Office, on the improvement of water quality in identified priority catchments, through public awareness and through a concentrated programme of inspections of potentially polluting sources including large scale private wastewater treatment systems, farms and domestic wastewater treatment systems.

Derelict Sites and Dangerous Structures

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- The Council continued to exercise its powers under the Derelict Sites Act 1990, in an effort to work with the owners of neglected, ruinous and unsightly buildings and land to take remedial action. While there are currently no sites on the Derelict Sites Register, enforcement action continued to take place where required.

Proposals for 2020:

- Sites in the county will continue to be reviewed in accordance with the Derelict Sites policy and the Dangerous Structures policy.

Burial Grounds

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- There are currently 233 burial grounds listed on The Council's burial ground register. The Council, with the participation of the many local burial ground committees, carries out works of maintenance and improvements as resources permit.
- A burial ground extension programme continued throughout 2019 with priority given to extensions at Annaghdown, Quansboro, Claregalway, Leenane, Killimordaly etc.
- Extensions were completed at Bealadangan and Leenane while additional plots were identified for use at Annaghdown. Works on Killimordaly extension were commenced with completion expected in 2019.
- Improvement works were supported at a number of burial grounds resulting in increased plots becoming available.
- An annual grant is provided to committees who maintain the burial grounds in their area. A 3-tier grant was awarded to Committees in 2019 - €600, €450 or €300 with grants made to over 160 committees in 2019.

Proposals for 2020:

- The Council will continue to progress extensions in conjunction with the local communities at Brooklodge, Clarenbridge, Creagh, Quansboro, Claregalway, Abbey, Kilbannon and to identify site at Inverin.

Environmental Awareness and Education

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- Assistant Environmental Awareness Officer is involved in promoting environmental awareness through ongoing engagement with the domestic and commercial sectors.
- Community awareness events have taken place focusing on waste management, waste prevention, food waste, home composting, household hazardous waste, energy conservation and water conservation.
- Ongoing development and dissemination of information through local media, social media, libraries, schools, voluntary groups etc.
- Ongoing involvement with Tidy Towns groups.
- Ongoing involvement in the Green Schools programme with over 90% of county schools involved.
- Participating with and funding community based Anti-Litter initiatives.
- Delivery of WEEE and National Spring Clean initiatives.
- Anti-Litter campaign through communities, schools etc.
- Liaise with Connacht Ulster Regional Waste Management Office.
- Liaising with Community and Enterprise Unit, Heritage Officer, Biodiversity Officer on various environmental projects.
- Ongoing implementation of the LAPN / Waste Prevention Programme.

Proposals for 2020:

- The Awareness campaign will continue with particular emphasis on further enhancing partnerships with community and voluntary groups and the continued dissemination of information to all sectors using all suitable methods.
- Ongoing implementation of the Waste Prevention Programme.
- Continue to support national campaigns such National Spring Clean, National Tree Week, Gum Litter Taskforce campaign, Reuse Month, etc.

- Anti-Litter Awareness campaign through communities, schools etc. as per the Litter Management Plan 2019-2022.

Energy & Climate

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- Development of a Climate Adaptation Strategy in accordance with the National Framework and adoption by the Elected Members in September 2019.
- Series of presentations delivered to members of the Environment Strategic Policy Committee on our national and international obligations in respect of Climate Change.
- Participation in a feasibility study assessing the viability of introducing an Electric Vehicle Charge Point scheme along the Wild Atlantic Way.
- Purchase of 5no. Home Energy Saving Kits and associated training; to be rolled out by year end 2019.
- Support Scheme for community organisations signed up to SEAI's Sustainable Energy Communities targeting in particular the provision of subsidised BER's and a series of building energy audits in the community sector.
- Community Energy Efficiency Grant Scheme rolled out. *(support scheme to help community/not for profit organisations to carry out energy efficiency upgrades to their respective facilities).*
- Support Scheme for schools, tidy towns and arts groups to deliver local climate action projects in their respective communities.
- Funding provided for a number of water bottle filling stations, both internal and external to support the reduction in use of single use plastics.
- Dissemination of information for Elected Members on grants available from SEAI (domestic / business / community / Electric Vehicles) and qualification criteria. Booklets on Sustainable Energy Communities also provided.
- Delivered statutory requirements in respect of Display Energy Certificates for publicly accessible buildings.
- Fulfilled our statutory obligations in respect of energy consumption monitoring and reporting. Confirmation received that Galway County Council remains on target to reach our 2020 energy efficiency goals as set out in national requirements.
- Carried out a number Building Energy Audits in order to provide projects and specifications for future grant applications.
- Built links with the Galway Environmental Network (GEN) and attended meeting to provide information on the work Galway County Council is engaging in in respect of Energy and Climate Change.

Proposals for 2020:

- Establish a process for prioritizing actions adopted under the Climate Adaptation Strategy and liaise with the Climate Change and Biodiversity Strategic Policy Committee to begin delivering on actions to reduce climate impact.
- Begin the process of developing a Climate Mitigation Strategy focusing on such areas as Outreach, Transportation, Energy Efficiency, Resource Efficiency and Nature Restoration.
- Cultivate and actively participate in partnerships with enterprise, community, voluntary, 3rd level institutions & the research community to deliver on initiatives that reduce climate impact.
- Deliver a climate change engagement and training programme paying particular attention to youth engagement through Comhairle na nÓg and the Green Schools Programme.
- Deliver and operate a Climate Opportunity Fund to provide not for profit organisations the chance to access funding for local climate action projects.
- Support the Atlantic Seaboard North Climate Action Regional Office in establishing an energy bureau for the region to include a dedicated resource in Galway County Council.
- Continue to meet our statutory obligations in respect of display energy certificates.
- Review our 2020 energy efficiency performance and identify projects to assist in delivering further energy efficiency in meeting new 2030 targets.
- Continue delivering initiatives to improve energy efficiency across our range of services in line with our 2020 and 2030 national targets (50% improvement in energy efficiency by 2030 compared to 2009 baseline).
- Review SEAI Local Authority scheme for provision of electric vehicle charge points to identify suitable locations and an appropriate management system.
- Identify and trial the use of an electric vehicle as part of our existing fleet management.
- Identify a “decarbonising zone” in the County in accordance with the Government Climate Action Plan and provide resources to develop a plan to deliver on this objective.
- Develop a proposal to use our library network to offer energy and climate information to citizens and Communities.

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- Under the Control of Dogs Act, 2 fulltime dog wardens provide a dog control service in the county utilising 2 leased dog pound facilities (one in the west of the county and one in the east of the county). These are under veterinary supervision and operate as laid out in the councils Dog Control Policy.
- Increased compliance with dog licensing was achieved by targeting resources and with the assistance of the community warden service.
- 23 enforcement actions have been brought under the Control of Dogs Act (as of 31.10.19).
- The new National Dog Licensing Database was rolled out by An Post in July 2018 has helped in improving customer service and compliance as well as assisting our dog wardens in their enforcement duties.
- Dog Waste Bag dispenser units were rolled out in some of our towns and villages to specifically target dog fouling in these areas of the county. Units have already been installed in amenity areas such as parks and beaches.
- The Council continued to implement the Dog Breeding Establishment Act 2010 which requires the registration, and compliance with standards, of all premises coming under the definition of a 'dog breeding establishment'. Currently there are 9 registered breeders in County Galway.
- Training was given to Dog Wardens and Veterinary Personnel on carrying out Dog Breeding Establishment Inspections following the introduction of new guidelines issued by the Department of Rural and Community Development which came into effect in January 2019. Specific onsite training was also given to Housing Staff on dealing with aggression in dogs.

A submission was made by the Council to the Department of Rural and Community Development in respect of the Department's review of measures relating to the Control of Dogs in Ireland.

- The council continued to promote responsible dog ownership through our social media platforms, and through a Microchipping and Scanning Checking Event that ran over 3 days at the Ballinasloe Horse Festival. Responsible Dog Ownership workshops were also conducted by Dogs Trust in Libraries and at primary schools countywide.
- Council staff gave presentations at Pre-Tenancy Courses organized by our Housing Section for new Council Tenants informing them of their responsibilities as dog owners.
- The Council continued to be active in providing pound facilities for impounding of horses, sheep, cattle and goats.

- Structural improvements were made to Galway County Council's dog Pound during 2019 to help improve the well-being of dogs that come into our care.
- Animal welfare cases involving dogs, cattle, sheep and horses were reviewed and referred where appropriate to the relevant Gardaí, Dept. of Agriculture and welfare groups.
- The Council veterinary service liaises with Housing in the implementation of the Control of Horses Act.

Proposals for 2020:

- Ongoing improvements to the efficiency of the Dog Control service will be implemented during the year with a view to increased compliance with dog licensing as dictated by resources available. Targeted licence checks will be carried out across the county in conjunction with the community warden service.
- In conjunction with Dogs Trust Ireland, Responsible Dog Ownership workshops will continue to be promoted in County Libraries and Primary Schools throughout the county.
- The Council will continue to support anti Dog Fouling Campaigns and the introduction of new measures to target Dog Fouling in the County.
- The Council will continue to review reported cases of animal welfare breaches, and refer to Dept. of Agriculture, Gardaí and welfare groups as required, within the capabilities of the allocated resources.
- Dog Breeding Establishments on the register will be inspected and all reports of unregistered breeding establishments will be followed up. It is a legal requirement that all establishments apply for registration.
- The Council will continue to provide and improve our pound services ensuring animal well being for all animals that come into our care.

Food Safety

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- The council has a service contract with the FSAI under which it regulates EC approved abattoirs and meat processing plants located in the county and city of Galway, through the veterinary service.
- This service contract requires that all animals are inspected before and after slaughter, animal residue sampling and welfare checks are carried out, with detailed audits performed, thus ensuring the integrity and traceability of the farm to fork food chain in the eleven local EC approved abattoirs in the county. These premises slaughter cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and poultry and process wild game.
- The service contract also requires the supervision and regulation of fourteen EC approved meat processing plants in the city and county. This involves sampling of meat products for microbiological contamination, food additives, allergens, residues, disease surveillance, labelling compliance, traceability and food fraud. There is also a regular schedule of unannounced inspections and pre-planned audits in the premises, which themselves provide employment to more than 130 employees.
- Three new meat processing premises attained the required EC standard for approval in 2019.
- Enforcement action and corrective action reports served on one premises.
- The council provided ongoing training and an advisory service to existing Food Business Operators in the implementation of changing EC food legislation and the challenges posed by Brexit as well as meeting, carrying out site visits and advising start-up food businesses across the city and county.

Proposals for 2020:

- The Council will continue to fulfil the existing Service Contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland within allocated resources, carrying out activities as outlined for 2020, with the addition of any new premises requiring approval. It is envisaged that a new contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland will come into effect during 2020 to align with new EC legislation.
- The Council will continue to liaise with the FSAI to ensure that there is sufficient budget allocation to ensure we are able to fulfil our statutory obligations in the context of public health requirements and due diligence.

- Regular Training for Food Business Operators and veterinary inspectors will continue during 2020, targeting new EC regulations introduced. There will also be an enhanced training and advisory role to businesses to meet the challenges posed by Brexit with the need for enhanced certification amongst businesses in operation with food product coming from or two the United Kingdom.
- Continued sampling programs as in 2019 directed by both the Department of Agriculture and the Marine and the Food Safety Authority of Ireland.
- Continued involvement and liaising with the statutory agencies DAFM, Teagasc, SFPA and HSE in the ongoing development of the multicentre Teagasc / GCC Food Innovation and Incubation centre proposed for Athenry, with a view to opening in 2020. The Food Hub will comprise of 3 blocks, consisting of a learning centre and timeshare kitchen production unit, a block of 8 starter units and a block of 3 larger growth units.

3 YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2020 – 2022

Galway Fire & Rescue Service (GFRS)

- GFRS is the Principal Emergency Service (PES) for Galway City and County Councils. The following sets out the indicative Capital programme for GFRS for 2020-2022.
- Please note all projects are subject to Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government (DHPLG) funding and specific approval by project.

Fire Appliances

- There is a very limited National capital budget for Fire Service appliances/equipment. Galway County Council have submitted a number of requests to the Department of Housing Planning & Local Government (DHPLG) for capital funding/support for the following items in 2019 and have received approval for some to date:
 - Three Pre-Owned Class B appliances
 - Two 4 x 4 vehicles for emergency traffic management on motorways
 - One pre-owned water tanker
 - Three trailer mounted water bowsers & pumps as part of the Island Response Plan
- The DHPLG allocated a new class B Appliance to Galway County Council as part of a National Procurement Plan 2018-2020. This class B appliance was procured centrally as part of a National procurement process by OGP. The selected supplier was Sidheain Teo in An Spideal County Galway and the appliance was delivered in November 2019.
- In 2020 a case will be made for a new Class B appliance and efforts will be made to procure a number of pre-owned Class B appliances. This will help to lower the average age of appliances which is currently high. Efforts will also be made to procure a pre-owned water tanker for Tuam Fire Station.

Fire Stations

New fire station projects are outlined in DECLG National Capital Programme 2016-2020.

Tuam Fire station

- The new Fire Station in Tuam went operational in late September 2018 and was officially opened on the 15 April 2019 by Sean Canney T.D., Minister of State Community

Development, Natural Resources & Digital Development. The four-bay retained Fire Station and Training Centre was constructed by Carey Construction Ltd.

Athenry Fire Station

- A site for a new Fire Station in Athenry has been identified in the Athenry town area and negotiations for procurement are at an advanced stage. Approval in principle to proceed to the design stage and appoint a Design Team was received from the DHPLG in late October 2019. It is envisaged that the new station will be operational in early 2021.

Loughrea Fire Station

- A number of suitable sites have been identified and negotiations in relation to procurement are ongoing. Once a site is procured, subject to financial resources being made available by Galway County Council, a case will be made to Department of Housing Planning and Local Government for approval to proceed to the design stage and the appointment of a Design Team.

Ballinasloe Fire Station

- A revised capital appraisal was sent to the DHPLG in November 2019 in relation to the refurbishment of Ballinasloe Fire Station in its existing location. Once approval in principle is received we will proceed to the design phase and the appointment of a Design Team.

Inis Mor Fire Station

- Work was ongoing in 2019 in relation to identifying the future needs of the Fire Station on Inis Mor. In early 2020 a capital appraisal will be submitted to the DHPLG in relation to refurbishment and extension of the existing station.

An Cheathru Rua Fire Station

- Agreement was reached in 2019 with Udaras na Gaeltachta in relation to the lease of an additional small building to house the Brigade's new water tanker. Refurbishment works will be completed in early 2020.

Galway City Fire Station and Headquarters

- The joint City / Council Committee for the new Fire Station / Headquarters in Galway City was re-formed in 2019. Progress was made in relation to identifying suitable sites and a preferred location was selected. Work is ongoing by Galway City Council in relation to the procurement of this site.

- Given the scale of this project and estimated cost of between €7-9 million (depending on the future service delivery model selected (as per GFRS report prepared in 2017) it is vital that a capital appraisal be submitted to the DHPLG for inclusion in the new National Capital Programme 2020 – 2024 as soon as possible. Both Councils are aware of the urgency in relation to this project.

Brigade Mechanics Workshop

- GFRS maintains a fleet of approximately sixty (60) vehicles. Currently there is no dedicated Brigade Mechanic's Workshop which is a requirement under the Council's Safety Management System. In early 2020, a case will be made to DHPLG to construct a new dedicated workshop.

Other- Small Projects Capital

- Procurement of smoke alarms for 2020, as part of National Community Smoke Alarm Scheme as per previous years. A submission has been made to DHPLG to procure about 500 smoke alarms in 2020 and continue distribution via Galway County and City Community Smoke Alarms Schemes in 2020 to vulnerable households.
- Ongoing equipment replacement will continue in 2020. In particular some RTC and BA equipment will reach the end of its serviceable life and will have to be replaced at an estimated cost of €100 k. A case will be submitted to DHPLG to recoup some of this cost
- In 2019 GFRS tendered for the replacement of firefighting personal protective equipment. This will result in a potential expenditure of €100 k in 2020.

CORPORATE SERVICES

Recreation and Amenity Development

Capital investments over the next three years will focus on completion of projects which have been given previous commitments under the Recreation and Amenity Framework and Playground Policy.

Implementation of the Strategy relies on external sources of co-funding and working with community groups to lead on re-generation of buildings and Historic Assets in Corporate ownership.

Proposed Project	Budget	Sources of Funding
Playground Projects (Limited to existing commitments)	€40,000	Development Contribution Scheme, limited to existing commitments under the Playground Policy.
Walking Routes and Passive Recreation	€37,000	Limited to meeting existing commitment under the Recreation and Amenity Framework including works on the creation of Passive Recreation Areas Project in Sliabh Aughty, on shore of Lough Derg in partnership with ESB and Waterways Ireland.
Clarinbridge Cowpark Amenity Development	€95,000	Development Contribution Scheme - Recreation and Amenity. Subject to resources, it is proposed to develop lands for passive Walking and Cycling with appropriate carpark and access routes.
Recreation and Amenity	€200,000	Match funding to avail of national funding streams relating to recreation and amenity including Sports Capital, CLAR and Town and Village Renewal.
Historic Assets and Re-generation of Structures for Community Benefit as part of continued rollout of Historic Assets Strategy	€130,000	Subject to additional External Grant Aid to address Structures at Risk and those with potential for re-use for Community and Economic Benefit, with priority afforded to necessary works to Tuam Town Hall and St Mary's Athenry.

Service Centres Development - Customer Access and Energy Efficiency Investments

In addition to Revenue Maintenance and Health and Safety Programme, the management of the Regional network and headquarters requires capital investment to sustain these assets and ensure conversation to more Energy Efficiency property portfolio over time.

Tuam Regional Office	€25,000	Boiler Conversion and Ancillary Works to avail of Natural Gas Investment.
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Loughrea Regional Office	€20,000	Safety Investments.
Clifden Area Office	€95,000	Fire Safety Works to provide for 1 hr fire rated stairwell, corridor, installation of 1 hr fire doors.
Athenry Office upgrade	€22,000	Appoint consultants for upgrade works.
West Side Library energy efficiency works	€23,000	Energy Efficiency upgrade works to lighting
Glenamaddy old school (proposed Library)	€22,000	Appoint consultants for upgrade works
An Spidéal Library (essential roof replacement)	€35,000	Replace roof structure.
Removal of existing oil tanks at Áras an Chontae	€40,000	Decommissioning and removal of existing oil tanks at Áras an Chontae and installing and commissioning of electrical backup generator.
Revolving door and rear access door replacement	€150,000	Replacement of revolving door and rear access door at Áras an Chontae.
Áras an Chontae	€500,000	<p>Three year programme relating to building management systems and controls including heating, access and customer services.</p> <p>Appoint consultants to carryout full review of Áras an Chontae. The Building occupies over 5500sq m and is 20 years old requiring necessary investment and upgrade as a flagship asset and HQ for the Local Authority.</p> <p>Redesign of the front entrance canopy to allow for a design solution which manages the issue around air draughts through the atrium and incorporates accessibility for all.</p> <p>Provision of additional office accommodation space, customized client meeting rooms and secure filing space.</p>

Housing

The delivery of housing under Rebuilding Ireland 2016 – 2021 will remain a key priority for the Council with a focus on providing high quality homes and building sustainable communities. The Council remains committed to utilising all available capital funding streams to maximise the delivery of housing including construction, acquisitions, turnkey developments, Part V and Buy and Renew. The Council will also actively support Approved Housing Bodies in availing of the Capital Assistance Scheme to deliver housing. The Council will also seek to add to its existing land bank over the coming years in order to continue the construction of housing units into the future.

Description	2020	2021	2022
Main Construction (including Traveller Accommodation Programme)	€81M	€79M	€63M
Acquisition Programme (including Part V's)	€7M	€5M	€4M
Capital Assistance Scheme	€10M	€3M	€1.5M

The Council will continue to actively engage with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in relation to additional proposals for construction projects to be delivered under Rebuilding Ireland. A large construction/build programme will be delivered in 2020 and the expenditure profile reflects this. The focus will shift in 2020 away from acquisitions and towards construction due to the Council's strong build programme, although Part V acquisitions are expected to continue, as a minimum, at present levels. As a result of increased activity in the construction sector the Housing Unit's engagement with developers in relation to Part V has increased. The grant of planning permission for Strategic Housing Developments in the county is expected to deliver Part V units on a larger scale than heretofore.

The Housing Unit is progressing several other capital schemes through design and planning which have the capacity to deliver units in 2020 and 2021.

The extent of the direct build programme from 2021 onwards will be influenced by the availability of land for Council own-build projects. The Housing Unit will seek to maintain and increase the level of delivery of construction for 2021 and future years. A strong build programme will reduce the requirement for acquisitions other than through the Part V mechanism.

The Council sought additional funding at various stages during 2019 to complete additional traveller accommodation improvement works and was successful in obtaining same. The

Housing Unit will maintain focus on the delivery of traveller accommodation improvement works, including the construction of the Craughwell Group Housing Scheme – due to commence in late 2019. The Unit will continue to submit funding proposals in 2020 to complete improvement works to traveller accommodation.

House Purchase Loans:

Loans up to the approved limit of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government will be issued to eligible purchasers under the various loan schemes operated by the Council. Funding is sourced by way of borrowing, the debt servicing of which is met by repayments from loanees.

Capital Investment in Local Authority Housing Stock

Energy Efficiency, Voids Retrofitting and Preventative Maintenance Programme	€4M	€6M	€5M
Derelict House Programme –	€1M	€2M	€1.5M

A significant capital investment programme is required for existing local authority housing stock to achieve compliance with minimum standards, co-fund energy efficiency works and the return of voids housing units, to undertake a stock inventory and to deliver a preventative maintenance programme.

Provision has been made for works under the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme (EERP) to be carried out on our occupied stock. This is particularly relevant in the context of the growing awareness of climate change, and reduction in dependency on fossil fuels. The Council will continue to seek to expand the programme to achieve deeper retrofitting of our stock in the future, subject to the availability of co-funding.

Funding has been provided via a loan facility for a Planned Maintenance Programme for existing stock to achieve compliance with statutory requirements, including minimum standards. The survey of the Council’s Housing stock is almost complete. A pilot contract is underway in the Connemara Municipal District to complete electrical works and stove/heating system repairs. This will be rolled out to all other social housing units requiring works from 2020.

In addition, project proposals for the rebuilding/refurbishment of derelict housing stock will be advanced subject to approvals and funding from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. A contract was awarded in November 2019 for the design and planning work involved in bringing 9 no. derelict units back into operation under the Council’s capital programme. This work will continue into 2020 with units expected to be delivered in 2021.

Please note all project proposals are subject to Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government funding and specific stage and statutory approvals by project and are dependent on the availability of co-funding where required.

Infrastructure and Transportation

Capital projects relating, to Roads, Piers and Harbours, Flood Mitigation schemes, Plant Acquisition and Smarter Travel (Greenway) are detailed below.

The completion of the following projects is subject to the appropriate departmental sanctions, the availability of the necessary funding and compliance with all appropriate legislative and regulatory provisions.

NATIONAL ROADS

In addition to works on Major Inter Urban routes, a full programme of Pavement and Minor Improvements Works, Safety Measures and Bridge Improvement Works shall continue to be undertaken on the National Primary and National Secondary Road Network. This Programme is dependent on annual allocations from Transport Infrastructure Ireland(TII) and as such the programme of works shall be presented to the Council on an annual basis in the context of the Annual Roads Programme.

Project:	Status:
N6 Galway City Ring Road	<p>An Bord Pleanála (ABP) made a Request for Further Information (RFI) in April 2019. A response to the RFI was submitted on 30 August 2019. ABP will now consider this RFI Response. The response was on display for a further inspection and submissions from the 20th Sept to the 25th Oct 2019.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the Oral Hearing (OH) could take place in Q1 2020, for a duration of 4 to 6 weeks.</p>
N59 Maam Cross to Oughterard	<p>Maam Cross to Oughterard has been granted planning permission and is being advanced in two phases.</p> <p>Phase 1 -Maam Cross to Bunnakill - following the tender process, a contractor was selected in Q4 2019 on this 5km section.</p> <p>Phase 2, Bunnakill to Claremount is the subject of ongoing discussions and communications with NPWS. A method statement has been agreed with the NPWS for an Advance fencing contract from Bunnakill to Claremount.</p>

	Tender process to be completed with appointment of contractor in Q4 2019
N59 Maigh Cuilinn Bypass	Preparation of Contract Documents by consultants. Land acquisition is ongoing. It is intended to go to tender in 2020
N63 Annagh Hill to Abbeyknockmoy	Snag items are being addressed in 2019 Land settlements will continue to be progressed through 2020
N67 Kinvara to Ballinderreen	Phase 2 – Tender process completed and contract award in Q3 2019, with works commenced in Q4, 2019 Construction stage - 18-month duration continue into 2020
N63 Liss to Abbey realignment	Consultants appointed in 2019. The emerging preferred route being progressed during 2020
N18/ N17 Gort to North of Tuam	Open to traffic since 2017 Completion of land settlement ongoing
N84 Shrule to Headford	Project Design Stage completion 2019
Athenry Ring Road	Funding being sought to recommence construction works.

The advancement of the above projects is dependent on the availability of funding and where required the availability of the necessary internal resources to advance the projects.

PLANT ACQUISITION / RENEWAL and WINTER MAINTENANCE PROGRAMMES

Project:	Status:
Review of Fleet and Machinery Yard Operations	Significant investment required to replace aging fleet, full comprehensive review required to determine course of action.

FLOOD RELIEF/MITIGATION SCHEMES

The Council will continue to work with the Office of Public Works(OPW) through the Joint Working Group and Steering Group and other stakeholders to advance appropriate flood relief/mitigation schemes in compliance with all appropriate legislative and regulatory provisions and within the limits of available resources.

Project:	Status:
Dunkellin/Aggard Flood Relief Scheme	Works on Dunkellin Bridge and Craughwell Pedestrian Bridge were substantially completed in 2019. The scheme is operational. Channel works on Aggard Stream to be finalised by Q2 2020.
Ballinderreen/Kiltiernan Flood Relief Scheme – Maintenance and rehabilitation	Works have been completed on this scheme in 2019, with minor land owner accommodation works to be finalised in 2020.
South Galway (Gort Lowlands) Flood Relief Scheme	<p>The engineering and environmental assessments for the scheme to be completed by end of 2019.</p> <p>The Feasibility Report for the South Galway/Gort Lowlands scheme will be produced in by Q2 2020, with the intention of going to Public Exhibition thereafter, subject to an environmentally acceptable and cost beneficial scheme being identified.</p>
Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme	<p>Engineering Consultants (ARUP) were appointed in October 2019 and the Environmental Consultants to be appointed before year end.</p> <p>Scheme development and design is expected to take 15 months commencing Q1 2020.</p>

Clifden Flood Relief Scheme	Appointment of Engineering and Environmental Consultants expected in Q2 2020. Scheme development and design is expected to progress in 2020, with intention to seek Tenders by year end.
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STRATEGIC PIERS and HARBOURS PROGRAMME

Funding for works on strategic piers on the islands is being provided through An Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta.

Project:	Status:
Inis Oírr Pier Improvements – construct breakwater and pier extension, carry out dredging and provide additional berthage	A consultant has been appointed to progress the scheme and various required surveys have been completed, including bathymetric and topographical surveys. Contract Documents and CPO documentation have been advanced in 2019. Project reappraisal has been submitted to the Department and awaiting review and response. Total revised estimated cost €16M. Pending funding approval Land acquisition for the scheme will be progressed in line with programme of work and Tender Process commenced.
Caladh Mór Pier, Inis Meáin Improvements	Feasibility study has been reviewed, a consultation process carried with Ferry and Cargo operators identified issues with approach to the Harbour. To address these, the National Maritime College of Ireland have been engaged by Galway County Council to model the facility which will inform the business case for Caladh Mór Phase 3. Business case for Phase 3 to be submitted for approval to the Roinn, Cultúir, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta.

FISHERIES HARBOUR and COASTAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME

Project:	Status:
Crumpáin, Carna Droim Leitir Mór Ard Thoir, Carna	Subject to approval from the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine, it is intended to carry out improvement including new slipways at Crumpáin, Droim and Ard Thoir. AA Screening has been completed for Crumpáin and Droim by JBA Consulting in anticipation that funding approval will be forthcoming in Q2 2020. These sites are location within Special Area of Conservations or SAC.

Potential works at Crumpáin will be dependent on agreement with owners of the adjoining site where access may be required during construction works.

SMARTER TRAVEL

Project:	Status:
Conamara Greenway -	<p>Clifden - Oughterard – full planning permission, 3km from Clifden and 6km at Ballinahinch has been completed. 3350m section from existing Greenway toward from Ballinahinch to Clifden has completed in Q4 2019 with funding under Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2018 application. A Further application has been submitted under ORIS 2019 for progress another section of Greenway</p> <p>€2.6m funding was secured in 2019 to advance the greenway from Clifden to Recess.</p> <p>Oughterard – Galway section - planning stage. Agronomists have been employed by GCC to engage with landowners ascertaining the impact of the Greenway on land holdings. This will inform the planning process for this section of the scheme.</p>

STATUTORY TABLES (A to F)